

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE MIGRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON 20 JUNE 2008

Present:

Chair	Professor David Metcalf
Members	Dr Diane Coyle Dr Martin Ruhs Professor Jonathan Wadsworth Professor Robert Wilson Professor Mike Campbell (Ex-officio member)
Secretariat	Mark Franks (Head of secretariat) Stephen Earl Vanna Aldin Cordella Dawson Andrew Watton Anna Downs Dan James Anne Ball Alex Barr
Observers	Andy Honeyman (UKBA)

Agenda Item 1 - Welcome and Introductions

1. Committee members reported back on contacts and meetings with a variety of stakeholders including the English National Ballet, representatives from the Chinese catering community in London, the Work Foundation and the Department for Business, Enterprise, Reform and Regulation.

Agenda Item 2 – Minutes of meeting held on 2 May 2008

2. Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Agenda Item 3 – Approach to corroborating top down and bottom up evidence

3. The Committee discussed a paper tabled at the meeting which outlined an approach to the way the corroboration of top down and bottom up evidence could be dealt with and presented.
4. Members agreed with the proposal to deal with occupations in three categories - where:
 - evidence is submitted and SOC data are highly relevant;
 - evidence is submitted and SOC data are not highly relevant;
 - and

- where SOC data indicate potential signs of skilled and in shortage, but where no bottom up evidence had been received.
5. It was agreed that there would be a sliding scale of requirements from both top down and bottom up data depending on how strong each was. For example, where the SOC code was highly relevant and top down data suggested the occupation was skilled and in shortage, the bottom-up evidence requirements would be slightly less stringent than for those occupations where the top down was either weak or not relevant.
 6. Those occupations for which the Committee had received no bottom up evidence, would not be recommended for the shortage occupation list as it would not be sensible to include any occupations for which shortages had not been asserted. However, the Committee may examine some of the occupations that exhibited potential signs of shortage from the top-down data in more detail following the publication in August.

Agenda Item 4 – Paper 6.1 – Discussion of Chapters 6 and 7 and the Skilled Annex

7. In relation to Chapter 6 the secretariat reported that shortage indicators had been agreed and thresholds for each had been established. When discussing shortage indicators for specific occupations it was agreed that the relevant information would be the proportion passed out of the 12 indicators in total. It was agreed that passing 50 percent or more may provide a basis for looking more closely at the occupation after the August publication. It was recognised that some occupations may be recommended for the shortage occupation list with fewer shortage indicators if the bottom up evidence is particularly good or the SOC code encompasses a wide variety of job titles or different skill levels of which only a proportion were actively under consideration.
8. The Committee agreed that Chapter 8 on sensible was a more difficult chapter than those on skill and shortage in terms of the potential for quantitative analysis. Those top down indicators which had been identified could be read either way in terms of what they implied against the "sensible" criteria. Therefore members agreed to mainly consider bottom-up data when considering sensible, but to use top-down data to corroborate the bottom-up when possible. Individual occupations will not be discussed in Chapter 8: all occupations will be discussed under Chapter 9. The Committee agreed that other migration routes available should not form a criteria for sensible.
9. When formatting the report, the Committee asked the secretariat to ensure that shading within tables is done in such a way as to ensure that the tables can still be clearly read when printed in black and white. The secretariat undertook to do this and asked the Committee to let them know of any other formatting suggestions or comments.

Agenda Item 5 – Paper 6.2 – Specific sectors and occupations

10. The secretariat introduced Chapter 9 of the draft August Report, which included the individual sector and occupational summaries. It was accepted

that these were works in progress but , but the Committee felt that these summaries, while useful, were not yet set out as clearly as possible. The Committee felt that the summaries were too dissimilar, while recognising that this was a consequence of the different evidence each was being asked to reflect. The Committee wanted to see a much closer dovetailing between the top-down and bottom-up evidence.

11. The secretariat also reported that clarification was being sought from various stakeholders on certain points. The Committee agreed there was a need for a clear recommendation to appear at the top of each summary.
12. Members then looked at and commented in detail on the occupational summaries. The secretariat undertook to redraft all of the summaries to reflect the points the Committee made.

Agenda Item 7 - Paper 6.3 – Chapters 1-5 and 8-12

13. There was a discussion on draft chapters 1-5 and 8-12. Some re-ordering of chapters was agreed. Members were invited to send detailed drafting comments in to the secretariat. It was also agreed that quotes would appear in text boxes throughout the report.

Agenda Item 8 – Date of next meeting

14. The secretariat confirmed the next Committee meeting is on 21 July 2008. Agenda to be confirmed.

Agenda Item 9 – Any other business

15. None.

**MAC Secretariat
July 2008**