

# Liberal Democrats Spring Conference Agenda and Directory

York 7th–9th March 2014

This clear print version of the Conference Agenda and Directory matches as closely as possible the text of the published Agenda and Directory and motions have the same line numbering. Page number cross references are correct within this clear print document. Some information may appear in a different place from its location in the published Agenda and Directory. Complex layouts and graphics have been omitted.

Some pages, such as the map of York and venue and exhibition plans, are available as separate documents at [www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_papers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers)

A plain text version of the Agenda and Directory is available at [www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_papers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers)

The Agenda and Directory and other conference publications, in PDF, plain text and clear print formats, are available online at [www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_papers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers)

Edited by Emma Price and published by The Conference Office, Liberal Democrats, 8–10 Great George Street, London SW1P 3AE.

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**STRONGER ECONOMY, FAIRER SOCIETY**

# **Welcome to the Agenda and Directory for the Liberal Democrat Spring 2014 Federal Conference.**

## **Conference Venue**

York Barbican, Paragon Street, York, YO10 4NT

The conference venue will open at 16.00 on Friday 7th March.

## **Conference Hotel**

Novotel York Centre, Fishergate, York, YO10 4FD

## **Official Fringe Venue**

Hilton York, 1 Tower St, York, YO1 9WD

If you have any questions whilst at conference please ask a conference steward or go to the Information Desk in the main foyer of York Barbican.

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## **The Federal Conference Committee**

Andrew Wiseman, Chair. Sal Brinton, Vice Chair. Geoff Payne, Vice Chair, English rep. Qassim Afzal, FE rep. Louise Bloom, FPC rep. Kelly-Marie Blundell. Prateek Buch, FPC rep. Gareth Epps. Susan Gaszczak. Veronica German, Welsh rep. Sandra Gidley. James Gurling, FE rep. Evan Harris. Jenni Lang, Scottish rep. Liz Lynne. Chris Maines. Justine McGuinness. David Rendel. Paul Tilsley. Mike Ross, Chief Steward, co-opted.

Ex officio: Don Foster MP, Chief Whip. Tim Farron MP, Party President. Tim Gordon, Chief Executive (non-voting).

Members of the FCC will be available to give advice at the Information Desk at the following times: Friday 17.00–18.00; Saturday 09.00–10.30 and 14.00–16.00.

You can also contact the FCC via the Information Desk outside of these hours.

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The printed Agenda and Directory contains a conference venue plan (including the exhibiton) and map of York - these are available as separate documents at [www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_papers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers)

# IN Europe – IN Work

**by Nick Clegg MP**

We meet just months away from the European and local elections – the only party with a clear message. The Liberal Democrats are the party of jobs and Britain's party of IN.

Be under no illusion: the big question for people in May is 'in or out?' UKIP want to lead Britain out of the EU. The Conservatives are now openly flirting with exit. Labour don't have the courage of their convictions on this – they won't lift a finger to keep Britain in Europe.

So we need to make sure everyone knows: if you want to live in a prosperous Britain that stands tall in its own backyard, there's only one party that can deliver it – ours.

That's the message I'll be pushing this weekend. Staying in Europe is the only way to safeguard British jobs and businesses; it's how we work closely with our neighbours to tackle climate change; it's the only way we can successfully tackle cross-border crime. Crucially, it's essential if we are to protect the economic recovery that has been so hard won.

Britain is finally back on the path to prosperity. The British people have made extraordinary sacrifices. Our party has had to drive through controversial and difficult decisions. It has not been easy, but it's working – and now our task is to lock in the progress that has been made.

The recovery would not be happening if it wasn't for the Liberal Democrats. We are doing what is needed on the deficit, but we are also laying the foundations necessary for lasting growth – whether through better infrastructure, green industry or investing in skills. It's only because of us that millions of people have seen a £700 tax cut, putting more money back in their pockets (though the Tories like to take credit for it now!). Looking ahead, not only will we finish the job of economic recovery, but we'll finish it fairly.

That's what makes the Liberal Democrats so unique. Given half a chance, Labour will trash our fragile economy once again. The Tories will increase the burden on the

worst off in order to protect those at the top. Our party, however, will strike a balance – getting the job done but spreading the burden in a way that is fair. We'll build a stronger economy, but also a fairer society.

Over the next few days we'll be talking about how we do that. We remain the only party in which the members shape the policies and this conference will be important for our manifesto ahead of the election next year. Get involved and enjoy yourselves. I look forward to seeing you all.

**The Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP is Leader of the Liberal Democrats and Deputy Prime Minister**

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## Ministerial Q&A Sessions

There will be a series of Ministerial Q&A sessions during conference, where you can come along and ask questions of our Ministers on the issues relating to their responsibilities and their departments. A fantastic opportunity for members to find out more about what our Ministers are up to.

All sessions will take place in the Lendal Room on the ground floor of the York Barbican and are scheduled as follows:

Saturday 8th 11.30–12.30

Home Affairs & Justice with Norman Baker MP and Simon Hughes MP

Saturday 8th 13.00–14.00

Local Government with Stephen Williams MP

Saturday 8th 14.30–15.30

Treasury with Danny Alexander MP

Sunday 9th 10.00–11.00

Health & Social Care with Norman Lamb MP

These sessions are open to all, but party members will be given priority. Hearing loop provided.

# Conference Information

If you have any questions at conference, please ask a steward or go to the Information Desk located in the main foyer of York Barbican.

## Accommodation

Accommodation can be booked via our local partner Visit York on 01904 554653.

## Banking facilities

Please note there is no ATM available at this venue or in the immediate vicinity.

## Cloakroom

York Barbican does not have a cloakroom; however rails will be available for attendees to leave coats at their own risk. Do not leave bags unattended at any point within the venue. Under no circumstances will any large bags or suitcases be allowed into York Barbican.

## Conference Daily

Conference Daily will be published on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th March. Please make sure you collect your copy as you enter York Barbican, as the information it contains is vital to understanding the day's business.

## Disabled access

If you need assistance at the venue, please contact the Information Desk or our disabled access steward Robert Littlehailes on 07712 667702 or [rlittlehailes@aol.com](mailto:rlittlehailes@aol.com).

## Auditorium facilities

- A wheelchair ramp to the right of the stage; the chair of the session will ensure

## INFORMATION

wheelchair users are called in plenty of time to access the stage.

- Infra-Red Hearing System; headsets can be collected from the Information Desk. Please ensure your hearing aid is switched to the 'T' position.
- Sign language interpretation during all auditorium sessions; a number of seats are reserved for representatives using this service, at the front of the auditorium to the left of the stage.
- Reserved seats at the front of the auditorium for those who would benefit from being closer to the stage due to a visual impairment.

## Mobility aids

The Liberal Democrats have a limited number of electric scooters available for use around the conference venues. They are free of charge and available on a first-come, first-served basis and will need to be returned each evening. To request the use of an electric scooter contact the Information Desk at conference or email [conferences@libdems.org.uk](mailto:conferences@libdems.org.uk)

## Distribution of literature

Distribution of literature (including leaflets / flyers) is not allowed within the secure zone of conference other than through the official bookable channels. Any persons attempting to bring a large number of fliers into the conference centre may be prohibited from entering and a dilapidation charge will be levied against any organisation or individual responsible for 'fly-posting'. Excessive distribution of promotional literature is not in line with the party's environmental policies.

## FCC helpdesk

Members of the FCC will be available to give advice at the Information Desk at the following times:

Friday 7th March 17.00–18.00

Saturday 8th March 09.00–10.30

Saturday 8th March 14.00–16.00

## **First aid**

In the event of needing First Aid, please speak to a steward or the Information Desk who will arrange for First Aiders to attend and/or request a paramedic.

## **Information desk**

The Information Desk, where members of the Conference Team can answer your questions, is located in the main foyer and is open as follows:

Friday 7th March 16.00 –18.30

Saturday 8th March 08.30 –18.30

Sunday 9th March 08.30 –13.30

email: [conferenceinformation@libdems.org.uk](mailto:conferenceinformation@libdems.org.uk)

telephone: 01904 600027

## **Left luggage**

On Sunday 9th March, your hotel should be able to store your luggage for you after checkout. Alternatively you will be able to leave your luggage at the Novotel where a charge of £1 per item will apply.

## **Prayer and meditation room**

Unfortunately, due to venue restrictions, we are unable to provide a dedicated prayer and meditation room at this event. However, if you have any specific requirements while at conference, please speak to a conference steward who will endeavour to find a quiet space for you to use. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

## **Recycling facilities**

Recycling facilities for paper, plastic and cans have been kindly provided by SITA throughout York Barbican. Please make use of the collection bins.



## Registration on-site

On-site registration is located in the Box Office of York Barbican and is open at the following times:

Friday 7th March 16.00–18.30

Saturday 8th March 08.30–18.00

At busy times you may experience queues at on-site registration and we strongly advise all those wishing to attend conference to pre-register via [www.libdems.org.uk/conference](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference).

If you have lost your conference photo pass, visit on-site registration to arrange a re-print. A replacement fee of £25 applies and photo passes are reissued at the discretion of the Registration Manager.

## Security and safety

Access to York Barbican is possible only with a valid conference photo pass worn with the official lanyard. Conference photo passes must be worn visibly at all times within the secure zone. Anyone found in the secure area without a valid pass will be escorted from the building.

A random bag search is in operation during conference. You may be asked to go through metal detecting archways and present any items you are taking into the conference centre to security staff for a physical search.

Under no circumstances will any large bags or suitcases be allowed into the secure zone. Any bag left unattended will be brought to the attention of the police and may be removed and/or destroyed.

In order to ensure your process through the security measures is as quick as possible please only bring essential items into the venue. Please allow time for security check queues during key times – particularly after lunch and ahead of popular events.

The Liberal Democrat Party has received and accepted advice from North Yorkshire

## INFORMATION

Police regarding security measures for Spring Conference 2014. These measures have been put into place to ensure the safety of everyone attending the conference, as well as residents and employees surrounding the venue.

## Smoking

A designated smoking area is available on the West Terrace of the York Barbican, accessible via the first floor foyer.

## Transport and travel

York Barbican is 20 minutes walk from York train station or a short taxi ride.

## Taxis

Streamline Taxis are offering an exclusive 10% discount off all city wide taxi journeys. Book online or call 01904 656565 to pre-book your journey. Simply mention you are attending conference when booking or show your conference pass to the driver at the start of your journey to get your discount.

## Parking

The nearest car park is Q Park on Kent Street (YO10 4AH), just behind York Barbican. A discounted rate of £5/day is available to conference attendees – collect your voucher from the Information Desk at conference.

Q Park has 5 dedicated disabled parking spaces. Please note, these are not blue badge parking – for information on blue badge parking in York visit <http://bit.ly/1hOP4NU>

## Voting status

If you have a query regarding voting status for this conference, please contact Membership Services on [membership@libdems.org.uk](mailto:membership@libdems.org.uk) or 020 7227 1335.

## Debates And Votes At Conference

Debates on policy and business motions are at the heart of federal conference. It is through them that the party sets its policy and future direction. Unlike the conferences of the other parties, Liberal Democrat conference is sovereign, and what it decides really matters.

### **The structure of debate on policy and business motions:**

Proposer of the motion speaks

V

Proposers of any amendments speak in turn

V

Speakers called on all sides of the debate with the chair seeking to ensure balance

V

Interventions taken (if listed on the agenda)

V

Summators of amendments speak in turn

V

The summator of the motion speaks

V

The chair takes votes for and against the amendments and separate votes (if any) in turn

V

A vote will be taken on the motion as a whole

**Interventions:** are concise (one minute) speeches made from the intervention microphone(s) on the floor of the auditorium, during debates where it is indicated in the Agenda.

**Amendments:** all motions except emergency motions are open to amendment; amendments accepted will be printed in Conference Daily.

Voting: decisions on most motions and on all amendments and separate votes are by simple majority of those voting (two-thirds majority for constitutional amendments). To vote, representatives must be seated on the ground floor of the auditorium and show their voting badge.

**Separate votes:** a vote on whether to delete or retain the specified words or section. A request for a separate vote may be submitted by any voting representative: by the start of the first conference session on the day before the debate is scheduled, or by the deadline for emergency motions for debates scheduled for the first day of conference; using the online form at [www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_papers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers), by email to [separate.votes@libdems.org.uk](mailto:separate.votes@libdems.org.uk), or in writing to the Speakers' Table in the auditorium.

**Counted vote:** the chair of the session may decide that a vote needs to be counted. Any voting representative may request a count from the floor; if fifty voting representatives stand and show their voting cards, a count will be taken.

## Speaking In Conference Debates

### Length of speeches

The length of speeches is shown against each motion in the Agenda. Interventions are limited to one minute each.

There are three lights on the speaker's rostrum and visible either side of the stage. The green light is switched on at the beginning of the speech. The amber light is switched on 60 seconds before the end of the allowed time (20 seconds before the end of an intervention). The red light is switched on when all the time is used up, and the speaker must stop immediately.

### Eligibility to speak

The only people entitled to speak in debates and interventions at conference are:

- Voting representatives (or substitutes), elected by their local parties or appointed ex-officio, who have paid their full registration fee.
- Non-voting representatives who have paid their full registration fee (not day visitors).
- Persons who have been given permission to speak by the Federal Conference Committee.

## **Applying to speak**

To make a speech in a debate you must complete a speaker's card, collected from and returned to the Speakers' Table at the front of the auditorium, an auditorium steward or the Information Desk.

## **Completing a speaker's card**

When completing a speaker's card, remember:

1 Submit your card well in advance. The chair and aide team for the debate will meet well in advance to plan the debate – sometimes the previous day.

