

Autumn Conference

Conference Daily

Wednesday 18th September 2013



Information from the Conference Committee for Wednesday 18th September and report back for Tuesday 17th. Please read in conjunction with the *Agenda* and *Conference Extra*.

Contents

Report back for Tuesday 17th September				2
Timetable for Wednesday 18th September				
09.00–10.30	F38(a)	Emergency motion	Schedule 7 of Terrorism Act 2000	3
	F38(b)	Emergency motion	Legal Aid	4
10.30–10.50	F39	Speech	Rt Hon Michael Moore MP	
10.50–12.00	F40	Policy motion	<i>A Stronger Economy in a Fairer Society</i> (Manifesto Themes Paper)	5
12.00–12.40	F41	Policy motion	Human Rights	5
14.20–14.50	F42	Party awards		5
14.50–15.35 (approx)	F43	Speech	Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP	

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 or Conference Extra. 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.

You will need to refer to Conference Extra for text of amendments, questions etc – available at the Information Desk in the SECC each day, or online at www.libdems.org.uk/autumnconferencepapers.

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Conference Daily and other conference documents are available to download as pdf, plain text and large/clear print, from www.libdems.org.uk/autumnconferencepapers, or ask at the Information Desk in the SECC.



Report back for Tuesday 16th September

F29	Policy motion	Recognising a Legal Status for British Sign Language	Passed
F30	Policy motion	Preventing and Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Passed (Amendment One passed, lines 36–39 retained)
F32	Policy motion	<i>Defending the Future – UK Defence in the 21st Century</i> (Defence Policy Paper)	Passed (Amendment One defeated, lines 13–15 of Amendment One retained)
F35	Policy motion	<i>Prosperous, Sustainable and Secure</i> (Europe Policy Paper)	Passed (Amendment One passed, lines 89–93 retained)
F36	Policy motion	Impact of the Private Finance Initiative on the National Health Service	Passed
F37	Policy motion	High Street Gambling	Passed (Amendment One passed)

Conference Final, containing report back for Wednesday 18th September, will be available after conference, online at www.libdems.org.uk/autumnconferencepapers

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Wednesday 18th September

Additions and updates to the Agenda and Conference Extra for Wednesday 18th September.

F38(a) Emergency Motion: Schedule 7 of Terrorism Act 2000

40 conference representatives

Mover: Sarah Ludford MEP

Summation: Dr Julian Huppert MP (Co-Chair, Parliamentary Party Committee on Home Affairs and Justice)

1 Conference affirms its strong support for effective counter-terrorism powers and its appreciation of
2 the crucial work of the police, border force and intelligence services in responding to terrorist threats
3 and protecting the public.

4 However, conference firmly believes:

5 1. That these powers must be framed and applied in strict compliance with the principles of
6 necessity and proportionality, with appropriate respect for civil liberties and the rule of law and
7 subject to robust parliamentary as well as legal accountability, so as to ensure continued public
8 confidence.

9 2. That national security must not be invoked unjustifiably to undertake blanket surveillance, stifle
10 investigative journalism, practice abusive stop and search or discourage public debate.

11 Conference deplores the over-broad powers contained in Schedule 7 of Labour's Terrorism Act 2000
12 and welcomes the reforms secured by the Liberal Democrats and contained in the current Anti-
13 social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill.

14 Conference is however disturbed by the extensive use of Schedule 7 in general, as well as its
15 application to David Miranda on 18th August 2013, and thus urges the government to heed the
16 advice of the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism David Anderson QC and to introduce further
17 possible safeguards in Schedule 7, including:

- 18 a) A requirement that a person may not be detained without reasonable grounds for suspecting
19 their involvement in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism.
20 b) Abolishing the criminal offence of refusal to answer questions.
21 c) The mandatory recording of all questioning.
22 d) A right to independent legal advice prior to questioning.
23 e) Restrictions on the copying and retention of data from electronic devices.
24 f) Monitoring of application to avoid prejudicial racial or religious bias.

Ministerial Q&A sessions

Pensions and Welfare

with Steve Webb MP

Wednesday 09.00–10.00

SECC, Alsh 1

Environment

with Ed Davey MP, David Heath MP and
Baroness Parminter

Wednesday 10.30–11.30

SECC, Alsh 1

Left luggage

***Under no circumstances will any large bags
or suitcases be allowed into the SECC.***

A left luggage facility will be available
at the Campanile Hotel (see map of Glasgow in
the Directory) between 08.00 and 18.00
on Wednesday 18th September.

Please note that capacity is limited and will be
available on a first-come first-served basis.

A charge of £1 per item will apply.

Wednesday 18th September continued

Background briefing

This motion creates new party policy.

F38(b) Emergency Motion: Legal Aid

Liberal Democrat Lawyers

Mover: Graham Colley

Summation: Geoff Payne

1 Conference notes:

2 A. The Party's current policy on Legal Aid, adopted overwhelmingly at the Sheffield Party
3 Conference in 2011.

4 B. The pressures upon public spending faced by the government, which is substantially the result of
5 serious failings in economic policy by the previous Labour Government.

