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By email only

28 July 2011

Dear Colleague,

MAC REVIEW OF FAMILY MIGRATION ROUTE

Earlier this month the Government launched a consultation on the family route to migration. At the same time the Government commissioned the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to consider and provide advice on the following question:

'What should the minimum income threshold be for sponsoring spouses/partners and dependants in order to ensure that the sponsor can support his/her spouse or civil or other partner and any dependants independently without them becoming a burden on the State?'

The MAC has been asked to report to the Government by the end of October 2011. The MAC has not issued a formal call for evidence on this question, but rather is seeking input from individuals and bodies that may have an interest in, and evidence that is relevant to, the question. In order to inform this review any correspondence on this matter needs to be received by mid-September at the latest.

Please feel free to pass this letter on to others who may be interested in the question the MAC has been commissioned by the Government to answer. We are also happy to take suggestions regarding specific individuals and bodies that the MAC may wish to meet with or visit in order to inform this review.

The MAC operates in a transparent manner, meaning the basis for its recommendations is set out in its reports. Although we appreciate the need for some exchanges to be in confidence, if evidence received cannot be cited, its scope to influence the MAC's recommendations will be limited. The MAC will assume that you are content for your written evidence to be cited and quoted unless you specifically state otherwise.

If you have any queries or would like a meeting to discuss any of the points in this letter in more details please do not hesitate to contact me, or colleagues within the MAC secretariat, via our email address – mac@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark Franks', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Mark Franks

Head of Secretariat, Migration Advisory Committee

Chairman: Professor David Metcalf CBE

The Migration Advisory Committee is a non-departmental public body funded by the Home Office.