2 Fill in your card completely. Complete the two sections on the back of the card as well as the front. These sections are needed for the chair and aide to balance the debate, so they can call people with relevant experience and avoid a string of people making the same point.

3 Make sure it's readable! Don't fill every square centimetre of the card; don't write illegibly, in very small letters, or in green ink ... The easier you make it for the chair and aide to read the card the more likely you will be called.

## **Interventions**

To speak during interventions, representatives should complete an intervention form, collected from and returned to a steward in the auditorium. Speakers will be chosen by the chair of the session by random ballot.

## **Other Conference Sessions**

### **Emergency motions and topical issue discussions**

Emergency motions are debated and voted on and make formal party policy like other motions, but refer to a substantial development since the deadline for submission of motions.

## INFORMATION

Topical issue discussions allow representatives and spokespeople to discuss and comment on a political issue live at the time of conference; they do not make party policy.

The topical issue to be discussed is chosen by officers of the Federal Conference Committee and Federal Policy Committee and will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

## Question and answer sessions

Concise questions (maximum 25 words) on any relevant subject may be submitted by any voting representative. Questions will be selected by the chair and put by the submitter from the intervention microphones in the auditorium.

Questions must be submitted:

- by 17.00 Thursday 6th March, using the online form at [www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_papers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers) or to [questions@libdems.org.uk](mailto:questions@libdems.org.uk)
- or by 12.40 Saturday 8th March on a form collected from and returned to the Speakers' Table in the auditorium.

## Reports

The reports of Federal Committees and Parliamentary Parties are printed in the separate reports document.

Concise questions (maximum 25 words) on these reports may be submitted by any voting representative. The chair will select which questions will be asked. Questions to reports of the Parliamentary Parties may relate to any aspect of Liberal Democrat activities in the UK or European Parliaments.

Deadlines for questions to reports:

- Federal Committees – 13.00 Tuesday 4th March.
- Parliamentary Parties – 17.00 Thursday 6th March.

Questions may be submitted:

- using the online form at [www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_papers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers)
- or by email to [questions@libdems.org.uk](mailto:questions@libdems.org.uk).

Download a form from [www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_papers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers)

Questions received by the deadlines above will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

Questions on events occurring after the deadlines above may be submitted on speaker's cards at the Speakers' Table up until one hour before the start of the relevant session.

## **Submitting Amendments, Emergency Motions, Topical Issues and Appeals**

### **Amendments and emergency motions**

Amendments and emergency motions must be:

- signed by 10 voting representatives;
- or submitted by one or more of: a local party, state party, regional party in England, Federal Specified Associated Organisation or Federal Party Committee;
- by 13.00, Tuesday 4th March;
- to the Policy Unit – see below.

Submitters should include:

- For amendments – a short explanation of the intended effect of the amendment.
- For emergency motions – a short explanation of its emergency nature.

### **Topical issues**

Suggestions for topical issues may be submitted by any voting representative:

- by 13.00, Tuesday 4th March.
- to the Policy Unit – see below.

The title of the issue should be no more than ten words, and should not include an expression of opinion; please include full contact details of the submitter and up to 100 words explanatory background.

## Appeals

Appeals against the non-inclusion of emergency motions or amendments must be signed by the original drafting contact and should:

- a) be no longer than one side of an A4 sheet;
- b) give a contact name and telephone number;
- c) include a copy of the original motion/amendment to which they relate; and
- d) give justification for the appeal and provide new information the Conference Committee was unaware of when it made its decision.

Appeals should be submitted:

- by 08.00, Saturday 8th March;
- to the Policy Unit – see below.

**Amendments, emergency motions, topical issues, and appeals** should be submitted to the Policy Unit:

- using the online form at [www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_papers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers)
- or by email to [motions@libdems.org.uk](mailto:motions@libdems.org.uk)
- or by post to Policy Unit, 8–10 Great George Street, London SW1P 3AE.

Please download a form from [www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_papers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers).

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## Conference Timetable Autumn 2014

### 4th–8th October 2014, Glasgow

Drafting advice deadline (motions): 13.00 Wednesday 2nd July 2014

Motions deadline: 13.00 Wednesday 16th July 2014

Drafting advice deadline (amendments, emergency motions): 13.00 Monday 8th September 2014

Deadline for amendments to motions, emergency motions, topical issues, questions to reports: 13.00 Monday 22nd September 2014



# The Exhibition

## Exhibitors listed by stand number

- R2 Glasgow City Marketing Bureau
- R3 Visit York
- R5 Connect and NationBuilder Drop-In
- R6 Yorkshire and the Humber Liberal Democrats
- R7 LGBT+ Liberal Democrats
- R8 Ethnic Minority Liberal Democrats
- 1 CentreForum
- 2 Parliamentary Candidates Association
- 3 Prater Raines Foci2 Websites
- 4 ALTER
- 6 Liberal Democrat Women
- 7 Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association
- 8 Liberator
- 9 Social Liberal Forum
- 10 Green Liberal Democrats
- 11 Lib Dem Education Association (LDEA)
- 12 Liberal Youth
- 13 Agents and Organisers Association
- 14 Liberal Democrats for Electoral Reform
- 15 Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists
- 16 Humanist & Secularist Liberal Democrats
- 17 Lib Dem Friends of Palestine
- 18 Liberal Democrat Disability Association
- 19 Riso UK Ltd / Midshire Business Systems
- 20/21ALDC and LGA Liberal Democrat Group
- 22 Airport Operators Association
- 23 Bishops Printers
- 24 ONEPOST
- 25 Liberal Democrat Image
- 26 Liberal Democrat History Group
- 27 Liberal Democrat Christian Forum

## EXHIBITION

The plan of the exhibition is shown on the conference venue plan printed in the Agenda and Directory and available as a separate document at [www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_papers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers)

### Exhibition opening times

Friday 7th March 16.00–18.15

Saturday 8th March 08.30–18.15

Sunday 9th March 08.30–12.00

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## Directory Of Exhibitors

Stand 13

### **Agents and Organisers Association**

Advice, support and advocacy for all election agents and organisers. Come and meet us, get your questions answered, and get your hands on an Agents' Manual!

Stand 22

### **Airport Operators Association**

The Airport Operators Association is the trade body that represents UK airports. Its mission is to see the UK airports sector grow sustainably. [www.aoa.org.uk](http://www.aoa.org.uk)

Stand 20/21

### **ALDC and LGA Liberal Democrat Group**

ALDC and LGA Lib Dems can provide advice, support and resources for all councillors, campaigners and activists. Join ALDC and get in touch with the LGA Lib Dems here. [www.aldc.org](http://www.aldc.org) [www.libdemgroup.lga.gov.uk](http://www.libdemgroup.lga.gov.uk)

Stand 4

### **ALTER**

ALTER, the party's economic special interest group, focusing on radical reform of taxation to both stimulate the economy and create a fairer distribution of the wealth it creates. Twitter: @LibDemsALTER [www.libdemsalter.org.uk](http://www.libdemsalter.org.uk)

## EXHIBITION

### Stand 15

#### **Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists**

The main resource within the party of scientific and technical expertise. New members always welcome, not only scientists and engineers but medics, IT people and anyone with an interest. [www.aldes.org.uk](http://www.aldes.org.uk)

### Stand 23

#### **Bishops Printers**

Bishops Printers of Portsmouth is one of the largest commercial printing firms in the South of England, offering a full service solution for all your print needs.

[www.bishops.co.uk](http://www.bishops.co.uk)

### Stand 1

#### **CentreForum**

CentreForum is an independent, liberal think tank seeking to develop evidence-based policy solutions to the challenges facing Britain. [www.centreforum.org](http://www.centreforum.org)

### Stand R5

#### **Connect and NationBuilder Drop-In**

Stop by to find out about our full-suite of digital campaign tools. Daily drop-in Connect sessions with Digital Support Officers and demonstrations of NationBuilder. [www.libdems.org.uk](http://www.libdems.org.uk)

### Stand R8

#### **Ethnic Minority Liberal Democrats**

A SAO established to develop the education, participation and representation of ethnic minorities within the party. <http://ethnic-minority.libdems.org/en>

### Stand R2

#### **Glasgow City Marketing Bureau**

The Liberal Democrats Autumn Conference will take place in Glasgow from 4th to 8th October 2014. Visit our stand for information on discounted travel, accommodation and visitor attractions. [www.peoplemakeglasgow.com](http://www.peoplemakeglasgow.com)

## EXHIBITION

### Stand 10

#### **Green Liberal Democrats**

GLD continues to be one of the party's largest membership organisations, working to ensure the environmental agenda remains at the top of the party's political agenda. [www.greenlibdems.org.uk](http://www.greenlibdems.org.uk)

### Stand 16

#### **Humanist & Secularist Liberal Democrats**

HSLD has a successful record of shaping party policy; we welcome LibDems, of all faiths and none, who believe humanism and secularism need a voice within the party. [www.hsld.org.uk](http://www.hsld.org.uk)

### Stand R7

#### **LGBT+ Liberal Democrats**

Actively campaigned for Equal Marriage amongst other issues, we are the body for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans + equality. Learn about our policy and campaign work, and conference events! [www.lgbt.libdems.org.uk](http://www.lgbt.libdems.org.uk)

### Stand 27

#### **Liberal Democrat Christian Forum**

We support and encourage Christians in the party, act as a bridge between the church and the party, and are a voice of liberal democracy among Christians. [www.ldcf.net](http://www.ldcf.net)

### Stand 18

#### **Liberal Democrat Disability Association**

Raising awareness, understanding and support of people with disabilities, within and outside the Liberal Democrats. Championing disabled and able-bodied advocates' opinions and the positive opportunities available to the party and society. RECRUITING MEMBERS!! All supporters and carers welcome. <http://disabilitylibdems.org.uk>

## EXHIBITION

### Stand 11

#### **Liberal Democrat Education Association (LDEA)**

Lib Dem Education Association (LDEA) promotes Lib Dem values in education and helps to develop Lib Dem thinking and policy concerned with young people and education. [www.libdemeducationassociation.org.uk](http://www.libdemeducationassociation.org.uk)

### Stand 17

#### **Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine**

Help yourself to reports, briefing papers and fact sheets, which will highlight our lobbying priorities: settlements, children in military detention and the ongoing Gaza siege. come and join the campaign! [www.ldfp.eu](http://www.ldfp.eu)

### Stand 26

#### **Liberal Democrat History Group**

The past illuminates the present. Subscribe to the Journal of Liberal History. Buy our book, Peace, Reform and Liberation: A History of Liberal Politics in Britain 1687–2011. [www.liberalhistory.org.uk](http://www.liberalhistory.org.uk)

### Stand 25

#### **Liberal Democrat Image**

Visit Liberal Democrat Image for all your election supplies for the May Local and European elections. Also order online at: [www.libdemimage.co.uk](http://www.libdemimage.co.uk)

### Stand 7

#### **Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association**

For updates and briefing notes on our fringe meetings 'Mental Health & Criminal Justice' and 'Zero Hours Contracts', membership and our Access to Justice/Legal Aid Campaign. Chair: Graham Colley. [www.LibDemLawyers.org.uk](http://www.LibDemLawyers.org.uk)

### Stand 6

#### **Liberal Democrat Women**

Liberal Democrat Women – a new organisation dedicated to improving every aspect of gender balance in our party and addressing inequality in society. Visit us on stand 6. [www.libdemwomen.org.uk](http://www.libdemwomen.org.uk)

## EXHIBITION

### Stand 14

#### **Liberal Democrats for Electoral Reform**

The group for electoral reformers within the party. We are campaigning to get local government electoral reform a priority in the 2015 manifesto. Visit our stand to find out more.

### Stand 12

#### **Liberal Youth**

Liberal Youth are the youth and student wing of the Liberal Democrats. Come find out more about our campaigns, events and policy work! [www.liberalyouth.org](http://www.liberalyouth.org)

### Stand 8

#### **Liberator**

Liberator continues to report on the realities of coalition. Read the latest from the Party's leading thinkers. As ever RB shines light on the dark corners of the Party. [www.liberator.org.uk](http://www.liberator.org.uk)

### Stand 24

#### **ONEPOST**

ONEPOST was established in July 2005 to help mailers understand the choices they have and, most importantly how to maximise their postal budget. [www.onepost.co.uk](http://www.onepost.co.uk)

### Stand 2

#### **Parliamentary Candidates Association**

Aspiring candidates will be In THE THICK OF IT between now and 2015. Take time out to visit our stand to meet colleagues and exchange news...and favourite Malcolm Tucker quotes! [www.libdempca.org.uk](http://www.libdempca.org.uk)

### Stand 3

#### **Prater Raines Foci2 Websites**

Liberal Democrat online campaigning that works. Proven delivery of fast, reliable websites with great customer support. Facebook & Twitter integration, donation taking, email suite, content sharing, petitions & more. [www.prateraines.co.uk](http://www.prateraines.co.uk)

## EXHIBITION

### Stand 19

#### **Riso UK Ltd / Midshire Business Systems**

Midshire Business Systems are distributors of innovative Riso digital print solutions. The unique inkjet technology offers our customers a cost effective, efficient and environmentally friendly alternative to traditional toner devices. [www.midshire.co.uk](http://www.midshire.co.uk)

### Stand 9

#### **Social Liberal Forum**

The Social Liberal Forum (SLF) is an internal party pressure group seeking to develop and implement social liberal solutions and policies. [www.facebook.com/soclibforum](http://www.facebook.com/soclibforum)  
Twitter @soclibforum [www.socialliberal.net](http://www.socialliberal.net)

### Stand R3

#### **Visit York**

With a thriving network of over 700 members, Visit York is one of the most successful destination marketing organisations in the UK. Centrally located, York makes the perfect holiday destination. [www.visitthecity.org](http://www.visitthecity.org)

### Stand R6

#### **Yorkshire and the Humber Liberal Democrats**

Come and visit the stand for the host region, Yorkshire and the Humber Liberal Democrats.

