

MINUTES OF THE 97TH MEETING OF THE MIGRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday 17th October 2017

Chair: Professor Alan Manning

**Attending: Professor Jackline Wahba
Dr Jennifer Smith (phone)
Paul Regan
MAC Secretariat**

Apologies: Madeleine Sumption

Agenda item 1 - Welcome and introductions and previous minutes

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. Professor Alan Manning welcomed Zoe Forbes to the MAC Secretariat.

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

2. Paul Regan gave an update on behalf of the Home Office. The Brexit negotiations are the key focus of the Home Office at present.
3. Jennifer Bradley gave an update to the meeting on the stakeholder engagement. There is a long list of locations around the country that have been visited alongside sectoral engagement, thanks to the policy team for covering so much ground. The policy team have been engaging with stakeholders, challenging assumptions of businesses and recording their comments and concerns with regards to migration. Records of stakeholder meetings and written responses to the call for evidence will be distilled for future MAC meetings.
4. On the analysis side we have had good contact with other government departments to acquire data and we are progressing with the analytical requirements.
5. Alan Manning asked the MAC to circulate the recently published Invitation to Tender for external research to interested parties. On recruitment of new MAC members the interviews have been conducted and candidates should be informed shortly, we expect these new members to join the MAC after security procedures have completed in the New Year. Alan has been undertaking Stakeholder engagement with businesses, representative bodies and also parliament.

Agenda item 3 – Skeleton outline of MAC report on EEA migrant workers

6. Jennifer Bradley presented a draft skeleton outline of the MAC report on EEA migrant workers. This was a high-level view for the MAC to provide their initial thoughts on. There was discussion around how to ensure effective communication/input with the MAC including having Committee leads for each section. It was discussed whether the MAC would provide advice and recommendations in its report. The potential for Interim reports was also discussed.

Agenda item 4 – Slides on good evidence

7. The Immigration Minister Brandon Lewis asked the MAC to consider what good data would look like, particularly with regards to what stakeholders can provide. Maria Del Castillo presented the findings. Data needs to be consistent, comparable and representative. We gain this data from various sources including industry, other gov't departments and national statistics. In many cases the evidence provided will be in the form of case studies rather than data, we value this but recognise the limitations. We require different data from different stakeholders and this needs to be clearly communicated to them. There was discussion around how we influence stakeholders to deliver better data in the future that backs up anecdotal statements.

Agenda item 5 – Overview of Tier 4 policy (students)

8. Anna Lacey presented a comprehensive overview of Tier 4 policy on international students. The different entry routes for students under Tier 4 and short term study were explained. Recent policy changes were discussed, including the Tier 4 visa pilot.

Agenda item 6 – Royal Economic Society Conference presentation

9. The MAC were asked if they would want a special session within the Royal Economic Society Conference. It was considered to be a good idea and the discussion centred on what topics and speaker could present.

Agenda item 10 – Any other business

10. There was no other business.