MINUTES OF THE 100th MEETING OF THE MIGRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday 17th January 2018

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 introduced Harriett Cameron to the MAC who will be the Secretariat lead on the international students' commission. It was also agreed that the firm-level productivity presentation from Jennifer Smith will be arranged for the March MAC meeting rather February due to data issues. Congratulations were given to Madeline Sumption who was recently appointed a MBE for services to Social Science.

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

2. Paul Regan gave an update on behalf of the Home Office. He confirmed the elements of the UK agreement with the EU on Citizen Rights. Additionally, Paul updated that the number of tier 2 applications exceeded the number of tier 2 places in December for non-EU workers. There was also reference to the Home Affairs committee report on migration which has been published including various comments about the MAC. The MAC's official response to these comments were agreed. Paul concluded by providing a brief background on the new Minister of State for Immigration the Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP.

3. Jennifer Bradley gave the update on behalf of the MAC Secretariat. The various work of the Secretariat was discussed, including Alan's meetings with Secretary of States, as well as the call for evidence for the international students' commission nearing its close. The new MAC Committee members are going through security clearance and are hoping to attend the next MAC meeting in February.

Agenda item 3 – Update on data access

4. Alessandra Caroni gave an update on data access for the EEA commission. She discussed the main data areas that would positively contribute to the MAC, and outlined the challenges/risks with getting access to data in these areas. The fact that all the data analysis the MAC produces could be published is proving to be a slight problem, as well as the point that the MAC aims of using data do not always align with government departments. However, access to HMRC data is

looking positive and 2 analysts from the Secretariat are due to be seconded to HMRC for carrying out the analysis. The analysts are currently going through SAS training at HMRC to make this possible. Data access to ONS and DWP regarding linking ASHE to a migration identifier is not looking as positive owing to legal issues. The MAC has however received the Citizenship Survey Data from DCLG which may be used to examine the social cohesion of migrants at the local level; this analysis is currently in the scoping phase.

Agenda item 4 – EEA Commission Call for Evidence (CfE) summaries of selected industries

5. Stephen Earl gave an update on the CfE responses that the policy team are currently processing. Stephen made references to the very little evidence received on the industrial strategy, before providing an example framework of how the CfE responses may be structured for the interim report.
6. It was agreed that the cross-cutting themes from the call for evidence responses will be discussed at the next committee meeting.
7. Comments from the committee included suggestions each section could be a different question instead of a broad topic. This is because all the responses are so varied and so narrowing the topics may give the section more of a structure.
There was also a concern around whether the MAC should take all this evidence as given, or provide a MAC comment where the evidence contradicts the MAC's analysis. There were concerns over whether this would be feasible in terms of commenting on every single piece of evidence where the MAC doesn't quite agree. The interim report should aim to make the limitations clear at the start of the report by clearly outlining that these are the responses from the CfE, and not the MAC's analysis. Having the responses as a separate section to the MAC analysis will also help with this.

Agenda item 5 – Regional section of Interim Update

8. Steven Earl discussed the CfE from a regional point of view. It is clear that the evidence is predominately around sectors and not so much on regions. It was however agreed that the interim report should include a separate chapter on regional analysis, including demographics and summary of CfE responses. This chapter could be structured to match the sectoral chapter, but this is still open for discussion. Jacob Kenny will be the Secretariat lead on this.

Agenda item 6 – Next iteration of APS/LFS work

9. Peter Gambrill gave an update on the sectoral analysis. Various mistakes pointed out from the previous iteration have now all mostly been resolved, with additional analysis on employment, wages and value added on each sector being included. Peter questioned whether all sectors should be included, or only those which are relevant – the general consensus was that all sectors should be included for completeness.

10. Jennifer Smith provided some feedback, pointing out that occupation data is missing for Q1 and there is no data for country of birth for 1996 Q3 and the MAC should get this from the seasonal data.
11. It was agreed that the final report will focus much more on occupation, but for the interim report the analysis must concentrate on sectors to ensure consistency with the call for evidence.

Agenda item 7 – Prof. Jackline Wahba's thoughts for setting direction for the Students Commission

12. Prof. Wahba gave an overview on the areas that the MAC may wish to focus on regarding the impact of international students (tuition fees, spending, local labour market, quality and availability of courses, impact on domestic students, lots of empirical evidence from U.S.).
13. In terms of data, Prof. Wahba suggested that the MAC should pursue data access held by Universities UK, with the additional request for data regarding the impact of international students on accommodation and travel. However, data regarding further education is limited and the MAC should think how this may be overcome, with the possibility of using HMRC data.

Agenda item 8 – Any other business (N/A)