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## Bus tours offer

York City Sightseeing Hop On Hop Off bus tours are offering conference-goers 50% off their tour prices. Present your conference photo pass to the driver and enjoy 24 hours of unlimited use for just £6 over the conference weekend. Details of route and timings are available at [www.city-sightseeing.com/tours/united-kingdom/york.htm](http://www.city-sightseeing.com/tours/united-kingdom/york.htm) or pick up a flier from the literature points at conference.

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# Conference sponsors

## **The Benenden Healthcare Society Limited**

Benenden Health, a mutual, not-for-profit health and wellbeing organisation, whose head office is based in York, welcomes the Liberal Democrats spring conference to the city.

[www.benenden.co.uk](http://www.benenden.co.uk)

## **Campaign for Fairer Gambling**

The Campaign for Fairer Gambling's "Stop The FOBT's" Campaign is exposing the most addictive form of gambling, Fixed Odds Betting Terminals – roulette machines in betting shops. [www.stopthefobts.org](http://www.stopthefobts.org)

## **Crowne Plaza London – The City Hotel**

Visit our award-winning business and lifestyle hotel, near Blackfriars station. With 203 rooms, 3 dining destinations and modern meeting rooms, it's the ultimate venue for work and play.

[www.cplondoncityhotel.co.uk](http://www.cplondoncityhotel.co.uk)

## **SITA UK**

SITA UK is a recycling and resource management company. We deliver solutions to 12 million people and over 40,000 businesses across the UK, helping our customers to reduce the impact of their waste on the environment. Our purpose is to protect the environment by putting waste to good use.

[www.sita.co.uk](http://www.sita.co.uk)

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## Twitter

For updates on who's speaking, when agenda items are about to start and how conference has voted, follow [www.twitter.com/LibDemConf](https://www.twitter.com/LibDemConf)



## Fringe Venues

The official fringe meeting venues are the Novotel York Centre and the Hilton York – see page 2 for addresses. A map of York is available as a separate document.

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## Ministerial Q&A Sessions

There will be a series of Ministerial Q&A sessions on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th March in the Lendal Room in the York Barbican – see page 5 for details.

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# Fringe Friday 7th March

## Fringe Friday Early Evening 18.30–19.30

### **Conference Rally - IN EUROPE IN WORK**

Millions of British jobs are linked to our trade with the EU, and being in Europe gives us more strength when negotiating trade deals with global players around the world. At this Spring's Rally, Business Secretary Vince Cable, Chair of the 2014 Election Campaign Tim Farron, and MEPs Catherine Bearder and Sarah Ludford will highlight what's at stake in May's European Elections and why it's important to campaign between now and 22 May.

**York Barbican, Auditorium**

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## Fringe Friday Mid Evening 20.15–21.30

### **Social Liberal Forum**

#### **Responsible Capitalism: a New Social Partnership between Labour and Capital**

Speakers: Rt Hon Vince Cable MP; Catherine Howarth, Chief Executive, ShareAction; Frances O'Grady, General Secretary, TUC. Chair: Janice Turner, Member, SLF Council. Co-hosted with ShareAction.

#### **Novotel, Meeting room 1+2**

Refreshments provided

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FRINGE Friday mid evening continued

### **Green Liberal Democrats**

#### **Defending the ‘Green Crap’? Green growth that doesn’t cost the earth**

How do green taxes lead to green jobs and how Britain, and its green levies, could influence the rest of Europe? Speakers include Chris Davies MEP, Environment spokesman in the European Parliament, and James Cameron from Climate Change Capital.

#### **Novotel, Meeting Room 3**

Refreshments provided

### **CentreForum, Barrow Cadbury Fund and Unbound Philanthropy**

#### **Migration: a liberal challenge**

Speakers: Sunder Katwala, Director, British Future; Alasdair Murray, author of CentreForum report Migration: a liberal challenge; Sir Andrew Stunell MP. Chair: Tom Papworth, Associate Director, CentreForum.

#### **Novotel, Meeting Room 4**

Refreshments provided

### **Liberal Democrat Education Association**

#### **AGM with Guest Speaker Lord Mike Storey CBE, LDEA President-elect**

Debate hot topics with Mike Storey, former head teacher and leader of Liverpool City Council. What makes a good teacher? Is the Pupil Premium working? What's a council's role in education? Preceded by short AGM discussing the LDEA's 2014 agenda.

#### **Novotel, Meeting Room 5**

Refreshments provided.

### **Big Brother Watch**

#### **Privacy and Security: a Digital Bill of Rights**

Emma Carr, Deputy Director of Big Brother Watch, and Dr Jenny Woods join Tim Farron MP and Julian Huppert MP to discuss privacy, security, and the Digital Bill of Rights policy motion. Includes Q&A session and a special guest.

#### **Novotel, Meeting Room 6**

### **Liberal Democrat History Group**

#### **Social reformers and Liberals – the Rowntrees and their legacy**

Joseph and Seebohm Rowntree were successful businessmen, pioneers of social investigation – and committed Liberals. Discuss their careers and political legacy with Ian Packer, Lincoln University, and Tina Walker and Lord Shutt, Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust. Chair: Lord Kirkwood.

**Novotel, Riverside Room**

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## **Fringe Friday Late Evening 22.00–23.30**

### **LGA Liberal Democrat Group and ALDC**

#### **Reception and Council Group of the Year Awards 2014**

LGA Lib Dems and ALDC invite you to the Local Government Reception. The LGA Lib Dem Council Group of the Year Awards illuminate the stars in the local government galaxy. Expect big names and tearful acceptance speeches to municipal fanfare.

**Novotel, Meeting Room 1+2+3**

Refreshments provided.

### **Liberal Youth**

#### **Looking Forward – Drinks Reception**

Find out more about Liberal Youth and how it plans to help the party from this year's local and European elections through to the General Election. Speakers include Sarah Harding, Layla Moran, as well as prominent MPs and MEPs.

**Novotel,**

**Meeting Room 5**

Invitation only. Refreshments provided.

### **CentreForum and BVCA**

#### **Conference Reception**

Discuss the big political issues of the day at our ever-popular drinks reception.

**Novotel, Riverside Room**

Invitation only. Refreshments provided.

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# Fringe Saturday 8th March

## Fringe Saturday Morning 08.15–08.45

**Liberal Democrat Christian Forum**

### **Morning Worship**

An opportunity to be still and focus on God at the start of a busy day. Everyone welcome.

**Novotel, Meeting Room 5**

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## Fringe Saturday Lunchtime 13.00–14.00

### **Consultative session**

#### **Internal Democratic Reform**

The Federal Executive are proposing that all members at conference should have a vote on policy motions, and that everyone should have a say on the committees that run our party. Come and share your opinions on our plans for One Member, One Vote.

**York Barbican, Auditorium**

### **CentreForum and Social Liberal Forum**

#### **How do we make education evidence led?**

Speakers: Rt Hon David Laws MP, Minister of State for Schools; James Kempton, Associate Director, CentreForum; Stephen Tall, Development Director, Education Endowment Foundation; Lord Willis of Knaresborough. Chair: Helen Flynn, Social Liberal Forum.

**Novotel, Meeting Room 1+2**

Refreshments provided.

### **Médecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) and RESULTS UK**

#### **The Final Frontier: Fighting Drug-Resistant TB**

MSF and RESULTS UK will host a film screening of MSF's new film examining drug-resistant TB. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion exploring the global response to TB. Speakers include Baroness Suttie.

**Novotel, Meeting Room 3**

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## **Humanist & Secularist Liberal Democrats**

### **Faith, Science and Politics: Stir and Stand Well Back?**

Are faith and science-based policy compatible? Where there is a conflict, how should it be managed? An all-scientist line-up, with Dr Julian Huppert MP FRSC MInstP, Ian Swales MP BSc (Chem Eng), and Cllr Sarah Boad CSci CEng FIMMM.

**Novotel, Meeting Room 4**

## **Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists (ALDES)**

### **Re-balancing the economy: building the skills base in Engineering and Science**

A generation of engineers and scientists are approaching retirement, and universities and industry are not producing enough replacements. With: Paul Jackson, CEO, Engineering UK; Greg Lettington, Head of Engineering, Hays Recruitment; Sharon Lane, MD, Tees Components; Eva Fielding, engineering apprentice.

**Novotel, Meeting Room 5**

## **CentreForum, Fabian Society and Joseph Rowntree Foundation**

New social housing funding models

Speakers: Tim Farron MP; Kathleen Kelly, Policy and Research Manager, Joseph Rowntree Foundation; Sir Michael Lyons, Chair, Lyons Commission. Chair: Professor Stephen Lee, Chief Executive, CentreForum.

**Novotel, Riverside Room**

Refreshments provided.

## **ThorEA – the Thorium Energy Association**

### **An alternative nuclear future**

A panel discussion of the advantages and opportunities offered by thorium: a sustainable, safer, proliferation-resistant alternative which solves long term waste problems. How the UK can participate in this project to cut carbon emissions but keep the lights on.

**Hilton, Bootham Room**

## **ALTER – Action for Land Taxation and Economic Reform**

### **Land Value Tax for UK Business**

ALTER is proposing the replacement of Business Rates by a Land Value Tax as an initial step towards a more extensive implementation. Speakers tba.

**Hilton, Micklegate Room**

### **Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association**

#### **Locked Up for Being Ill? Mental Health & Criminal Justice**

Concerned that the criminal justice system is used as a dumping ground for people with mental health problems? “Prosecuted rather than Treated?” The problem, solutions and funding. Speakers updates & briefing notes from LDLA Stand. Chair: Graham Colley.

#### **Hilton, Minster Suite**

Refreshments provided.

### **Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary**

#### **Asylum: Achievements, aspirations and actions**

Speakers: Sarah Teather MP (asked); Lord Roger Roberts; and Jerome Phelps, Detention Action. Description: What we’ve achieved (ending child detention), aspire to achieve through new policy (ending indefinite detention); what more we can expect in Government, by 2015 and beyond.

#### **Hilton, Library Suite**

### **ActionAid UK**

#### **Women in the world: the International Women’s Day debate**

Leading women to discuss women in the world and celebrate International Women’s Day.

#### **Hilton, Walmgate Room**

Refreshments provided.

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## **Fringe Saturday Early Evening 18.15–19.30**

### **CentreForum**

#### **What is the constitutional reform priority in any coalition negotiations in 2015?**

Is it party funding, House of Lords, PR or none of the above? Speakers: Rt Hon Simon Hughes MP; Nick Tyrone, Head of Partnerships and Public Affairs, Electoral Reform Society; Lord William Wallace of Saltaire; other speaker TBC.

#### **Novotel, Meeting Room 1+2**

Refreshments provided.

### **Green Liberal Democrats**

#### **Where should new housing go? Urban Extensions, Garden Cities, the Green Belt?**

Martin Horwood MP, Fiona Howie, Head of Planning at CPRE, and Duncan Stott from Priced Out discuss the different locations for new housing. Which options are really more sustainable and are there some not being fully exploited e.g. empty properties?

#### **Novotel, Meeting Room 3**

Refreshments provided.

### **Liberal Democrat Women, Chinese Liberal Democrats and Ethnic Minority Liberal Democrats**

#### **Women and Diverse Communities: Challenges and Opportunities**

Working together on International Womens Day, with Stephen Williams MP, Cllr Jackie Beckford and PPC Sarah Yong who will tackle the thorny issues surrounding gender and race equality and the potential force of womens groups. Chair: Rosalyn Gordon. Everyone welcome.

#### **Novotel, Meeting Room 4**

### **Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association**

#### **“Zero Hours Contracts”**

Mass exploitation and the creation of a sub-class of insecure and low-paid workers? Or labour market flexibility and a route to more permanent employment? Ban or Regulate? Speakers details, updates & briefing available from LDLA Stand. Chair: Graham Colley.

#### **Novotel, Meeting Room 5**

### **Heathrow Airport**

#### **Infrastructure Reception**

Please join Clare Harbord, Corporate Affairs Director at Heathrow Airport for a drinks reception and hear about Heathrow’s vision for its future, and the future of the UK’s transport infrastructure (other speakers tbc).

#### **Novotel, Riverside Room**

Refreshments provided.

## **Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors and Liberal Democrats for Electoral Reform**

### **How important is STV? Securing the right electoral reform for local government**

With local government electoral reform increasingly touted as a priority for the manifesto, what compromises are we willing to make to achieve at least some electoral reform? Panel to include: Tim Farron MP (invited); Stephen Williams MP, Local Government Minister.

**Hilton, Bootham Room**

## **English Party**

### **Fundraising Resource for Regions and Local Parties**

Launching a new, tailored lottery offer devised for the party. Vama Gaming presents a user-friendly, managed lottery enabling each region to achieve £12k and more, benefitting each local party too. What does this promise for your region, and what's involved?

**Note: This event ends at 18.45**

**Hilton, Library Suite**

## **Liberal Sustainability Network / Green Book**

### **Green policy priorities for the 2015 election**

Tim Farron MP and Fiona Hall MEP launch the 'Green Manifesto', an outline of the green policies the party needs to adopt and campaign on to capture the green vote in 2015.

