

spring conference

conference daily

sunday 10th march 2013

Information from the Federal Conference Committee, timings for conference sessions, amendments, emergency motions and questions to reports; report back for Saturday 9th March and detailed information for Sunday 10th March. Please read in conjunction with the *Conference Agenda and Directory*.

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10.00–10.40	F18	Policy motion: Corporate Tax Avoidance	7
10.40–11.00	F19	Speech: Jo Swinson MP	
11.00–11.45	F20	Policy motion: Creating a Strong Manufacturing Sector in a Stronger Economy	7
11.45–13.00 (approx.)	F21	Speech: Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats and Deputy Prime Minister	

Please note that timings are approximate only. Some items of business may occur earlier than indicated. Conference representatives wishing to speak in any of the debates are requested to fill in and submit a speaker's card as soon as possible.

*If no page number is indicated next to a session or item of business, there are no changes or additional information to that in the *Conference Agenda and Directory*.*

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report back for saturday 9th march

F2	Report: Federal Conference Committee	Approved
F3	Report: Federal Policy Committee	Approved
F4	Constitutional amendment: Amendment to Article 10.2	Defeated
F5	Policy motion: Every Child Taught by an Excellent Teacher	Passed (Amendment One passed)
F9	Report: Federal Executive	Approved
F10	Report: Federal Finance and Administration Committee	Approved
F11	Report: Diversity and Engagement Group	Approved
F12	Report: Campaign for Gender Balance	Approved
F13	Policy motion: Revitalising the Rural Economy	Passed (lines 23–24 retained)
	Motion to suspend standing orders	Defeated
F15	Policy motion: Justice in Social Security Tribunals	Passed
F16	Reports: Parliamentary Parties	Received

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09.00 Emergency motions

F17A Implementing the Leveson Report

13 conference representatives

Mover: Baroness Bonham-Carter

Summation: Dr Evan Harris

1 Conference notes:

- 2 1. The high standards of much British journalism.
- 3 2. The appalling behaviour of some parts of the press in industrial-scale violation of the rights of
- 4 citizens in respect of defamation, invasion of privacy, data theft and harassment without any
- 5 public interest justification.
- 6 3. The inappropriate and sometimes corrupt relationship between some newspapers and the
- 7 police.
- 8 4. The undemocratic and corrosive relationship between some senior newspaper executives
- 9 and proprietors and successive Governments and opposition leaders.
- 10 5. The inability of the Press Complaints Commission to implement its own Code of Conduct or
- 11 to enforce appropriate standards of ethical behaviour.
- 12 6. The decades of refusal by the press to regulate its own affairs in a way that upholds standards
- 13 and protects ordinary citizens and the public interest.
- 14 7. The continuing and unacceptable levels of concentration of media power in too few hands.

15 Conference welcomes:

- 16 A. The establishment and the report of the Leveson Inquiry which conducted a thorough, fair
- 17 and public investigation.
- 18 B. The findings of the Leveson Inquiry which identified the harm caused to the victims of press
- 19 abuse.
- 20 C. The recommendations of the Leveson Inquiry that:
 - 21 i) There should be a new system of independent, voluntary self-regulation.
 - 22 ii) It should be periodically inspected by a statutory recognition body to guarantee that the
 - 23 successor system to the PCC is independent, fair, effective and enduring.
 - 24 iii) News publishers which choose to join a recognised regulator with an arbitration service
 - 25 will benefit through reduced court costs and protection from exemplary damages.
 - 26 iv) Data protection laws should be amended to better improve the balance between
 - 27 journalism and the right to protect personal information.
 - 28 v) There should be greater transparency of relationships between powerful press interests,
 - 29 ministers and politicians.

30 Conference respects and applauds the willingness of victims to come forward and give evidence
31 at the Inquiry despite subjecting themselves to additional distress.

32 Conference applauds the support given to victims of press abuse, and to the Leveson
33 Inquiry and its conclusions, by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Liberal Democrats, and regrets
34 the decision of the Prime Minister to oppose key recommendations of the report.



