

MINUTES OF THE 101st MEETING OF THE MIGRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday 6 February 2018

Chair: Professor Alan Manning

**Attending: Professor Jackline Wahba
Dr Jennifer Smith
Madeleine Sumption
Paul Regan
MAC Secretariat**

**Observing: Dr Brian Bell
Professor Jo Swaffield**

Agenda item 1 - Welcome and introductions and minutes of previous meeting

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. The Chair welcomed Brian Bell and Jo Swaffield to the MAC meeting. He also welcomed Anita Singh to her first MAC meeting as a new member of the MAC Secretariat.

Agenda item 2 – MAC, Home Office and MAC secretariat updates

2. Paul Regan gave an update on behalf of the Home Office. He said that the government had announced that the immigration health surcharge would double to £400 with a discount for students and that the government had also announced that its immigration white paper would be brought forward in due course.
3. Jennifer Bradley gave the update on behalf of the MAC Secretariat. She welcomed Anita to the Secretariat and said that the MAC Annual Report had been published. Members of the MAC Secretariat had been receiving training on HMRC IT systems and that it was hoped a memorandum of understanding would shortly be agreed about sharing HMRC data. The Chair had given evidence to the All Party Parliamentary Committee on Visas and Migration which had focussed on operational matters and had met with the Secretaries of State at DEFRA and DExEU.

Agenda item 3 - Paper outlining skeleton interim update

4. Alessandra Caroni gave an outline of the proposed interim update. The MAC discussed how it would like to handle the discussion of the evidence received in response to the MAC call for evidence.

Agenda item 4 - Discussion on process for finalising interim update

5. Jennifer Bradley outlined the process for finalising the interim update. The Secretariat planned to send out packages of material to MAC members by email to give members a chance to go through the material. It was recognised that the opportunity to make further changes to the

relevant material was limited and the MAC asked that the Secretariat give them as much time as possible to consider the material.

Agenda item 5 - Paper discussing sample sectoral analysis: agriculture (an example)

6. Tracy Liennard presented an example of the sectoral analysis that had been carried out in relation to the agriculture sector. The MAC discussed what they would like to see in the sectoral analyses and whether to publish these separately or as part of the interim update. It was agreed to keep this material as part of one publication. The MAC discussed the available data and, in relation to agriculture, asked that the analysis include reference to previous MAC comments in relation to the seasonal agriculture workers scheme.

Agenda item 6 - Paper on cross-cutting themes from stakeholder evidence

7. Tracy Liennard introduced this item as a work in progress. The MAC suggested changes to the ordering of the material and how comments should be attributed. The MAC asked that a critical eye be cast over some of the contributions where these were relevant to the available data

Agenda item 7 - Paper looking at sample cross-cutting theme: attitude towards more controls (an example)

8. Tracy Liennard presented this item which considered the evidence available to the MAC regarding attitudes to a more restrictive immigration regime. It summarised some of the points that stakeholders had made in their responses to the MAC call for evidence and considered other evidence such as survey data from organisations such as the Food and Drinks Federation, Arts Council England and the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development. The MAC asked that this approach be adopted in the interim update.

Agenda item 8 - Paper on work plan for the final report

9. Alessandra Caroni outlined the work plan for production of the MAC's final report on the EEA workers commission taking account of the dates of MAC meetings and giving the MAC sufficient time to consider the relevant material. The MAC noted the work plan.

Agenda item 9 Update on student commission

10. Harriet Cameron gave an update on the MAC student commission outlining the engagement that had taken place to date and the responses received so far to the call for evidence.

Agenda item 10 – Any other business

11. There was no other business.