6 C. The widespread criticism of proposals in the MoJ's consultation paper on Legal Aid including
7 an unsustainable model for Price Competitive Tendering of criminal defence services, and
8 substantial reduction in the number of suppliers, and that whilst big changes have been made
9 to the proposals the proposals on tendering to deal with objections to lowest bidder 'cut price'
10 justice, fundamental concerns remain about the sustainability of the supplier base in light of
11 proposed fee cuts of 17 per cent.

12 D. Scrutiny by the Joint Committee on Human Rights (JCHR) of proposed changes to civil legal aid,
13 including the proposed introduction of a residence test for civil legal aid claimants, restrictions
14 on the scope of legal aid available to prisoners and on payment for preparation work in judicial
15 review cases, and the JCHR request for the Secretary of State for Justice delay the proposals
16 until the Committee completed its work and reported back to parliament.

17 E. That the Ministry of Justice is proposing to create significant new demands on expenditure in
18 prisons policy, at the same time as making cuts to legal aid.

19 Conference believes that:

20 i) The provision of a high quality justice system and proper access to justice are fundamental
21 obligations for a modern democratic state.

22 ii) The human rights implications of the changes to legal aid being investigated by the JCHR are of
23 fundamental significance for the right of access to justice and the rule of law.

24 iii) No further cuts in the provision of Legal Aid and the availability of local justice should take place
25 without ensuring that any such proposals are first properly trialled and assessed to demonstrate
26 that there will be no adverse effect upon access to justice and the quality of legal services
27 provided to those who require assistance by means of Legal Aid.

28 iv) New areas of Ministry of Justice expenditure cannot be justified while legal aid is being cut so
29 drastically.

30 Conference calls for:

31 1. Proposed changes to criminal or civil legal to be stayed pending thorough consultation and
32 scrutiny to ensure there will be no adverse effect upon:

33 a) Access to justice and the availability of local justice.

34 b) The quality of legal services provided to those who cannot afford to pay privately.

35 c) The public purse through unintended consequences such as prisoners being
36 detained for longer than necessary or defendants suffering miscarriages of justice.

37 d) Public confidence through the removal of the means to ensure public accountability,
38 fairness and equality before the law regardless of means.

39 e) Human rights issues as identified by JCHR, and that the Committee's concerns be
40 acted upon in full.

Wednesday 18th September continued

- 41 2. Liberal Democrats to question the proposed model for Price Competitive Tendering, especially in
42 light previous reports on the economy of criminal defence services by the National Audit Office.
- 43 3. A review of the whole system of spending allocation in the Ministry of Justice budget so that so
44 that the demands of legal aid, the courts and the penal system are kept in balance.

Background briefing

This motion further develops existing party policy on the provision of legal aid, the reform of the legal aid system and access to justice as set out in conference motions *Access to Justice* (2011) and *Legal Aid* (2008).

F40 Policy motion: *A Stronger Economy in a Fairer Society* (Manifesto Themes Paper)

See *Conference Extra for Amendments One, Two and Three*.

Background briefing

This motion and accompanying manifesto themes paper, *A Stronger Economy in a Fairer Society*, outline the challenges Britain and the world will face during the next Parliament. It is a statement of the Liberal Democrat party's vision for 2020 and develops themes for the manifesto for the General Election in 2015.

F41 Policy motion: Human Rights

See *Conference Extra for drafting amendment and Amendment One*.

Background briefing

This motion develops party policy on human rights, and reaffirms the party's commitment to human rights as fundamental to a fair, free and open society. In particular, this motion calls on Liberal Democrats in Government to oppose any attempt to repeal the Human Rights Act and urges the British Government to continue to work with Europe to positively reform the process through which the European Convention on Human Rights is administered.

Existing party policy on human rights and the Human Rights Act is set out in conference motion *Civil Liberties* (2012), the 2010 General Election Manifesto *Change That Works for You* and conference motion *Human Rights* (2003).

F42 Party Awards

The Dadabhai Naoroji Award to a local party for support and promotion of BAME party members.

The Belinda Eyre-Brook Award for outstanding constituency workers or political assistants to Council groups.

The Harriet Smith Award for lifetime achievement for members who have never been elected to public office.

The President's Award for lifetime achievement for members who have held public office.



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Autumn Conference 4th–8th October 2014 Glasgow

Book your accommodation on stand W2

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Save the dates

Conference timetable spring 2014

7th–9th March 2014, York

Drafting advice deadline (motions)	13.00	Wednesday	18th December 2013
Motions deadline	13.00	Wednesday	8th January 2014
Drafting advice deadline (amendments, emergency motions)	13.00	Tuesday	18th February 2014
Deadline for amendments to motions, emergency motions, topical issues, questions to reports	13.00	Tuesday	4th March 2014

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