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35 Conference believes that:

- 36 I. The Leveson recommendations are no threat to free expression.
37 II. The recommendations will safeguard whistle-blowers and are compliant with human rights
38 law.
39 III. Legislation to provide for the establishment of a Recognition Body which can verify the
40 independence, fairness and continuing effectiveness of new voluntary self-regulators is the
41 best way to replace the discredited PCC.
42 IV. The Recognition Body, as recommended by Leveson, must be wholly independent of press
43 and political influence.
44 V. Leveson's recommendations on reforming data protection law should be implemented in
45 such a way as to safeguard investigative journalism.
46 VI. Secret meetings between media executives and politicians on all areas of public policy
47 should end, as Leveson recommended.
48 VII. Affordable access to justice in the courts in tandem with a low cost arbitration system is vital
49 for victims of press abuse and small publishers alike.
50 VIII. The Home Office should heed the warning of Lord Justice Leveson and refrain from
51 reforming police search powers in a way that threatens the public interest in the protection of
52 journalist sources.

53 Conference further notes the proposals from Conservative ministers published on 12th February
54 to establish a Recognition Commission by Royal Charter rather than by legislation.

55 Conference further believes that:

- 56 a) All-party agreement is the most desirable way forward, as long as Leveson's
57 recommendations are not diluted or compromised.
58 b) Liberal Democrats should support a Royal Charter to deliver the Leveson reforms only if it:
59 i) Was fully protected in statute from executive interference.
60 ii) Delivered the Leveson conditions for effective self-regulation in full.
61 iii) Was accompanied by statute to fully implement necessary incentives on costs,
62 exemplary damages and data protection.
63 iv) Fully implemented Leveson's recommendations on how the recognition process should
64 work.
65 c) In the continuing absence of a Royal Charter proposal that is acceptable and supportable,
66 Liberal Democrats in Parliament should support any legislative proposal which is able to fully
67 implement the Leveson Recommendations on press regulation, and that the Defamation Bill
68 is unsuitable for this purpose and should be safeguarded.
69 d) Any failure of the press as a whole or of significant news publishers to set up an approved
70 self-regulator should – as all three main party leaders have said – trigger equivalent
71 independent regulation set up by statute until such time as the industry complies.

Background briefing

This motion updates policy on the response to the Leveson Report and recommendations.
Existing policy is set out in conference motion *Phone Hacking* (2011).

F17B Continuing Our Opposition to Secret Courts

55 conference representatives

Mover: Jo Shaw

Summation: Martin Tod



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1 Conference notes:

- 2 i) The motion 'No Government Above the Law – the Justice and Security Bill' passed
3 overwhelmingly at the Liberal Democrat Federal Conference in September 2012 called for:
4 a) Part II of the Justice and Security Bill to be withdrawn or defeated by Liberal Democrat
5 parliamentarians; and
6 b) Public Interest Immunity to be put into legislation.
7 ii) That the amendment calling for 'CMPs to be used only as a last resort and in cases that
8 would otherwise be incapable of being tried' was rejected overwhelmingly by the Liberal
9 Democrat Conference.
10 iii) That Liberal Democrat peers formed the majority of those voting in the Lords to remove
11 secret courts from the Justice and Security Bill.
12 iv) The Liberal Democrat party's unique characteristic is that party members decide policy at
13 Federal Conference.
14 v) That despite the above, the government's amendments passed in January and February
15 2013 undo the Lords amendments and put the Bill back into a non-JCHR compliant state.
16 That on 5th February 2013 Liberal Democrat MPs Julian Huppert and Mike Crockart voted,
17 along with Labour MPs, to remove clause 6 (the 'secret courts clause') from the Bill in
18 Committee but were defeated by one vote.
19 vi) That the Report stage of the Bill debated government amendments which fail to deliver the
20 last resort provision, or the judicial balancing of public interest in open and fair administration
21 of justice against national security considerations.
22 vii) That the Bill passed its Report and Third Stages in the House of Commons on 4th and 7th
23 March, the final version of the Bill on leaving the Commons does not include the changes
24 recommended by the Joint Committee on Human Rights, and the Bill returns to the House
25 of Lords on 26th March for ping-pong.

26 Conference believes:

- 27 A. That the measures in Part II of the Justice and Security Bill will mean the courts system of the
28 United Kingdom will provide neither justice nor security in cases involving allegations against
29 the state of the most serious nature including torture, rendition, negligence of armed forces,
30 malicious prosecution and false imprisonment.
31 B. That the proposals in the Justice and Security Bill are directly contradictory to the core
32 values and stated purpose of the Liberal Democrat party as enshrined in the Preamble to the
33 Constitution, namely to "build and safeguard a fair, free and open society".
34 C. That Part II of the Justice and Security Bill should be withdrawn immediately.

