

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE MIGRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON 21 JULY 2008

Present:

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| Chair | Professor David Metcalf |
| Members | Dr Diane Coyle Dr Martin Ruhs Professor Jonathan Wadsworth Professor Robert Wilson |
| Secretariat | Mark Franks (Head of secretariat) Stephen Earl Vanna Aldin Cordella Dawson Andrew Watton Anna Downs Dan James Anne Ball Alex Barr Luke Amroliwala |
| Observers | Michael MacMillan (UKBA) Joanne Laker (UKBA) |

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome and Introductions

1. The Chair welcomed Michael MacMillan (UKBA) to the meeting. He confirmed that Michael was attending future MAC meetings as an observer in place of Andy Honeyman (UKBA). He also took the opportunity to formally record the Committee's thanks to Andy Honeyman for his help and constructive input into the MAC's work. Apologies had been received from Mike Campbell.
2. Luke Amroliwala, a student who is currently on work experience in the secretariat, was also welcomed to the meeting.
3. The Chair reported back on a constructive meeting he had with the UK Commission of Employment and Skills and said that they confirmed they would use the MAC shortage occupation list to help inform their policy decisions and resource allocations. The Chair also met with the Department of Children, Schools and Families to discuss teachers. He said the meeting was useful and constructive.

Agenda Item 2 - Minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2008

4. Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Agenda Item 3 - Paper 7.1 – Draft of the MAC Report, August 2008

5. The Committee discussed each section of the draft report in detail and agreed a recommended final shortage list. They were content with signing it off the report, subject to some minor changes being made.

Agenda Item 4 - Paper 7.2 Research programme: what next on skill, shortage and sensible?

6. The Committee discussed the need to undertake future research projects relating to specific issues identified during the analysis work carried out so far. It was agreed that detailed discussions should be held with each Committee member on how we can flesh out a detailed proposal. This would ensure that the commissioning of any work can happen soon after the next meeting.

Agenda Item 5 - Future MAC work (oral item)

7. Michael MacMillian told the Committee that the UK has to formally notify the European Commission before January 2009 if it intends to maintain labour market restrictions on nationals of Romania and Bulgaria (A2 nationals) beyond January 2009. As such, the Government is currently considering the restrictions it has imposed and clearance is being sought from the Domestic Affairs (Border and Migration) committee to seek the advice of the MAC on relaxing these restrictions. Michael MacMillian confirmed that if clearance is given, the MAC's remit will be to consider what the likely impact on the labour market would be of relaxing existing restrictions, and whether it would be sensible to do so.
8. In response to questions about the timescale for producing any such work, Michael MacMillian, said that if the MAC is invited to do this work, they would be asked to report by the end of October.
9. In respect of any other future work, the secretariat confirmed that this would depend on the MAC's work plan, which will need to be revised by the Government. However, it was pointed out it is expected that the Government will ask the MAC to keep the lists under regular review.

Agenda Item 6 - Date of, and agenda for, next meetings in October, November and December

10. The secretariat confirmed that the next formal Committee meetings would be 12 September 2008, 26 September 2008, 17 October 2008, 14 November 2008 and 19 December 2008. Agendas to be confirmed.

Agenda Item 6 - AOB

11. None.

**MAC Secretariat
July 2008**