

**MINUTES OF THE 84<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE MIGRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ON 27 MAY 2016**

**Chair: Professor Sir David Metcalf CBE**

**Attending: Professor Alan Manning  
Professor Jackline Wahba  
Dr Jennifer Smith  
Paul Regan (Home Office)  
MAC Secretariat**

**Apologies: Lesley Giles**

**Agenda item 1 - Welcome and introductions**

1. There were apologies from Lesley Giles.
2. The Chair of the MAC said that Anna Lacey and Cordella Dawson would be leaving the MAC Secretariat and he thanked them for their contributions on behalf of the MAC.

**Agenda item 2 – Minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2016**

3. The MAC agreed the minutes for the April meeting.

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

4. Paul Regan gave an update on behalf of the Home Office and outlined the department's latest activities including progress on the Immigration Bill and on the upcoming EU referendum. Paul also provided details of the latest net migration statistics.
5. Tim Harrison provided an update from the secretariat, including the work underway to appoint a new MAC member and a new Chair of the MAC.

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

6. Tim Harrison provided an update on progress regarding a MAC work programme for 2016-17. A draft work programme is currently still under consideration by Home Office Ministers.

**Agenda item 5 – Update on MAC corporate annual report- oral item**

7. Cordella Dawson provided an update on the completion of the annual MAC corporate report detailing the MAC's activities between April 2015 and April 2016. The MAC were given the opportunity to comment on the report.

## **Agenda item 6 - Paper 84.1- MAC annual report on migration**

8. Anna Lacey provided the Committee with an update on the proposal to produce a MAC Annual Migration Report. The Committee were mindful that the added value of such a report would depend on the topics chosen.
9. Members of the secretariat introduced three topics for the MAC to consider for an initial mock-up of the report. The MAC discussed the suggested topics and agreed that the secretariat continue working on these with a view to producing a more detailed draft report.

## **Agenda item 7 - Paper 84.2 – Update on shortage methodology review**

10. Ciaran Devlin provided an update on the work to review the MAC's methodology for assessing occupation shortages.
11. Dr Jennifer Smith suggested a methodology for better capturing flows into and out of occupations as part of the top-down assessment of shortage. The MAC agreed with the benefits of such an approach, but felt that it may be best served as a complement to the existing methodology as it was not a stand alone measure but one that required further analysis.
12. Baljit Khinder provided the MAC with potential methods to aggregate the current MAC shortage methodology in order to provide a sense of the intensity of shortage. While the MAC were in agreement as to the most viable of these approaches, there was concern that an aggregated value could be misinterpreted. The MAC would consider this approach further in the context of future commissions
13. Anna Lacey set out the rationale for applying the MAC shortage methodology to shortages of specific skills. The MAC recognised the value of such a concept, but considered that such an approach was dependant on an aggregated indicator.
14. Paul Garner updated the Committee on the specific issues of thresholds and benchmarks. The MAC were, in general, content with the updated approach to benchmarking the indicators with 2015 values, though were seized of the importance of making sure the thresholds were sensible and would consider each indicator individually at a later date to ensure this was the case

## **Agenda item 7 – Any other business**

15. The next MAC meeting will take place on 24 June.