

MINUTES OF THE 103rd MEETING OF THE MIGRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday 10 April 2018

Chair: Professor Alan Manning

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

Apologies: Dr Brian Bell

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

1. There were apologies from Brian Bell and the Chair welcomed Sam O'Sullivan to the MAC Secretariat and his first MAC meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed subject to a spelling correction.

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 Parliament had approved an increase in visa fees and that the limit on Tier 2 visas continued to bite. The Home Secretary had recently appeared before the Home Affairs Select Committee and the MAC were updated on her evidence.
3. Jennifer Bradley gave the update on behalf of the MAC Secretariat. The MAC's Interim Update had been published and received some press attention. The evidence received from stakeholders had also been published on the MAC website and a small number of stakeholders had requested their response be removed on confidentiality grounds. This had been done.

Agenda item 3 – MAC International Student commission plan

4. Harriet Cameron gave an update on the plan for the international student commission. The MAC were shown a draft plan and literature review. The MAC discussed both documents. They also considered the possibility of commissioning some research and what use could be made of existing student survey information, as well as ways of finding out information about the impact of migrant students on the wider community in areas such as housing and access to health services. The MAC also considered what use could be made of Home Office data sources.
5. The MAC expressed themselves satisfied with the overall structure of the draft report. They asked that drafts of the report distinguish between EU and non-EU students and also include definitional material and a description of the visa rules in the opening section of the report.

Agenda item 4 – Productivity and Migration

6. Julian Costas attended the meeting to give a presentation on work he had been doing on productivity and migration. Julian said there was not a lot of literature looking at this issue and often the sample size was quite small. He said there was some work looking at estimating the elasticity of substitution between native and migrant workers and highlighted that results may not be consistent because of endogeneity. He outlined his own analysis and the MAC discussed this and the work that Jennifer Smith had also been doing on productivity.

Agenda item 5 – Fiscal Impacts

7. Richard Cahill updated the MAC on the work being done by Oxford Economics looking at the fiscal impacts of migration following a commission from the MAC. He set out the material that a draft report from Oxford Economics was intended to cover and the MAC discussed how this material might be organised including how to treat the children of migrants, the attrition rate of migrants who subsequently left the UK, and the treatment of debt interest.

Agenda item 6 – Update on external research projects and final report work plan

8. Alessandra Caroni introduced an update on the other external research projects that the MAC had commissioned. Preliminary findings were being received and final reports will be completed by May.
9. Alessandra then presented a workplan for the final report on the impact of EEA migrants final report. The MAC discussed the relationship between the workplan and the initial commission from the government and how the report would reflect the commission.

Agenda item 7 – Any other business

10. The Chair led a discussion on publication of the MAC final report on EEA migrants and the MAC asked that some options be brought forward for next MAC meeting.