**Hilton, Micklegate Room**

## **IPPR North**

### **Will the Lib Dems win seats in the North?**

Liberal Democrats have had an in-out relationship with the North of England in recent years. Does the North have a liberal tendency? Does the coalition government's commitment to localism and decentralisation mean it is best placed to defend Northern interests?

**Hilton, Walmgate Room**



# Fringe Saturday Mid Evening 20.00–21.15

## **Liberal Reform and the Electoral Reform Society**

### **Which Party for Liberals? The Tories or Lib Dems?**

Should “Orange Book” Lib Dems really be in the Conservative Party? Or should liberal Tories back the Liberal Democrats? Jeremy Browne (invited); Alice Thomson, The Times (invited); Ryan Shorthouse, Bright Blue; Nick Tyrone, ERS.

**Hilton, Bootham Room**

## **Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors**

### **Private sector tenants: 1 in 6 voters deserve a better deal**

Developing a response to issues in the private rental sector. Speakers: Stephen Williams MP, Local Government Minister; Alex Hilton, National Private Tenants Organisation; Cllr Catherine Smart, Cambridge City Council; and Duncan Stott, Priced Out. Chair: Cllr Claire Hudson.

**Hilton, Micklegate Room**

## **Liberal Reform and Liberal Democrat Campaign for Manufacturing**

### **Has the coalition succeeded in rebalancing the British economy?**

Is there a recovery in the manufacturing sector? Are regions outside London being left behind? Is the recovery built on property speculation? A panel of eminent economists and politicians discuss the coalition’s record on economic rebalancing.

**Hilton, Walmgate Room**

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# Fringe Saturday Late Evening 22.00–23.30

## **Glee Club**

The traditional end of conference celebration of songs old and new. Pick up your copy of the Liberator Songbook so you can raise the roof, with songs from the days of Gladstone and Lloyd George to satirical songs from 20 years of the Liberal Revue. Cash bar.

**Note: This event ends at 02.00**

**Novotel, Fishergate Suite**

### **Lib Dems in Housing**

#### **The housing crisis – the future for the priced out**

Join Tim Farron, Annette Brooke and others for a lively late night event including practical tips on how we can help people locked out of home ownership both now and in the future at a local and national level.

**Note: this event ends at 23.00**

**Novotel, Meeting Room 5**

Refreshments provided.

### **The European Azerbaijan Society**

#### **TEAS Jazz Reception**

A reception with live jazz by Sabina Rakcheyeva and the Deco Ensemble.

Refreshments and food will be provided.

**Note: this event ends at 00.00**

**Hilton, City of York Suite**

Refreshments provided.

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## **Glee Club**

Where? Novotel York, Fishergate

When? Saturday 8th March 22.00 to 02.00

Join us for the ultimate end of conference celebration!

Cash bar. Special bar prices:

Bottle of beer £3.90

Large glass of house wine £5.00

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## **Ministerial Q&A Sessions**

There will be a series of Ministerial Q&A sessions on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th March in the Lendal Room in the York Barbican – see page 5 for details.

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# Conference Training Programme

Training sessions are for party members only. An appropriate photo pass must be shown for entry.

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## **Saturday 09.15–10.45**

### **Communicating Liberal Democrat policy for candidates**

Learn about new Lib Dem policy, brush up on the old and find out more about what we're already delivering in government. Candidates' Office.

**Meeting Room 3, Novotel**

### **Getting your message right against Labour**

Getting your 2014 and 2015 message and communications right in Labour-facing seats. A good refresher for intermediate campaigners. Political Communication.

**Meeting Room 4, Novotel**

### **Growing your local membership**

In 2013 the party's membership grew. Find out how the local parties that grew did it, and how you can too. Membership Department.

**Meeting Room 5, Novotel**

### **PagePlus drop in session**

Come along with any PagePlus queries, however basic or advanced. Strategic Seats Team.

**Bootham Room, Hilton**

### **Pictures worth a thousand words – taking good photos**

A guide to planning, producing and picking first-class pictures for selection and election campaigns. Diversity & Outreach Team.

**Library Suite, Hilton**

### **Planning and winning your selection campaign (Women only)**

An essential guide to all aspects of running an effective selection campaign for women hoping to stand in this electoral cycle. Liberal Democrat Women.

**Minster Suite, Hilton**

### **Fuelling your campaign**

A fundraising plan for all seasons. Getting fundraising started in your constituency. Strategic Seats Team.

**Walmgate Room, Hilton**

## **Saturday 11.00–12.30**

### **Now you're a PPC**

A session on the best first steps for any newly selected PPC – useful for any candidate hoping to be selected in this electoral cycle. Candidates' Office.

**Meeting Room 3, Novotel**

### **Three campaigns – one clear message**

How to integrate your local, general and European election messages to deliver success in 2014 and 2015. Political Communication.

**Meeting Room 4, Novotel**

### **Election law**

With changes to postal vote timetables and updates to the Defamation Act this is a vital session for anyone who will be acting as an Agent in May's elections. Agents & Organisers' Association.

**Meeting Room 5, Novotel**

### **Winning campaign leadership**

Leadership skills to help you win. Strategic Seats Team.

**Bootham Room, Hilton**

### **Writing and delivering a fabulous hustings speech (Women only)**

Giving a great hustings speech can be a vital part of winning a selection in a competitive seat – get top tips on how to write and deliver one! Liberal Democrat Women.

**Minster Suite, Hilton**

### **Winning the postal vote**

Tips and advice on how to maximise our share of the postal vote and how to persuade more of our supporters to make use of them. ALDC and Elections & Field.

**Library Suite, Hilton**

### **How to win council elections in 2015 for non-target PPCs**

As a PPC in a non-target seat, boosting your local vote and winning council seats is especially rewarding. Here's how to do it. (For non-strategic parliamentary seats.) ALDC and Elections & Field.

**Micklegate Room, Hilton**

### **Recruiting your winning campaign team**

How to find, encourage and build a winning campaign team in your constituency. Strategic Seats Team.

**Walmgate Room, Hilton**

## **Saturday 14.30–15.45**

### **Effective performance at hustings**

Every candidate knows that their hustings speech is the moment of truth for their selection campaign. Find out what works and how to make that winning speech. Candidates' Office.

**Meeting Room 3, Novotel**

### **Getting your message right against the Conservatives**

Getting your 2014 and 2015 message and communications right in Conservative-facing seats. A good refresher for intermediate campaigners. Political Communication.

**Meeting Room 4, Novotel**

### **Growing your local membership**

In 2013 the party's membership grew. Find out how the local parties that grew did it, and how you can too. Membership Department.

**Meeting Room 5, Novotel**

### **Winning in the last eight weeks**

There are just eight weeks left until the joint local and European Elections on 22nd May. This session runs through the things you need to do to win. ALDC and Elections & Field.

**Bootham Room, Hilton**

### **Winning with Connect: Getting out the vote (until 17.30)**

How do you make sure your vote turns out? In this session we'll take you through everything you need to know about getting out the vote using Connect: from postal votes to Polling Day. Digital Team.

**Walmgate Room, Hilton**

### **Being an effective opposition councillor**

How to make an impact on the council when in opposition. ALDC.

**Micklegate Room, Hilton**

### **Engagement matters!**

This session is about how to find more members, more activists and more voters. It explores the ideas behind community engagement and what we can get from them; discusses which communities we should be talking to; and how local parties can best approach them. Diversity & Outreach Team.

**Minster Suite, Hilton**

### **Looking good on paper – designing successful selection literature (Women only)**

An essential guide to planning and producing first-class selection literature to help you win! Particularly useful for women who are aiming to stand as parliamentary candidates in this electoral cycle. Liberal Democrat Women

**Library Suite, Hilton**

## **Saturday 16.00–17.30**

### **Nationbuilder**

Have you visited the Million Jobs ([www.amillionjobs.org](http://www.amillionjobs.org)), Fairer Tax campaign or Mike Thornton websites? All were built on Nationbuilder sites and have helped us blast through records on online fundraising, engaging voters and signing up supporters. Come and find out how you can use Nationbuilder in your area. Digital Team.

**Meeting Room 4, Novotel**

### **Becoming an approved Parliamentary candidate**

The essential session for anyone who is not currently an approved candidate and who is interested in finding out more about the approval process, or going forward for approval in the future. Candidates' Office.

**Meeting Room 3, Novotel**

### **Time and stress management**

We all know that elections can be stressful as well as fun. This session will help you stay stress-free in May and beyond. Agents & Organisers Association.

**Meeting Room 5, Novotel**

### **Producing winning direct mail**

Maximise the reach and potential of your addressed communication. Strategic Seats Team.

**Bootham Room, Hilton**

### **Segmenting voters for better targeting**

How to segment your voters to target them effectively, looking particularly at squeeze and switch voters. ALDC and Elections & Field.

**Library Suite, Hilton**

### **Planning for the 2015 local elections**

In 2015, over half of our councillors will be defending their seats. This session will help ensure you win. (For non-strategic parliamentary seats.) ALDC.

**Micklegate Room, Hilton**

### **Planning and winning your selection campaign**

An essential guide to all aspects of running an effective selection campaign for those hoping to stand as candidates in this electoral cycle. Diversity & Outreach Team.

**Minster Suite, Hilton**

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## **Conference Daily**

Don't forget to pick up your copy of Conference Daily as you enter the York Baribican Saturday and Sunday morning.

Or view it online at [www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_papers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers)

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# Friday 7th March

15.00–17.30 Consultative sessions

## **Ageing Society**

Meeting Room 4	Chair:	Rt Hon Paul Burstow MP
Novotel	Rapporteur:	To be announced

## **Crime and Criminal Justice**

Meeting Room 5	Chair:	Geoff Payne and Cllr Duwayne Brooks
Novotel	Rapporteur:	Rosalind Huish

## **Equalities**

Meeting Room 6	Chair:	Belinda Brooks-Gordon
Novotel	Rapporteur:	Steve O'Neil

## **Manifesto**

Meeting Rooms 1 and 2	Chair:	Rt Hon David Laws MP
Novotel	Rapporteur:	Rory Belcher

## **Public Services**

Meeting Room 3	Chair:	Jeremy Hargreaves
Novotel	Rapporteur:	Lucy Webb

Consultative sessions provide a less formal mechanism than full-scale conference debates for conference representatives and other party members to participate in the party's policy- and decision-making process. Each session examines a particular topic and hears contributions from party members and in some cases outside speakers.

Each session will be organised by the relevant Policy Working Group, or in the case of Internal Democratic Reform (Saturday at 13.00, see page 53) the Federal Executive. The conclusions of the sessions will be taken into account by the groups when drawing up their final policy papers.

# Saturday 8th March

09.00      Party business

Chair:          Paul Tilsley

Aide:          Susan Gaszczak

## **F1      Report of the Federal Conference Committee**

Mover:          Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Tuesday 4th March; questions selected will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 08.50 on Saturday 8th March. See page 14 for further information.

## **F2      Report of the Federal Policy Committee**

Mover:          Duncan Hames MP (Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Tuesday 4th March; questions selected will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 08.50 on Saturday 8th March. See page 14 for further information.

09.15      Policy motion

Chair:          Sandra Gidley

Aide:          David Rendel

## **F3      A Better, Fairer, More Sustainable Future for British Pubs**

Eighteen conference representatives

Mover:          Greg Mulholland MP

Summation:    Gareth Epps

1 Conference notes:

- 2 I. The continued loss of pubs across the country, including the closure  
3 of many viable pubs against local wishes, and the negative effect this  
4 has on the economy and communities.
- 5 II. The repeated temporary closure or ‘churn’ of pubs owned by the  
6 large pub companies (pubcos), often the result of skewed lease/  
7 tenancy terms which channel excessive proportions of profits to  
8 owner pubcos meaning otherwise successful lessees/tenants are  
9 unable to make a fair living.
- 10 III. The conclusion of the Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) Select  
11 Committee in 2011, following four detailed reports, that reform of the  
12 large pubcos and a statutory code are required, including a ‘market  
13 rent only option’, allowing pubco licensees to have an option to pay a  
14 fair, independently assessed market rent to the pub owning company  
15 and to buy all product from wherever they wish.
- 16 IV. Research by the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) showing that  
17 introducing a market rent only option for tied licensees could benefit  
18 the UK economy by nearly £80 million.
- 19 Conference welcomes the work of Liberal Democrats in Government, in  
20 Parliament and in local government to better protect and assist pubs:
- 21 A. The strengthened commitment to protect pubs in planning law and  
22 the Coalition’s Community Right To Bid initiative, which allows for  
23 pubs to be registered as an ‘Asset of Community Value’ (ACV) and for  
24 local people to bid to buy them if they are put up for sale.
- 25 B. The positive response from Liberal Democrat BIS Ministers following  
26 overwhelming support for pubco reform in the consultation by BIS,  
27 which asked how the principle that the tied licensee should not be  
28 worse off than the free of tie licensee could be enshrined in law.
- 29 C. The formation of the Fair Deal for Your Local Campaign (backed by  
28 CAMRA, FSB, Forum of Private Business, trade unions, licensee  
29 organisations and 206 MPs), calling for the Government to back the  
30 Select Committee market rent only option.

31 Conference deplores:

- 32 i) The endemic over-renting of pubco leased pubs, both in the form of  
33 dry rents and the huge mark-up at which the pubcos sell beer (70%  
34 is typical) and other products to their tenants/lessees, so the pub  
35 owning company takes far more than is fair or sustainable from pub  
36 profits.
- 37 ii) The asset stripping of pubs by pub companies, who continue  
38 to sell off viable pubs for alternative use for development and to  
39 supermarkets.
- 40 iii) The closure of many profitable pubs against the wishes of the local  
41 community.

