

**MINUTES OF THE 83rd MEETING OF THE MIGRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON 22 APRIL 2016**

Chair: Professor Sir David Metcalf CBE

**Attending: Professor Alan Manning
Professor Jackline Wahba
Dr Jennifer Smith
Madeleine Sumption (observer)
Paul Regan (Home Office)
Gary Cook (Home Office)
MAC Secretariat**

Apologies: Lesley Giles

Agenda item 1 - Welcome and introductions

1. Sir David Metcalf welcomed Paul Regan who was attending his first Committee meeting as the Home Office ex-officio member, and Madeleine Sumption attending this meeting as an observer. There were apologies from Lesley Giles.

Agenda item 2 – Minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2016

2. The MAC agreed the minutes for the March meeting.

Agenda item 3 – MAC, Home Office and MAC secretariat updates – oral item

3. Gary Cook gave an the update on behalf of the Home Office and outlined the department's latest activities including progress on the Immigration Bill and the Government's announcements on Tier 2 and the retention of nurses on the Shortage Occupation List, following the successful completion of these two commissions by the MAC.
4. Tim Harrison provided an update from the secretariat, reporting on progress made on the annual corporate report and the shortage methodology review. Furthermore he updated the Committee on the future of the UK Commission for Employment and Skills and the implications this might have for both the governance of the MAC and its future commissions.
5. Tim Harrison also updated the Committee on the budget for 2016-17 and on secretariat resourcing in the coming months.
6. MAC members were then invited to give updates on their work.

Agenda item 4 – Update on MAC future work programme and budget- oral item

7. Gary Cook and Tim Harrison provided an update on progress regarding a MAC work programme for 2016-17. A draft work programme is currently with Home Office Ministers for consideration.

Agenda item 5 – MAC research- oral item

8. Baljit Khinder provided an update on the progress of the external research being carried out by the Institute for Employment Studies. She explained that the final report has been reviewed by the steering group and is expected to be published in spring 2016.

Agenda item 6 - Paper 83.2- Shortage methodology review

9. Ciaran Devlin updated the Committee on the shortage methodology review including the overall approach to assessing shortage and whether the indicators are still fit for purpose. The Committee discussed using alternative skills data, including data reflecting turnover within a profession, and overtime hours.
10. Although the Committee agreed that the Shortage Occupation List (SOL) methodology should not be forward-looking, they did agree to greater consideration of data around the proportion of workers by occupation approaching retirement. The Committee also agreed that the weighting of indicators should be assessed on an ad hoc basis. Furthermore the Committee agreed that the secretariat should explore a composite index of indicators and a tiered approach to assessing whether an occupation should be classified as in shortage.
11. Emily Fowler updated the committee on the specific issues regarding the thresholds and benchmarks. The committee asked the secretariat to update the benchmarks to 2015 and present the findings at the next MAC meeting. Baljit Khinder updated the Committee on internal work looking at the application of commercially available labour market data. The committee agreed that such data would add value to the current assessment of occupational shortage.

Agenda item 7 - Any other business

12. David Metcalf reminded the Committee that the next MAC meeting is due to take place on 27 May.