



MIGRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Call For Evidence

July 2017 MAC Commission



4 August 2017

Migration Advisory Committee

2nd Floor

Peel Building

2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/migration-advisory-committee>

1. Introduction

- 1.1. In July 2017, the Government commissioned the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to advise on the economic and social impacts of the UK's exit from the European Union and also on how the UK's immigration system should be aligned with a modern industrial strategy¹.
- 1.2. This call for evidence is accompanied by a note outlining some preliminary analysis of the UK labour market and other countries' migration systems to kick-start the call for evidence. The note does not make any policy recommendations or provide any conclusions. It asks questions rather than answers them. We welcome comments and feedback on any of the issues raised, as well as responses to the wider call for evidence.
- 1.3. This call for evidence identifies the sort of information that the MAC will find most helpful to receive during the initial phase of its consideration of the government's commission, and details of how to submit your evidence.

2. Call for Evidence

- 2.1. This call for evidence seeks views and evidence from anyone with relevant knowledge, expertise or experience to help inform the MAC response. We strongly welcome views from a wide range of interested parties from all parts of the UK (e.g. businesses, employers, recruiters, trade unions, academics, think tanks, representative bodies, government departments, etc). Please respond to questions that are relevant to your expertise; we do not expect respondents to answer every single question.
- 2.2. The questions outlined below provide a general indication of the information the MAC would find most useful, but respondents may provide the MAC with other relevant information. Responses should be evidence-based and where possible should provide data and/or examples to support your answers.

¹ The commissioning letter from the Home Secretary and the MAC's response can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/migration-advisory-committee-mac-commissioned-by-government>

EEA Migration Trends

- Please provide evidence on the characteristics (e.g. types of jobs migrants perform; skill levels, etc) of EEA migrants in your particular sector/local area/region. How do these differ from UK workers? And from non-EEA workers?
- To what extent are EEA migrants seasonal; part-time; agency-workers; temporary; short-term assignments; intra-company transfers; self-employed? What information do you have on their skill levels? To what extent do these differ from UK workers and non-EEA workers?
- Are there any relevant sources of evidence, beyond the usual range of official statistics, that would allow the MAC to get a more detailed view of the current patterns of EEA migration, especially over the last year?
- Have the patterns of EEA migration changed over time? What evidence do you have showing your employment of EEA migrants since 2000? And after the Brexit referendum? Are these trends different for UK workers and non-EEA workers?
- Have you conducted any analysis on the future trends of EEA migration, in particular in the absence of immigration controls?
- Have you made any assessment of the impact of a possible reduction in the availability of EEA migrants (whether occurring naturally or through policy) as part of your workforce? What impact would a reduction in EEA migration have on your sector/local area/region? How will your business/sector/area/region cope? Would the impacts be different if reductions in migration took place amongst non-EEA migrants? Have you made any contingency plans?

Recruitment Practices, Training & Skills

- Please provide evidence on the methods of recruitment used to employ EEA migrants. Do these methods differ from those used to employ UK and non-EEA workers? What impact does this have on UK workers? Have these methods changed following the Brexit referendum?
- Do recruitment practices differ by skill-type and occupation?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of employing EEA workers? Have these changed following the Brexit referendum result?

- To what extent has EEA and non-EEA migration affected the skills and training of the UK workers?
- How involved are universities and training providers in ensuring that the UK workforce has the skills needed to fill key roles/roles in high demand in your sector? Do you have plans to increase this involvement in the future?
- How well aware are you of current UK migration policies for non-EEA migrants? If new immigration policies restrict the numbers of low-skilled migrants who can come to work in the UK, which forms of migration into low-skilled work should be prioritised? For example, the current shortage occupation list² applies to high skilled occupations; do you think this should be expanded to cover lower skill levels?

Economic, Social and Fiscal Impacts

- What are the economic, social and fiscal costs and benefits of EEA migration to the UK economy? What are the impacts of EEA migrants on the labour market, prices, public services, net fiscal impacts (e.g. taxes paid by migrants; benefits they receive), productivity, investment, innovation and general competitiveness of UK industry?
- Do these differ from the impact of non-EEA migrants?
- Do these impacts differ at national, regional or local level?
- Do these impacts vary by sector and occupation?
- Do these impacts vary by skill level (high-skilled, medium-skilled, and low-skilled workers)?

3. Submitting Evidence to the MAC

3.1. Please send your responses to the MAC Secretariat at:

Email: MAC@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

² <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-k-shortage-occupation-list>

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Please submit your evidence by 27 October 2017.

Please note that we will publish your response on our website. We may also quote the evidence received, attributed to the individual or organisation that supplied it, in our published report. If you think your response contains confidential information, we would consider not publishing it. The MAC is, however, subject to the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act and we would assess confidentiality accordingly to the FOI rules on exemptions.

- 3.2.** Clarification questions on the call for evidence can be sent to the MAC Secretariat by 12 September 2017. The MAC will publish answers to these by 29 September 2017.
- 3.3.** The MAC Secretariat will be arranging meetings and visits with stakeholders during the call for evidence period. We will also host open sessions for interested parties in different parts of the UK – details of which will be published on our website. If you would like to meet with the MAC, please get in touch using the contact details above.