

# **MINUTES OF THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE MIGRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON 6 MARCH 2009**

Present:

Chair                      Professor David Metcalf CBE

Members                 Dr Diane Coyle OBE  
                              Dr Martin Ruhs  
                              Professor Robert Wilson  
                              Professor Mike Campbell (Ex-officio member)

Secretariat                Mark Franks (Head of Secretariat)  
                              Vanna Aldin  
                              Stephen Earl  
                              Daniel Livingstone  
                              Anna Downs  
                              Andrew Watton  
                              Cordella Dawson  
                              Dan James

Observers                Jonathan Sedgwick  
                              Ian Robinson

Apologies:                Professor Jonathon Wadsworth

## **Agenda Item 1 - Welcome and Introductions**

1. Apologies for absence were received from Professor Jonathan Wadsworth.
2. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked the secretariat for work they did on the March shortage report while the Head of the secretariat was on leave. He also thanked Dr Ruhs and Professor Wilson for their work on scoping the MAC international conference.
3. Attendees fed back relevant discussions and meetings undertaken since the previous meeting.

## **Agenda Item 2 – Minutes of the meeting held on 6 February**

4. The minutes of the meeting held on 6 February were agreed.

## **Agenda Item 3 - Paper 13.1: Worker Registration Scheme report**

5. The secretariat confirmed that the Government had formally asked the MAC to examine whether it would be sensible to retain the Worker Registration Scheme (WRS). The Committee discussed the draft report which had been refined and amended since the MAC meeting of 6 February. The secretariat said the line of argument and conclusion had changed since the previous draft and consequently, the position as presented better reflected the views expressed at the MAC meeting in February. The secretariat also gave an oral update on the outcome of stakeholder consultations.
6. The Committee was broadly content with the status of the report but wanted more clarity on what criteria the conclusion was based. They also asked for more data to be included, and in particular an assessment of what data could be used to inform about migration in the UK, if the WRS was abolished. The Committee also said that in Chapter 4 it would be very useful to include a discussion about the state of the labour market in geographical, occupational and sectoral terms, as well as a discussion about the likely impact to local labour markets of lifting/maintaining restrictions.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Paper 13.2: March Shortage report**

7. The secretariat introduced paper 13.2 which set out progress on the March Shortage Report. The Committee was informed of the progress made on Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the report. The secretariat said that the latest labour market data had been incorporated in chapter 2 and summaries for all occupations being reviewed had been circulated to relevant Committee champions for comments. The secretariat also said Chapter 3 had been revised to incorporate the changes discussed and agreed with Committee members on the top-down analysis.
8. The Committee was broadly content with progress made, but asked for some more work to be done to ensure that more use was made of the top-down data in chapter 4 and that there was a clearer discussion about regional variations in chapter 5. The Committee also said Chapter 7 needed a clearer line of argument about occupations that were being recommended for suspension.

#### **Agenda Item 5 - Update on future MAC work (oral update)**

9. The Committee discussed the fact that, in addition to its continuing work on the shortage occupation list, the MAC had been asked by the Government to offer advice on the following questions:
  - is there an economic case for restricting tier 2 to shortage occupations only?
  - what is the Committee's assessment of the economic contribution made by the dependants of the points-based system migrants and their role in the labour market?

- what further changes to the criteria for tier 1 should there be in 2010/11, given the changing economic circumstances?

10. It was acknowledged that the Committee had been asked to publish reports addressing the first two questions by the end of July 2009 and a report addressing the third question by the end of October 2009.

#### **Agenda Item 6 - Research update (oral item)**

11. The secretariat provided an update on progress on commissioning each of the research projects.

#### **Agenda Item 7 - Paper 13.3: MAC International Conference update**

12. Martin Ruhs introduced paper 13.3 which set out the progress made in organising the international conference planned for 7 – 8 September 2009. He presented a draft programme for the event and a note with background information and aims of the conference.

#### **Agenda Item 13 - AOB**

13. There was no other business. The dates of the next meetings are:

24 April 2009

29 May 2009

25 June 2009

21 July 2009

**MAC Secretariat  
April 2009**