42 Conference believes that:

- 43 a) The pubcos have shown themselves incapable of voluntary reform,  
44 necessitating legislation.
- 45 b) Further changes are needed to the planning system to ensure that  
46 local communities always have a say when a local community pub is  
47 threatened.

48 Conference therefore calls on the Coalition Government to:

- 49 1. Immediately implement the Select Committee proposal and introduce  
50 a statutory code of practice including a market rent only option for  
51 tenanted/leased pubs (triggered at rent review, renewal, change of  
52 terms and sale) for all companies with 500 pubs or more.
- 53 2. Produce statutory guidelines as to how the market rent will be  
54 assessed, to ensure that this is fair and independent.
- 55 3. Change the planning system so that no pub can be demolished or  
56 undergo a change of use without planning permission.
- 57 4. Ensure no community pub is given change of use or permission to  
58 demolish without it being offered at a fair market price and properly  
59 advertised for sale for at least 6 months.
- 60 5. Create a separate use class for community pubs.

- 61      6.      Strengthen the ACV initiative and the Community Right to Buy, with  
62                   owners obliged to accept a bid at independently assessed market  
63                   value, as in Scotland.
- 64      7.      Introduce a right for existing lessees/tenants to be given the right to  
65                   buy the pub freehold if the owner puts the premises up for sale, at  
66                   independently assessed market value.
- 67      8.      Put in place enforcement of these measures to ensure pubcos comply  
68                   with the above changes and deal with any attempts to circumvent the  
69                   terms of the statutory code.

Applicability: Federal, except A (lines 21–24), b) (lines 45–47), and 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 (lines 55–66) which are England only.

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 12.

The deadline for amendments to this motion and for requests for separate votes is 13.00, Tuesday 4th March; see pages 15 and 12 respectively. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

## 09.45      Policy motion

Chair:              Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

Aide:                Sal Brinton (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

### **F4      Making Migration Work for Britain**

Federal Policy Committee

Mover:              Sir Andrew Stunell MP (Chair of the Policy Working Group)

Summation:      To be announced

1      Conference notes that:

2      For generations migrants have enriched Britain's culture, language,  
3      and society, and brought innovation, economic growth and increased

4 prosperity for the whole country. Conference completely rejects damaging  
5 and counter-productive language and policies that undermine Britain's  
6 ability to grow and prosper, that sow division and prey on ignorance and  
7 insecurity.

8 Conference therefore resolves to ensure that in future migration continues  
9 to work well for Britain, and makes the best possible contribution to  
10 securing a stronger economy and a fairer society for all.

11 Conference therefore endorses policy paper 116, Making Migration  
12 Work for Britain, and its policy proposals (replacing all previous policy on  
13 migration) based on the key principles set out below.

14 1. Security and firm control of Britain's borders, with clear annual  
15 Parliamentary oversight of all aspects of migration policy and its  
16 application and delivery.

17 In particular conference welcomes proposals for:

18 a) An annual Parliamentary debate and vote on immigration policy.  
19 b) Delivery of full monitoring of entry and exit, with additional  
20 resources set aside if necessary.

21 2. Growth and prosperity of the UK as the key drivers in decision making  
22 on migration by the next government, encouraging more students  
23 and visitors to come, welcoming those whose skills can help Britain  
24 prosper, and rigorously dealing with crooks, traffickers and those who  
25 would harm Britain.

26 In particular conference welcomes proposals for:

27 a) Reaffirming the principle of the free movement of labour in the EU,  
28 while working with Britain's European partners for more effective  
29 and appropriate transition controls for countries entering the EU.

- 28           b) Supporting Coalition plans to strengthen the Habitual Residence  
29           test and the European Commission's proposal to ensure EU  
30           migrants do not claim benefits before spending 6 months in the  
31           UK.
- 32           c) Improving the visa system to encourage students, short term  
33           business visitors and tourists to come to the UK.
- 34           d) Increasing the number of foreign students, taking them out of any  
35           future net migration target, and permitting graduates in science,  
36           technology, engineering and maths to take up relevant skilled  
37           employment in the UK for up to three years after graduating.
- 38       3. Compassion and fairness to the host community as well as to new  
39       arrivals by tackling low pay and skill shortages vigorously, providing  
40       extra support for local services under pressure from migration, and by  
41       making sure every migrant can speak English enabling them to play a  
42       full part in wider society, and helping refugees from war and terror to  
43       work and contribute to Britain.
- 44       In particular conference welcomes proposals for:
- 45           a) Ensuring employers are paying the National Minimum Wage.
- 46           b) Using EU funding for neighbourhood cohesion projects and to  
47           ease migration pressures on local public services.
- 48           c) Bolstering migrants' English language skills, making claimants  
49           for Jobseeker's Allowance with poor English attend state  
50           funded language courses and strengthening English language  
51           requirements for permanent residency applicants.
- 52           d) Asking the Migration Advisory Committee to review the income  
53           level required in order to bring a spouse into the UK, to avoid  
54           unnecessary family separation.
- 55           e) Allowing elderly relatives to join their families, where they can be  
56           supported and on condition of a levy to cover their likely health  
57           costs.
- 58           f) Requiring all working age asylum seekers to seek work if their

- 59 case has not been resolved within 6 months.  
60 g) Ending indefinite detention for immigration purposes.  
61 h) Rejecting 'Go home vans' and other attempts to create a hostile  
62 environment, in favour of an intelligence-led approach to tackling  
63 illegal immigration which focuses on criminal activity.

64 Conference calls on Liberal Democrats to work for migration policies  
65 based on these principles so that future migration works for Britain and  
66 helps deliver a stronger economy and a fairer society.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 12.

In addition to speeches from the platform, conference representatives will be able to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion; see pages 11 and 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion and for requests for separate votes, is 13.00, Tuesday 4th March; see pages 15 and 12 respectively. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

## 11.10 Policy motion

Chair: Gareth Epps

Aide: Veronica German

### **F5 Reform of Planning**

Mid-Dorset & Poole, Eastleigh and ten conference representatives

Mover: Annette Brooke MP (Co-Chair, Parliamentary Party Committee on Communities and Local Government)

Summation: Cllr Keith House



1 Conference notes the failure over more than two decades of new housing  
2 provision to meet the need for new homes in a growing and ageing  
3 population. Conference therefore confirms its support for the measures  
4 in policy paper 104, Decent Homes for All (2012), in particular the goal of  
5 delivering 300,000 new homes per year to meet the projected need for  
6 homes, and resolves to further reform the planning system to achieve this  
7 goal sustainably and strengthen local decision-making.

8 Conference believes:

- 9 A. That the National Planning Policy Framework and the National  
10 Planning Practice Guidance developed under the Coalition  
11 Government have been a big step forward, but notes that an early  
12 review will need to take place.
- 13 B. That the relationship between communities, local government, the  
14 Planning Inspectorate and the Secretary of State must be redefined to  
15 end unnecessary intervention in local decisions against the wishes of  
16 local councils and communities where local plans are up to date and  
17 approved.
- 18 C. There is a clear need for strategic planning co-operation beyond the  
19 boundaries of individual planning authorities on a democratic basis to  
20 address joint needs.
- 21 D. Communities deserve to share in the benefits of windfall gains that  
22 result from planning decisions.
- 23 F. Garden communities offer an alternative way of meeting housing  
24 need.
- 25 G. That poor standards of residential design and performance are  
26 fostered by the stranglehold of the large housebuilders over access to  
27 land, and that greater competition will lead to higher standards.
- 28 H. The planning system needs to be more responsive to the challenges  
29 posed by climate change.

28 Conference therefore calls for:

- 29      1.      A public consultation on:
- 30              a)    Restricting the call-in powers of the Secretary of State.
- 31              b)    Limiting the role of the Planning Inspectorate, initially to examining
- 32                      local plans and dealing with appeals on major applications to
- 33                      judge whether they are or are not in conformity with a local plan.
- 34              c)    Reforming the balance of responsibilities in London between the
- 35                      Mayor of London and the London Boroughs so that the Mayor's
- 36                      role is truly strategic.
- 37              d)    Introducing local appeals for minor applications (as currently
- 38                      defined), with a pilot scheme to be run with a volunteer planning
- 39                      authority.
- 40      2.      Greater resources for the development and updating of
- 41              Neighbourhood Plans.
- 42      3.      A Community Right of Appeal if a planning authority passes an
- 43              application which is not in conformity with an approved, up-to-date
- 44              Neighbourhood Plan.
- 45      4.      Greater cooperation on strategic planning issues by local authorities
- 46              working together in natural 'sub regions', by:
- 47              a)    Encouraging local authorities to form partnerships determining the
- 48                      boundaries themselves, as in city regions.
- 49              b)    The partnerships individually and jointly producing plans to
- 50                      meet housing need on a bottom up basis, with democratic
- 51                      representation from councillors from all political or non-political
- 52                      groups when determining final plans.
- 53              c)    The partnerships also addressing economic growth and
- 54                      combining to deliver infrastructure over a larger area.
- 55      5.      Measures to allow communities to benefit from development windfalls,
- 56              including piloting of community land auctions for publicly and privately
- 57              owned land.

- 58      6.      Promotion of Garden Communities through:
- 59              a)      Introducing a local trigger into the 1981 New Towns Act where  
60                      partnerships may choose to meet their housing allocation through  
61                      one or more larger settlements (10,000 plus), securing land at low  
62                      cost at a distance from existing settlements.
- 63              b)      In return, Local Planning Authorities protecting open spaces  
64                      closer to the existing settlement.
- 65              c)      Generating community benefit through the difference in land cost  
66                      and subsequent value when planning permission is granted,  
67                      which would provide resources to support a community with  
68                      good infrastructure and amenities.
- 69      7.      Promotion of greater competition in the housebuilding market by:
- 70              a)      Reserving a significant portion of land for small developers and  
72                      self-builders when public land is sold for development (the local  
72                      authority should hold a register of those seeking land to inform the  
73                      proportion needed).
- 74              b)      Giving planning authorities the right to require under the planning  
75                      permission that land be provided for small developers and self-  
76                      builders within any development larger than 40 homes.
- 77              c)      Using new communities to encourage greater access to land by a  
78                      wide range of providers including self- and commissioned-build.
- 79      8.      The planning system and building standards to further help respond  
80              to climate change by:
- 81              a)      Requiring Local Development Frameworks to provide sufficient  
82                      green and blue (water) spaces in urban areas to mitigate the  
83                      heat island effect – such spaces will also bring health and other  
84                      benefits for local residents.
- 85              b)      Amending building performance standards to take proper account  
86                      of the rising summer temperatures that will be caused by climate  
87                      change.

## SATURDAY F5 continued

Applicability: England.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; summation: 4 minutes; other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 12.

In addition to speeches from the platform, conference representatives will be able to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion; see pages 11 and 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion and for requests for separate votes, is 13.00, Tuesday 4th March; see pages 15 and 12 respectively. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

### 12.05 Speech

Chair: Kelly-Marie Blundell

Aide: Chris Maines

### **F6 Speech by Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury @dannyalexander #LDconf**

### 12.20 Party business

Chair: Jenni Lang

Aide: Gareth Epps

### **F7 Parliamentary Party Reports**

Commons: Rt Hon Don Foster MP (Chief Whip) and

Annette Brooke MP (Chair of Parliamentary Party)

Lords: Lord Wallace (Leader) and Lord Newby (Chief Whip)

Europe: Fiona Hall MEP (Leader of the European Parliamentary Party) and  
Sarah Ludford MEP (Deputy Leader)

Each of the reports will be moved briefly, and voted on at the end of the session, but

the bulk of the session will be used for conference representatives to put questions on any aspect of Liberal Democrat activities in the Westminster and European Parliaments to the panel. Questions may be submitted by email up until 17.00 on Thursday 6th March or, on events after this deadline, up until 09.00 on Saturday 8th March to the Speaker's Table. See page 14.

12.40      Lunch break

13.00–14.00 Consultative session

### **Internal Democratic Reform**

Main Auditorium	Chair:	Sue Doughty
York Barbican	Rapporteur:	Rachael Clarke

See page 41 for information about consultative sessions.

14.20      Party business

Chair:	Liz Lynne
Aide:	Paul Tilsley

### **F8      Report of the Federal Executive**

Mover:      Tim Farron MP (President of the Liberal Democrats)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Tuesday 4th March; questions selected will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 12.40 on Saturday 8th March to the Speaker's Table. See page 14 for further information.

### **F9      Report of the Federal Finance and Administration Committee**

Mover:      Peter Dunphy (Chair, Federal Finance and Administration Committee)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Tuesday 4th March; questions selected will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 12.40 on Saturday 8th March to the Speaker's Table. See page 14 for further information.

### **F10 Report of the Diversity Engagement Group**

Mover: Baroness Brinton (Chair, Diversity Engagement Group)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Tuesday 4th March; questions selected will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 12.40 on Saturday 8th March to the Speaker's Table. See page 14 for further information.

### **F11 Report of the Campaign for Gender Balance**

Mover: Ros Gordon (Chair, Campaign for Gender Balance)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Tuesday 4th March; questions selected will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 12.40 on Saturday 8th March to the Speaker's Table. See page 14 for further information.