35 Conference repeats its call for:

- 36 1. Liberal Democrat parliamentarians to vote to delete Part II of the Justice and Security Bill.
37 2. Party policy to remain that the Liberal Democrats will repeal Part II of the Justice and Security
38 Act (if so enacted) as soon as we are in a position to do so.

Background briefing

This motion updates policy on the proposals for Closed Material Proceedings (CMPs) in the Justice and Security Bill.

Existing policy is set out in conference motion *No Government Above the Law – The Justice and Security Bill* (2012).



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10.00 Policy motion

F18 Corporate Tax Avoidance

Amendment One

15 conference representatives

Mover: Lisa Smart

Summation: Chris Richards

1 *In a) (line 18), after 'share', insert 'with other tax authorities'.*

2 *Delete c) (lines 20–21).*

3 *Delete 3. and 4. (lines 28–32) and insert:*

4 3. Move to a principles-based approach to tackling tax avoidance, specifically:

5 a) Extending the scope of the existing GAAR to cover all transactions for which tax
6 avoidance is the primary motive, in line with the Australian approach.

7 b) Simplifying and shortening the tax code by replacing existing specific anti-avoidance
8 legislation with the new GAAR.

9 c) Introducing a comprehensive pre-clearance system to give taxpayers certainty before
10 they enter into a transaction.

11 d) Thereby switching more of the focus of tax inspectors to preventing avoidance
12 transactions before they happen rather than seeking to catch them after they have
13 taken place.

Background Briefing

This motion updates and develops policy on corporate tax avoidance and working to ensure a fair tax system at home and abroad. Key proposals include the introduction of a General Anti-Abuse Rule (GAAR), measures to make multinational corporations within the UK disclose intra-group transactions and requiring tax authorities to automatically share information relating to UK citizens and corporations.

Existing party policy on tax avoidance is set out in conference motion *Making Tax Fairer* (2012).

11.00 Policy motion

F20 Creating a Strong Manufacturing Sector in a Stronger Economy

Federal Conference Committee has accepted the following drafting amendment to the motion:

1 *After 2. (line 30), insert:*

2 3. UK University research to be recognised as a key driver for innovation, both in existing
3 manufacturing processes and in the development of future industries; government should
4 continue to close the gap between university research and manufacturing uptake, further
5 supporting initiatives such as the Research Councils' Centres for Innovative Manufacturing
6 and the TSB Catapult Centres.



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Amendment One

15 conference representatives

Mover: Mike Tuffrey

Summation: Neil Stockley

1 After 4. (line 36), add:

- 2 5. The expansion of the Green Investment Bank's scale and remit as fast as possible, including
3 relaxing the restriction on its ability to borrow before total public sector debt begins to fall,
4 in order to support green manufacturing, generate jobs, increase tax revenues and lay the
5 foundations for long-term prosperity.
- 6 6. Government to scrap the review in 2014 of the fourth carbon budget target imposed by the
7 Chancellor, helping to end the current uncertainty over the government's low-carbon policies
8 and reinforce confidence amongst investors in low-carbon manufacturing, technology and
10 infrastructure.

Background Briefing

This motion updates and develops policy supporting manufacturing and building a more sustainable economy. Key proposals include efforts to continue the work of the Regional Growth Fund in creating jobs and growth, facilitating cooperation amongst UK manufacturers, continuing support for apprenticeships and creating a long-term energy policy to unlock investment and make the UK a manufacturing hub.

Existing party policy on manufacturing is set out in conference motion *A Green Stimulus for Economic Recovery* (2011) and policy paper 105, *Sustainable Prosperity and Jobs* (2012).

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conference timetable autumn 2013

Saturday 14th – Wednesday 18th September 2013, Glasgow

Drafting advice deadline (motions)	13.00	Wednesday	12th June 2013
Motions deadline	13.00	Wednesday	26th June 2013
Drafting advice deadline (amendments and emergency motions)	13.00	Monday	19th August 2013
Deadline for amendments to motions, emergency motions, topical issues and questions to reports	13.00	Monday	2nd September 2013

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