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**MINUTES OF THE 91st MEETING OF MIGRATION ADVISORY
COMMITTEE, 17th February 2017**

Chair: Professor Alan Manning

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

Agenda item 1- Welcome and introductions and previous minutes

1. There were apologies from Tim Harrison. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

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

2. Paul Regan gave the update on behalf of the Home Office and covered recent developments in migration related issues including the progress of the Higher Education and Research bill and also Article 50 through the parliamentary process. Labour Market statistics were published this week and the Migration statistics are due next week. Paul also addressed potential future MAC commissions.
3. Stephen Earl gave an update to the meeting about progress to recruitment a new Head of the Secretariat to replace Tim Harrison. The application period has closed and the sifting process has begun.
4. Alan Manning updated the meeting on giving evidence to the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee.

Agenda item 3 – Data analysis presentation and discussion

5. Maria del Castillo presented this item. There was some consideration as to how to present the research in a more concentrated way to reflect the core focus. The limitations of data were discussed and the value of including migration data as well as labour market data.
6. The MAC considered whether there needed to be a consideration of the welfare state, housing and public services when considering labour market research.

Agenda item 4 – MAC Governance discussion

7. Stephen Earl led a discussion around governance issues. The MAC was asked if they were content with the wording around creating a yearly Workplan. The MAC felt that the present wording was fit for purpose. The MAC suggested that the secretariat initiate more engagement with stakeholders, including other government departments, outside of whether there was a current commission.
8. Work is progressing on recruiting for the MAC member vacancy. MAC members agreed to contact potential candidates as part of a wider strategy to ensure the vacancy is drawn to the attention of as many

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potential candidates as possible. Other avenues to promote the vacancy were suggested including advertising on jobs.ac.uk website and writing to the Conference of Heads of University Departments of Economics and the Royal Economics Society.

9. The MAC discussed the requirement that a representative from the former UK Commission for Employment and Skills be on the MAC. The MAC considered that it did not feel that skills should be specifically reflected in the composition of the MAC given that the Committee could call upon persons with such knowledge to provide evidence. This view will be relayed back to the Home Office as part of the review of the MAC Framework Document.

Agenda item 5 - Any other business

8. The next MAC meeting will be on 24 March 2017.