## **14.50 Speech**

Chair: Qassim Afzal

Aide: Justine McGuinness

### **F12 Speech by Jenny Willott MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Employment Relations, Consumer and Postal Affairs** **@JennyWillott #LDconf**

## **15.05 Question and answer session**

SATURDAY continued

Chair: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

Aide: Liz Lynne

### **F13 Question and Answer Session with Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats and Deputy Prime Minister**

Conference representatives may put questions, on any topic, to the leader of the Liberal Democrats in a 'Townhall' style event. Concise questions (maximum 25 words) may be submitted by email up until 17.00 on Thursday 6th March or to the Speakers' Table by 12.40 on Saturday 8th March. See page 14.

## **15.45 Policy motion**

Chair: James Gurling

Aide: Louise Bloom

### **F14 Power to the People**

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Dinti Batstone (Chair of the Policy Working Group)

Summation: To be announced

1 Conference notes:

2 A. The urgent need for reform and revitalisation of the institutions and  
3 structures of the United Kingdom to reflect the needs of the British  
4 people in the 21st century.

5 B. Consistently disappointing turnouts at elections at every level in the  
6 United Kingdom.

7 C. Higher turnouts where an election is thought to be in contention than  
8 where 'safe seats' are won by the same party at every poll.

9 D. One party 'rotten Boroughs' in local government in England, where  
10 very few or no opposition councillors are ever elected.

11 E. The failure of the Labour Party radically to decentralise meaningful,

- 12            accountable political power in Britain, especially in England.
- 13        F.        That nine cross-party committees and commissions have broadly
- 14            supported the model of Lords Reform set out in the 2012 House
- 15            of Lords Reform Bill, yet both the Conservative and Labour
- 16            parliamentary parties failed to take a historic opportunity in 2012 to
- 17            remove patronage, heredity and position in the established church as
- 18            the basis for seats in Parliament.
- 19        G.        That the workings of Parliament and Government remain unduly
- 20            opaque and difficult for citizens to understand and unpick.
- 21        H.        That the reputation of politics as a whole is profoundly undermined
- 22            by repeated funding scandals arising from access or influence bought
- 23            by big political donations, and by a lack of transparency of the
- 24            relationship between politicians and newspaper executives.
- 25        I.        The continuing failure of the Westminster Parliament to reflect the
- 26            gender balance and the diversity of the people it represents.

27        Conference believes that:

- 28        I.        Our vocation as Liberal Democrats is to re-engage people with the
- 29            political system.
- 28        II.       Liberal Democrats strive to organise citizens in their own communities
- 29            to take and use power, restoring legitimacy and a strong sense of
- 30            public purpose to our democracy.
- 31        III.       Democratic politics must be diverse and participative, capable of
- 32            capturing the imagination and lifting the aspirations of everyone in
- 33            society.
- 34        IV.       Legitimate power stems from the people, not from patronage,
- 35            heredity or position in the established church.
- 36        V.        The operation of political institutions must be intelligible to, and work
- 37            transparently in the interests of, the people they serve.

38        Conference therefore endorses policy paper 117, Power to the People,

39        as an ambitious package of political and constitutional reforms based on

40        these principles.



41 In particular conference welcomes its proposals to:

42 1. Deliver fair representation by:

- 43 a) Introducing the Single Transferable Vote system for electing MPs.
- 44 b) Introducing the Single Transferable Vote for local government
- 45 elections in England.
- 46 c) Introducing an open-list system for elections to the European
- 47 Parliament.
- 48 d) Extending the franchise to all sixteen and seventeen year olds for
- 49 all UK elections.
- 50 e) Exploring the viability of 'overseas' constituencies such as those
- 51 used in some other European countries.
- 52 f) Creating a Speaker's Seat so that the electorate in the
- 53 parliamentary constituency from which the Speaker is drawn are
- 54 not disenfranchised.
- 55 g) Permitting UK parliamentary candidates to put themselves
- 56 forward for election on a job-share basis.
- 57 h) Supporting a continuation of legislation allowing political parties to
- 58 use temporary equality guarantees.

59 2. Set out a road map to a federal United Kingdom by:

- 60 a) Delivering the Campbell Commission's approach to a federal
- 61 constitution for the UK and its vision of 'Home Rule All Around'
- 62 b) Strongly endorsing the proposals of the Silk Commission on
- 63 financial devolution and accountability in Wales.
- 64 c) Establishing a Commission on Devolution in Northern Ireland in
- 65 the next Parliament to review present financial and constitutional
- 66 arrangements.
- 67 d) Building on the successes of City Deals and Growth Deals to
- 68 devolve more administrative and financial power to cooperating
- 69 groups of local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships.
- 70 e) Proposing an English Devolution Enabling Act whereby legislative
- 72 devolution is available to Cornwall (recognising its historic, cultural,

- 72 and linguistic claim to autonomy), to London (which already has  
73 its own limited, devolved institution in the shape of the GLA),  
74 and to any principal local authority (or group of principal local  
75 authorities with contiguous boundaries) outside London which  
76 has a population of a million or more people.
- 77 f) Establishing a constitutional convention to draw up a written,  
78 federal constitution for the United Kingdom.
- 79 3. Promote an effective parliament and an accountable government by:
- 80 a) Reintroducing the 2012 House of Lords Reform Bill in the next  
81 Parliament as the Liberal Democrats' minimum starting point  
82 for progress, while continuing to argue for a 100% directly  
83 elected chamber, removing over time all peers sitting by virtue of  
84 patronage, heredity or position within the established church.
- 85 b) Implementation of the remaining Wright Committee  
86 recommendations for reform of the House of Commons,  
87 particularly in relation to restoring parliamentary control over its  
88 business.
- 89 c) Calling for an independent review of parliamentary procedure in  
90 the Commons and Lords immediately following the next general  
91 election, in particular to consider how a multi-party Government  
92 operates within Parliament.
- 93 d) Making parliamentary proceedings much more accessible and  
94 intelligible to the public, including by reviewing the online version  
95 of Hansard.
- 96 e) Establishing a petitions committee in Westminster, along the lines  
97 of those in the European Parliament, the Scottish Parliament and  
98 Welsh Assembly.
- 99 f) Improving the current consultation processes, with greater use of  
100 pre-legislative and post-legislative scrutiny, and citizens' juries.
- 101 g) Providing that Prime Ministers and their Administrations should  
102 assume office formally only when the House of Commons  
103 has voted for them to do so, endorsing their Programme for  
104 Government.

- 105      4.      Redress the balance between the citizen and the state by:
- 106              a)      Remaining committed to the United Kingdom's continued  
107                      membership of and compliance with the European Convention on  
108                      Human Rights.
- 109              b)      Supporting enactment of a United Kingdom Bill of Rights only if it is  
110                      clear that the protections of human rights afforded by the Human  
111                      Rights Act were fully preserved and enhanced by doing so.
- 112              c)      Seeking to 'normalise' the role of Special Advisers within  
113                      Government by adopting recent recommendations of the House  
114                      of Commons Public Administration Select Committee inquiry into  
115                      Special Advisers.
- 116              d)      Publishing all Special Advisers' meetings with outside lobbyists,  
117                      reflecting current practice for Ministers.
- 118              e)      Building on the Coalition's present publication of all Ministerial  
119                      meetings, by creating a 'front-end' which permits citizens easily  
120                      to see which outside stakeholders have met Ministers across  
121                      government.
- 122              f)      Supporting the recommendations of the recent Shakespeare  
123                      Review on Open Data.
- 124              g)      Reforming party funding in line with the 2012 Committee on  
125                      Standards in Public Life report to provide for a £10,000 cap on  
126                      donations to political parties.
- 127              h)      Insisting on the full implementation of the Leveson reforms  
128                      for independent press regulation and compliance with his  
129                      recommendations on the relationship between the press industry  
130                      and Government.

Applicability: Federal, except 1b) (lines 44–45) and 2d) and e) (lines 67–76) which are England only.

Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 12.

In addition to speeches from the platform, conference representatives will be able to

make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion; see pages 11 and 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion and for requests for separate votes, is 13.00, Tuesday 4th March; see pages 15 and 12 respectively. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

## 17.00 Policy motion

Chair: Susan Gaszczak

Aide: Prateek Buch

### **F15 Food Poverty**

Twenty-three conference representatives

Mover: Ros Kayes

Summation: Kelly-Marie Blundell

1 Conference recognises that welfare provides a vital role in supporting the  
2 needy as well as there being an urgent need to provide access to support  
3 due to economic and demographic pressures.

4 Conference accepts the need for reform of our welfare system, the  
5 importance of encouraging the long-term unemployed back to work,  
6 and that the case for reducing welfare dependency among long-term  
7 recipients of benefits is strong.

8 Conference has concerns however that:

- 9 i) The effect of tightening welfare payments, of delays in payment of  
10 benefits and increasing use of sanctions, combined with rising food  
11 and energy prices, impacts on the most vulnerable members of  
12 society and undermines the principle of the welfare 'safety net'.  
13 ii) Large numbers of people are currently being insufficiently supported  
14 by welfare payments and are living at a standard below which, in the

15 words of Beveridge “no-one should be allowed to fall”.  
16 iii) Independent evidence of an increasing reliance on food banks of  
17 working families with children and the rising number of evictions of  
18 social housing tenants, indicates that changes in the benefit system  
19 initiated by the coalition have not run smoothly and that ameliorative  
20 measures need to be put in place to ensure that the most vulnerable  
21 do not continue to suffer.

22 Conference welcomes:

- 23 I. The work of voluntary and charity organisations throughout the UK  
24 that have developed in order to support people in extreme need.
- 25 II. The work of organisations like the Rowntree Foundation and Citizens  
26 Advice Bureaux that are monitoring and collating evidence of changes  
27 on the minimum standard of living.
- 28 III. Policies delivered by the Liberal Democrats in government supporting  
29 families on the lowest incomes by:
- 28 a) Offering free school meals for all primary aged children.  
29 b) Making free childcare available.  
30 c) Increasing discretionary payments for the most vulnerable.  
31 d) Excluding disability benefits from the benefits cap.  
32 e) Raising the income tax threshold for the lowest paid.  
33 f) Introducing the Pupil Premium to help the educational needs of  
34 the lowest income children.

35 However, conference believes that:

- 36 A. No household in 21st century Britain should be dependent on  
37 charitable support systems for the basic necessities of life.  
38 B. Current measures offer inadequate protection to some families in  
39 deepest need.

40 Conference therefore calls for the party robustly to challenge and assess  
41 the impact of welfare changes to prevent people being left in abject  
42 poverty.

43 Conference further calls for the government to:

- 44 1. Publish the results of research into food banks commissioned by the  
45 Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.
- 46 2. Commission an urgent independent review into the relationship  
47 between benefit delay, error or sanctions and the growth of food  
48 poverty.
- 49 3. Ring-fence money made available for the local welfare provision grant  
50 to provide short-term support for people financial difficulties, such as  
51 benefit delays.
- 52 4. Develop a new grant system accessible by food banks to support  
53 emergency relief to families suffering from food poverty during the  
54 time that the review, and any policy alterations resulting from it, are  
55 being undertaken.
- 56 5. Expedite proposals to develop a Living Wage which will remove those  
57 families on the lowest incomes from the welfare system altogether as  
58 proposed in policy paper 108, A Balanced Working Life (September  
59 2013).

Applicability: Federal, except III. a) and b) (lines 28–29), and III. f) (lines 33–34) which are England only.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; summation: 4 minutes; other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, page 12.

The deadline for amendments to this motion and for requests for separate votes, is 13.00, Tuesday 4th March; see pages 15 and 12 respectively. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

## 17.40 Constitutional amendment

Chair: David Rendel

Aide: Kelly-Marie Blundell

### **F16 Constitutional Amendment: Conference Representatives**

Twenty-four conference representatives

Mover: Andrew Wiseman

Summation: Gareth Epps

1 In article 6.2, delete all and replace by:

2 6.2 Local Parties shall be represented on the following basis, modified  
3 where applicable by article 4.3(b):

4	Membership of Local Party	Number of representatives
5	30 to 50	8
6	51 to 75	9
7	76 to 100	10
8	101 to 150	11
9	151 to 200	12
10	201 to 250	13
11	251 to 300	14
12	301 to 350	15
13	351 to 400	16
14	401 to 450	17

15 together with a further representative for every 100 members (or part  
16 thereof) in excess of 450.

Current article 6.2:

6.2 Local Parties shall be represented on the following basis, modified  
where applicable by article 4.3(b):

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Membership of Local Party		Number of representatives
30 to 50	2	
51 to 75	3	
76 to 100	4	
101 to 150	5	
151 to 200	6	
201 to 250	7	
251 to 300	8	
301 to 350	9	
351 to 400	10	
401 to 450	11	

together with a further representative for every 100 members (or part thereof) in excess of 450.

Applicability: Federal

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 12.

The deadline for amendments to this motion and for requests for separate votes, is 13.00, Tuesday 4th March; see pages 15 and 12 respectively. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

A Constitutional amendment requires a two-thirds majority to pass.

18.00      Close of session



# Sunday 9th March

09.00      Policy motion

Chair:          Chris Maines

Aide:          Qassim Afzal

## **F17    Emergency motion or topical issue**

This slot has been reserved for an emergency motion or motions, or discussion of an important current political issue. The deadline for emergency motions and for suggestions for topical issues is 13.00, Tuesday 4th March; see page 13. Motions selected for debate and/or proposed for the ballot will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

Emergency motion – mover of motion: 7 minutes; summation: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

Topical issue – introducer of issue and spokesperson's response: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 12.

