

# **MINUTES OF THE 99th MEETING OF THE MIGRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

**Chair: Professor Alan Manning**

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

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

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. Alan Manning said that this was Maria del Castillo's final MAC meeting this year and the MAC thanked her for her work and wished her the best for the next year.

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

2. Paul Regan gave the update on behalf of the Home Office. He outlined the key elements of the UK agreement with the EU on Citizen Rights. Additionally, the Home Office had announced that the number of Tier 1 Exceptional Talent visas is to be doubled. The latest net immigration figures showed a fall against the previous quarter and against the same period last year. There was a fall in the numbers of both EEA and non-EEA migrants. It was hoped that the Home Office would make an announcement shortly about the appointment of new MAC members, security clearance is currently underway.
3. Jennifer Bradley gave the update on behalf of the MAC Secretariat. Inception meetings would shortly be held for the MAC external research commissions. The Secretariat will be boosted by increased contact with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) showing how to make better use of ONS data sets through a secondee as well as the recruitment of a fast stream statistician.

## **Agenda item 3 – Update on call for evidence responses on EEA commission**

4. Tracy Liennard gave an update on the responses to the MAC commission on migrant workers. 434 responses had been received to date. There was a good spread of responses across all sectors of the economy and responses were thoughtful and informative. The Secretariat was working on reviewing each of the responses in detail and providing sector-based summaries for the next MAC meeting in January.

#### **Agenda item 4 – LFS/APS work**

5. Zoe Forbes provided an update on work in relation to the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS). The MAC was looking at data on country of birth and employment by sector to identify the numbers of migrant workers employed in each sector and the share of migrants as a proportion of total employment. The MAC discussed ways of presenting the resulting data to make them most useful to the general reader and additional data that could be taken into account.

#### **Agenda item 5 – Interim update**

6. Jennifer Bradley updated the MAC about the interim update publication for the EEA commission. It was suggested that Spring 2018 might be a good date to aim for in relation to publishing an update while giving sufficient time to consider all the call for evidence responses. Sector-based summaries of the evidence would be produced for the January MAC meeting and a draft update document produced for the February meeting, to be revisited at the March meeting. The MAC agreed and asked the Secretariat to proceed on this basis.

#### **Agenda item 6 – International students' plan**

7. Jennifer Bradley distributed a work plan for the international students' commission summarising engagement with stakeholders and relevant analysis to be undertaken. The MAC suggested factoring in the destination of leavers from higher education survey produced by the Higher Education Statistics Agency as a source of useful information. The Secretariat will produce a list of items covered by the outcome of its literature review for consideration by the MAC.

#### **Agenda item 7 – EU LFS**

8. Alan Manning updated the MAC about key variables in the EU Labour Force Survey (LFS) in relation to EU nationals such as country of birth, nationality, industry and occupation in a variety of EU countries. The MAC discussed what use to make of these data and how the resulting information could be presented, to show comparisons with other EU countries.

#### **Agenda item 8 - Any other business**

9. The meeting discussed work that Jennifer Smith was doing on productivity and how this could best be presented to the MAC. The MAC suggested that this work be considered in February or March meetings.