09.45      Policy motion

Chair:          Justine McGuinness

Aide:          Evan Harris

## **F18    In Europe, In Work**

Federal Policy Committee

Mover:          Martin Horwood MP (Chair, European Manifesto Working Group)

Summation:    To be announced

1          Conference believes that:

- 2 I. Liberal Democrats want Britain to stay in the EU because we are  
3 fighting for a stronger economy – millions of British jobs are linked to  
4 our trade with the EU, and being in Europe gives us more strength  
5 when negotiating trade deals with global players like the US, China,  
6 India and Brazil.
- 7 II. Liberal Democrats are working to defend millions of British jobs,  
8 create millions more and put thousands of pounds back in people's  
9 pockets by making it easier for British companies to export and  
10 slashing red tape for small businesses.
- 11 III. Liberal Democrats are fighting for safer communities by ensuring our  
12 police forces have access to key EU crime-fighting tools.
- 13 IV. Liberal Democrats are fighting for a greener future by working with  
14 other EU countries to combat climate change, create green jobs and  
15 reduce pollution.
- 16 V. The Tories and UKIP are putting millions of British jobs and billions  
17 of pounds of investment at risk by undermining our membership of  
18 the EU while Labour can't be trusted with the economy at home or  
19 abroad – their reckless spending and failure to regulate the banks  
20 crippled Britain's economy while their MEPs support measures that  
21 would impose huge burdens on British businesses.
- 22 VI. Liberal Democrats are the party of 'in' – In Europe, In Work.
- 23 Conference welcomes the record of Liberal Democrats in the European  
24 Parliament and Westminster in delivering:
- 25 A. Jobs – for example through the conclusion of successful trade deals,  
26 EU funding that has created over 200,000 new jobs, securing £60  
27 billion EU funding for research and technology over the next 7 years,  
28 and the creation of a single EU Patent system.
- 29 B. Safer Communities – for example through fighting off Tory and UKIP  
28 attempts to withdraw the UK from the EU Arrest warrant, new EU  
29 laws to help British victims of crime in other EU Countries, and  
30 stronger EU co-operation to fight human trafficking.
- 31 C. A Greener Future – for example through an agreement for the EU low  
32 carbon roadmap that paves the way towards a low carbon economy,

33 a radical overhaul of the Common Fisheries Policy to ban most  
34 discards (throwing dead fish back into the sea), EU energy efficiency  
35 laws that will unlock investment in energy saving technologies, and  
36 major reforms to the Common Agricultural Policy that will help cut  
37 emissions and protect our countryside.

38 Conference resolves that the Liberal Democrat Manifesto for the 2014  
39 European Elections should set out a strong future policy agenda  
40 based on these priorities and the policies adopted in policy paper 113,  
41 Prosperous, Sustainable and Secure (September 2013), including:

- 42 1. Creating more jobs by further opening up the EU's internal market,  
43 supporting new EU trade agreements with other trading countries,  
44 cutting red tape and 'thinking small', by reducing unnecessary EU  
45 regulatory costs which particularly hit smaller businesses, promoting  
46 innovation in science and manufacturing and getting British ideas to  
47 market faster, and supporting the European Investment Bank (EIB)  
48 initiative to develop European project bonds in order to speed up vital  
49 infrastructure development.
- 50 2. Fighting cross-border crime and defending rights by pressing for the  
51 European Union missing child alert system to be implemented quickly,  
52 setting up a European Union database of unidentified bodies help  
53 families searching for missing loved ones, supporting the work of  
54 the new European Cybercrime Centre (EC3), and working to secure  
55 speedy implementation of the European Commission's new proposal  
56 on fighting money laundering, pushing for a European Union-wide  
57 proportionality test in the use of the European Arrest, and supporting  
58 the full implementation of 'Eurobail' to allow British citizens to serve  
59 their bail back in the UK.
- 60 3. Protecting the environment and creating green growth by committing  
61 to reduce the EU's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% by  
62 2030, urgently strengthening the EU Emissions Trading System  
63 mechanism, pushing for more international grid connections between  
64 European countries to ensure we can meet our climate change  
65 goals faster and at a lower cost, promoting better European energy

- 66 labelling, and encouraging sustainable consumption in European  
67 Union member states, including by arguing for the European Union to  
68 support the target of halting net deforestation worldwide by 2020.
- 69 4. Building a safer, stronger financial system by ensuring better quality  
70 of regulation in order to protect the economy, businesses and jobs,  
72 fighting for fairer rules that will clamp down on manipulation of energy  
72 and financial markets as exposed by the LIBOR scandal and Brent  
73 Oil fixing investigation, ensuring fairer mortgage repayments and fuel  
74 prices for consumers, supporting alternatives to bank financing for  
75 small and medium sized companies, and pressing for new rules that  
76 will force large companies to disclose the countries where they pay  
77 their taxes,
- 78 5. Getting a better, fairer deal for consumers by campaigning to abolish  
79 mobile phone roaming charges once and for all, supporting higher  
80 standards of food inspections across the European Union with  
81 better country of origin food labelling, supporting greater protection  
82 of holidaymakers' rights to compensation if their holiday company  
83 goes bust, and making it easier for consumers to gain adequate  
84 compensation when people suffer losses due to malpractice, though  
85 new rules that will make it easier for consumers to take cases  
86 together, reduce the number of court cases and cut costs for the  
87 claimants.
- 88 6. Building a more sustainable future for rural communities and  
89 businesses by supporting continued reform of the Common  
90 Agricultural Policy with more devolution in agricultural policy, ensuring  
91 continued support for rural communities, particularly upland and  
92 less favoured areas, and a mid-term review in 2017, and promoting  
93 a more sustainable fishing industry in the UK, with the expansion of  
94 European Marine Sites, a 100% ban on the discard of edible and  
95 other usable fish and want tougher enforcement of European Union  
96 fishing rules by all member states
- 97 7. Helping to build a safer and more democratic world through a more  
98 effective European Union foreign policy, building more security and  
99 democracy in the European neighbourhood, deeper defence co-  
100 operation in Europe, with European Defence Agency, in co-operation

- 101 with NATO, playing a central role in helping states to pool and  
102 share military capabilities, and better co-ordination of development  
103 assistance provided by European member states and by the  
104 European Union itself.
- 105 8. Promoting fairness and opportunity by encouraging government and  
106 universities to fully publicise the opportunities available for young  
107 people in the UK to take advantage of EU schemes for studying and  
108 working abroad, and supporting fair rules to underpin free movement  
109 of workers, such as the proposal from the European Commission to  
110 extend the period from three to six months that the home country  
111 pays benefits for their citizens while they are resident in another  
112 European Union country
- 113 9. Reforming the European Union by campaigning to end the waste of  
114 having two meeting places for the European Parliament, supporting  
115 an audit of existing European Union agencies and institutions to find  
116 ways to rationalise and find savings, and calling for a guarantee in the  
117 next European Union treaty that both Euro area and non-Euro area  
118 member states have a full voice in the regulation and application of  
119 the single market.
- 120 Conference further resolves that Liberal Democrats are committed to  
121 giving the British people their say in a full in/out referendum in the event  
122 of proposals for any further significant transfer of powers from the UK to  
123 the EU, and that Liberal Democrats will campaign for an 'in' vote because  
124 it is overwhelmingly in Britain's national interest to stay in and pursue the  
125 policies on jobs, crime and the environment outlined in this motion.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; summation: 4 minutes; other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 12.

In addition to speeches from the platform, conference representatives will be able to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion; see pages 11 and 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Tuesday 4th March; those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily – see page 15. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Saturday 9th March - see page 12.

## 10.45 Policy motion

Chair: Sal Brinton (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

Aide: Sandra Gidley

### **F19 A Digital Bill of Rights**

Cambridge

Mover: Tim Farron MP

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

1 Conference believes:

2 i) Monitoring or surveilling people without suspicion is alien to our  
3 traditional British values.

4 ii) That systematic surveillance of people's communications and  
5 online activities undermines a number of fundamental human rights,  
6 including the right to respect of private life and correspondence,  
7 freedom of expression, of association, of conscience and of religion;  
8 that these rights are essential in safeguarding the democratic  
9 principles of our society; and that any interference with these rights  
10 must be necessary and proportionate.

11 iii) That our online communication and behaviour should be treated with  
12 the same respect and legal due process that we expect for our offline  
13 communication and behaviour.

14 iv) Government-supported filtering of the internet will prevent people  
15 from accessing legitimate information and educational resources,  
16 whilst giving parents a false sense of security.

17 v) That the indiscriminate harvesting and storage of the communications

- 18 and metadata of people without suspicion is incompatible with our  
19 liberal and democratic principles, and has the potential to cast a  
20 chilling effect on free speech and free association.
- 21 vi) Whilst there are legitimate concerns surrounding national security,  
22 such concerns must not be invoked simply as a pretext to undertake  
23 blanket surveillance, stifle investigative journalism, or discourage  
24 public debate.
- 25 vii) That the work of the intelligence and security services is essential to  
26 the underpinning of a free, fair and open society, and that clear public  
27 agreement as to their remit and the extent of their powers would be to  
28 their benefit as well the country more broadly.

29 Conference endorses:

- 28 A. The International Principles on the Application of Human Rights to  
29 Communications Surveillance, which emphasise that any surveillance  
30 of citizens by the state must be necessary and proportionate.
- 31 B. The United Nations General Assembly resolution on the Right to  
32 Privacy in the Digital Age (A/C.3/68/L.45), emphasising that the same  
33 rights that citizens have offline must also be protected online.
- 34 C. The Reform Government Surveillance Principles signed by Apple,  
35 Google, Microsoft, Facebook, Yahoo, LinkedIn, Twitter and AOL,  
36 which call for overhaul of the oversight, accountability and laws  
37 governing government surveillance programmes in order to restore  
38 the balance between security and liberty and to restore public trust in  
39 the internet.
- 40 D. Existing Liberal Democrat policy that data belongs by default to the  
41 individual to whom it refers; this ownership of data means that the  
42 individual citizen has a right to access all their own data and, where  
43 reasonable, can decide who else has access.
- 44 E. The Deputy Prime Minister's decision to veto the unworkable and  
45 disproportionate Communications Data Bill.

46 Conference therefore calls for:

- 47      1.      The annual release of Government Transparency Reports which  
48                   publish, as a minimum, the annual number of user data requests  
49                   made by law enforcement, the intelligence agencies, and other  
50                   authorities, broken down by requesting authority, success rates, types  
51                   of data requested and category of crime or event being investigated.
- 52      2.      The establishment of a commission of experts to review state  
53                   surveillance and all recent allegations from the Edward Snowden  
54                   leaks, with specific scope to:
- 55                   a)    Scrutinise relevant legislation including the Regulation of  
56                   Investigatory Powers Act 2000, the Intelligence Services Act 1994  
57                   and section 94 of the Telecommunications Act 1984.
- 58                   b)    Assess the implications for privacy and internet freedoms of  
59                   Project Tempora and other programmes revealed by the Snowden  
60                   leaks, and consider alternatives to the bulk collection of data.
- 61                   c)    Review powers, scope, appointment and resources of oversight  
62                   committees, commissioners and tribunals.
- 63                   d)    Consider the use of judicial involvement and approval for  
64                   surveillance and for access to communications data and  
65                   metadata likely to reveal sensitive personal data.
- 66                   e)    Publish its findings and recommendations.
- 67      3.      The Government to define and enshrine the digital rights of the citizen  
68                   to protect from overreach by the state, through:
- 69                   a)    Ensuring that powers of surveillance, accessing data, and  
70                   accessing new technologies are not extended without  
72                   Parliamentary approval.
- 72                   b)    Ensuring that government does not undertake the bulk  
73                   collection of data and only accesses the metadata or content  
74                   of communications of an individual if there is suspicion of  
75                   involvement in unlawful activity.
- 76                   c)    Ensuring that oversight of government surveillance is  
77                   independent, informed, transparent and adequate.



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78           d)   Supporting a prompt, lawful and transparent framework for data  
79                requests across jurisdictions and between governments.

80    4.    The Government to accelerate and expand the midata project,  
81           to grant citizens access to all their data in an open digital format,  
82           regardless of which business holds that data, by using powers under  
83           the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 7 minutes; summation: 4 minutes; other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 12.

In addition to speeches from the platform, conference representatives will be able to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion; see pages 11 and 13.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Tuesday 4th March; those selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily - see page 15. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Saturday 9th March - see page 12.

## 11.45       Speech

Chair:       Tim Farron (President of the Liberal Democrats)

Aide:        Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

**F20   Speech by the Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats  
and Deputy Prime Minister  
@Nick\_Clegg   #LDconf**

13.00       Close of conference (approx.)

# Standing Orders For Federal Conference

## Glossary of terms

### Business motion

A proposal to conduct the affairs of the Party in a particular way or to express an opinion on the way affairs have been conducted.

### Business amendment

A proposal to change a business motion. Any such proposal should be significant, should be within the scope of the original motion and must not be a direct negative.

### Committee

Throughout these standing orders, Committee means the Federal Conference Committee unless otherwise qualified.

### Constitutional amendment

A proposal to change the constitution of the Party.

### Secondary constitutional amendment

An amendment to a constitutional amendment. This must not introduce new material.

### Consultative session

A meeting where selected areas of policy or strategy are considered in greater depth than is possible in full debates.

### Day visitor

Someone who has paid the appropriate day visitor fee. Day visitors are not entitled to speak or vote in full sessions of conference.

### Elected representative

A person elected by a local party or an SAO to represent them at conference. This term does not include substitutes appointed to replace an elected representative at a particular meeting of conference. It does include elected representatives who have not registered for a particular meeting of conference.

### Emergency motion

A proposal which relates to a specific recent development which occurred after the

## STANDING ORDERS continued

deadline for submission of motions. Emergency motions must be brief.

### Emergency amendment

An amendment to a motion which relates to a specific event which occurred after the deadline for the submission of amendments. It must be brief and uncontentious.

### Full session

Any part of the conference agenda during which debates, topical issue discussions or discussion of business, including formal reports, takes place. This specifically excludes formal speeches such as those by the Leader or Party Officers.

### Non-voting member

A party member who has paid the appropriate registration fee, but, because they are not an elected representative, is not entitled to vote at conference. A non-voting member is, however, entitled to submit a speaker's card for any item on which voting members may submit a speaker's card.

### Point of order

A suggestion to the chair of a debate that the conduct of the debate, as laid down in the standing orders, has not been followed correctly.

### Policy motion

A proposal to adopt a new policy or reaffirm an existing one. This includes motions accompanying policy papers.

### Policy amendment

A proposal to change a policy motion. Any proposal should be of significant importance, should be within the scope of the original motion and must not be a direct negative.

### Policy paper

A paper prepared by the Federal Policy Committee and submitted to conference for debate under the terms of Article 5.4 of the Federal Party constitution.

### Procedural motion

A proposal that the conduct of a debate should be changed in a specific way.

Procedural motions are:

## STANDING ORDERS continued

### Move to next business

A proposal that the conference should cease to consider an item of business and immediately move to the next item on the agenda.

### Reference back

A proposal to refer a motion or amendment to a named body of the Party for further consideration.

### Request for a count

A request to the chair that a specific vote be counted and recorded rather than decided on the chair's assessment of a show of voting cards.

### Separate vote

A request to the chair of a debate that a part or parts of a motion or amendment should be voted on separately.

### Suspension of standing orders

A proposal to relax specific standing orders for a stated purpose.

### Special conference

An additional meeting of the conference requisitioned by the Federal Executive, Federal Policy Committee, conference itself or 200 conference representatives under the provisions of Article 6.6 of the Federal constitution.

### Standing order amendment

A proposal to change these standing orders.

### Secondary standing order amendment

An amendment to a standing order amendment. This must not introduce new material.

### Topical issue discussion

A discussion on a policy issue of significant and topical relevance, conducted without a vote.

### Voting member

A person who is entitled to vote at conference. This term includes substitutes replacing conference representatives for a particular meeting of conference. It does

not include conference representatives who have not paid any registration fee that may be in force nor does it include day visitors or observers who are not conference representatives.

## Standing orders

### 1. The conference agenda

#### 1.1 What is on the agenda

The agenda for each meeting of conference, other than a special conference, shall include time for:

- a) One or more consultative sessions; save that the Committee may decide not to hold any consultative sessions at a spring conference.
- b) A business session or sessions for the consideration of reports from the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons, the Parliamentary Party in the House of Lords, the Parliamentary Party in the European Parliament, the Federal Executive, the Federal Finance and Administration Committee, the Federal Policy Committee and the Federal Conference Committee together with, when appropriate, reports from any other body the Committee considers appropriate, accounts, the annual report, business motions, constitutional amendments and standing order amendments.
- c) Policy motions (including motions accompanying policy papers).
- d) Emergency motions.
- e) Topical issue discussions.
- f) Any other business which the Committee thinks appropriate.

The time to be allocated to each type of business and the order of that business shall be decided by the Committee provided that conference may decide not to take any particular item on the agenda.

#### 1.2 Conference or council of state parties

In addition, time before or after any meeting may be agreed with the relevant state party for a meeting of the conference or council of that party.

#### 1.3 Right to submit agenda items

- a) Reports to conference may be submitted only by the bodies listed in paragraph 1.1(b).

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- b) Business motions (including amendments and emergency business motions and amendments), constitutional amendments and secondary constitutional amendments, standing order amendments and secondary standing order amendments may be submitted by the Federal Executive, Federal Policy Committee, state parties, regional parties in England, local parties, Specified Associated Organisations and 10 conference representatives. Business motions, standing order amendments and secondary standing order amendments may also be submitted by the Federal Conference Committee.
- c) Motions accompanying policy papers may only be submitted by the Federal Policy Committee.
- d) Policy motions (including amendments, emergency policy motions and amendments) may be submitted by the Federal Policy Committee, state parties, regional parties in England, local parties, Specified Associated Organisations and 10 conference representatives.
- e) Proposals for topical issue discussions may be submitted by any voting member.

### 1.4 How motions and amendments are submitted

All motions and amendments must be submitted to the Committee. They must be typed clearly and accompanied by the name, address and telephone number(s) of a person authorised to agree to their being composited or redrafted. Motions submitted by conference representatives must be accompanied by all their signatures, names and addresses.

### 1.5 The deadlines by which motions, amendments, reports and questions to reports must be submitted

The Committee shall specify:

- a) The closing date for the receipt of policy motions (including motions accompanying policy papers), business motions, constitutional amendments and amendments to standing orders, which shall be at least eight weeks before the start of conference.
- b) The closing date for the receipt of amendments to motions published in the agenda and emergency motions, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference.
- c) The closing date for the submission of written reports from the bodies listed in

paragraph 1.1(b), which will be set so as to enable their distribution with the agenda. Any supplementary report submitted later than this deadline may only be tabled at conference with the permission of the Committee.

d) The closing date for the submission of questions to any of the reports listed in the agenda, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference, except for questions to the reports of the Parliamentary Parties in the House of Commons, House of Lords and European Parliament, where the closing date shall be at least one hour before the start of the business session at which the report is due to be considered.

e) Notwithstanding 1.5(d), questions may always be submitted to any of the reports listed in the agenda arising from events occurring after the deadline specified in 1.5(d). The deadline for these questions shall be one hour before the start of the business session at which the report is due to be considered.

f) The closing date for proposals for topical issue discussions, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference

### 1.6 Notification of deadlines

All dates specified under Standing Order 1.5 shall be notified to conference representatives and bodies entitled to submit motions. Publication in the party newspaper may be treated as notice for this purpose.

### 1.7 Later deadlines in special circumstances

In special circumstances the Committee may specify later dates than those indicated above. In particular, where developments which, in the opinion of the Committee, are of great importance have taken place after the closing date for emergency motions and questions to reports, the Committee may make time available for an additional emergency motion or for a statement to be made on behalf of the Party or for additional questions to be submitted to reports.

## 2. Consultative sessions

### 2.1 The subjects for consultative sessions

The subjects for debate at consultative sessions shall be chosen by the Committee on the advice of the Federal Policy Committee and, where appropriate, the Federal Executive, and published in the agenda. Two or more such sessions may be held simultaneously.

## STANDING ORDERS continued

### 2.2 Speaking at consultative sessions

Any member of the Party may be called to speak at a consultative session and, with the approval of the chair, non-members with relevant expertise may also be called.

### 2.3 Voting at consultative sessions

At the discretion of the chair a vote by show of hands may be taken to indicate the weight of opinion among members present on any issue that has been debated.

## 3. The agenda

### 3.1 The shortlisting of motions

The Committee shall draw up the agenda and shall decide which of the motions duly submitted shall be included in it. The Committee may allocate time for one or more policy or business motions to be selected by ballot. Copies of motions not selected shall be available for inspection and will be supplied to any conference representative on payment of a copying charge and postage.

### 3.2 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders

Save as detailed below in Standing Order 4.3, all proposed amendments to the constitution or standing orders must be either selected for debate or included in a ballot to allow conference representatives to determine an order of priority for allocating time.

### 3.3 Balance between State and Federal policy debates

The Committee shall, in drawing up the agenda, have due regard to the balance of State and Federal policy debates and in particular shall as far as possible organise the agenda so that all matters which relate solely to one or more state parties but not all State Parties or the Federal Party shall be considered at either the beginning or the end of the conference.

## 4. Selection of motions and amendments

### 4.1 Compositing or otherwise altering motions

In drawing up the agenda the Committee shall seek to reflect the range of views in the Party as indicated by the motions and amendments submitted. The Committee may:

- a) Treat any severable part of a motion or amendment as a separate motion or



## STANDING ORDERS continued

amendment.

- b) Redraft a motion or amendment so as to improve expression, remove inaccuracy or superfluity or take account of new developments.
- c) Composite similar motions or amendments.

### 4.2 Selection of amendments

The Committee shall decide which of the amendments duly submitted to each motion shall be selected. No amendment shall be selected if, in the opinion of the Committee it is insubstantial, outside the scope of the motion, or tantamount to a direct negative of the motion.

### 4.3 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders

The Committee may refuse to select a motion for amendment of the constitution or standing orders if, in their opinion, it is:

- a) Similar in effect to another motion which has been selected for debate or ballot at the same meeting of conference.
- b) Similar in effect to a motion that has been rejected at either of the last two meetings of conference.
- c) In the case of amendments to the constitution, incomplete in that it leaves unamended some other part of the constitution which contradicts the meaning of the amendment.
- d) In the case of amendments to standing orders, incomplete in that it leaves unamended some other part of standing orders which contradicts the meaning of the amendment.
- e) Ambiguous.

### 4.4 Emergency motions

The Committee may reject an emergency motion if:

- a) It is similar in effect to another motion that has been selected for debate or ballot.
- b) It is similar in effect to a subject chosen for a topical issue discussion.
- c) It is unclear as to its meaning or intent or is, in the opinion of the Committee, too poorly drafted to provide a sensible basis for debate.
- d) It falls outside the definition of emergency motions.

No amendment shall be taken to any motion selected under this Standing Order.

### 4.5 Ballots for emergency motions

All emergency motions, except those rejected under Standing Order 4.4, must be placed either on the agenda for debate or in a ballot for selection by Conference. The Committee may hold separate ballots to select which of a range of emergency policy motions and which of a range of emergency business motions to debate. If one or more ballots is held the Committee shall circulate the text of all balloted motions to the representatives attending Conference as soon as practicable and shall specify a closing time for the ballot. Following the counting of any ballots the Committee shall organise the debates on the motions in the order chosen by conference in the ballots.

### 4.6 Emergency amendments

The Committee shall have complete discretion whether to select emergency amendments for debate.

### 4.7 Topical issue discussions

The choice of subjects for topical issue discussions shall be made by the Officers of the Committee in consultation with the Officers of the Federal Policy Committee. In choosing the subjects, the Officers shall have regard to the significance and topicality of the subjects proposed and whether they are likely to provoke a lively discussion.

## 5. Special meetings

### 5.1 Timetabling of special meetings

The Committee shall, as soon as practicable after the requisitioning of a special meeting of the conference, fix a date for the meeting, draw up the agenda and, if appropriate, specify a date for the submission of amendments. The meeting shall deal only with the business stated in the notice of requisition save that the Committee may allow time for emergency motions and for business which is formal or, in its opinion, uncontentious.

### 5.2 Preferred timescales for special meetings

In setting dates for the submission of motions and amendments and giving notice thereof and of the conference itself the Committee shall endeavour to follow the timescales laid down elsewhere in these standing orders but, where this is not practicable, the Committee shall set such dates as it sees fit.

## 6. Appeals

### 6.1 Appeals against rejection of motions

The Committee shall provide written reasoning to the nominee of the proposers for the rejection of any motion or amendment. The proposers may appeal, in writing, to the next meeting of the Committee. Any such appeal shall provide reasons why, in the opinion of the proposers, the expressed reasons for rejection are not valid. If the appeal is allowed, the motion or amendment shall be treated as an emergency motion or amendment according to the stage of the agenda-setting process at which the appeal has been allowed.

### 6.2 Appeals against exclusion from conference

Any person excluded from conference by a decision of the Chief Steward shall have the right of appeal to the Committee at the next of its regular meetings. The exclusion shall remain in force pending the appeal. If the person who is excluded is a voting member of conference, their local party or SAO shall be contacted immediately and invited to appoint a substitute for the remainder of the conference.

## 7. The chair

### 7.1 Who chairs conference

The President, if present, shall normally take the chair at the formal opening and closing of conference and when the Party Leader is making a formal speech from the platform. At all other sessions the chair shall be appointed by the Committee. Normally no person shall chair more than one session at any meeting.

### 7.2 The chair's aide

The Committee may appoint an aide or aides to assist the chair of each session.

## 8. Conduct of debate

### 8.1 Variation in the order of business

The Committee may propose to the conference a variation in the order of business as set out in the agenda. Such variation shall be put to the vote and shall take effect if approved by a majority of those voting.

## STANDING ORDERS continued

### 8.2 Withdrawal of motions and amendments

Once the Committee has included a motion or amendment, or part of a motion or amendment, in the agenda, may not be withdrawn except by leave of conference.

### 8.3 The order of debate

The Committee shall direct the order of debate. Generally, however, a motion will be moved and immediately thereafter the amendments and options will be moved in the order directed by the Committee. There will then be a general debate. The movers of amendments and options (or their nominees) shall have the right of reply in the same order (except that where an amendment or option has not been opposed during the debate, the chair of the session shall have the right to direct that its movers shall not exercise their right of reply), after which the mover of the motion (or the mover's nominee) shall have the right of reply. Votes shall then be taken on the amendments and options in the order in which they have been moved and, finally, on the substantive motion. The Committee may direct that part of any motion or amendment or groups of amendments may be the subject of a separate debate.

### 8.4 Topical issue discussions

The Committee shall direct the order of the discussion. Normally the proposer of the subject shall speak first, and a representative of the Federal Policy Committee shall speak last.

### 8.5 Who may speak

Only voting or non-voting members may speak at a full session of conference, save that other persons may speak in the following circumstances:

- a) As a member of the Federal Policy Committee representing that committee in a policy debate.
- b) As a member of the Federal Conference Committee representing that committee in debates on standing orders and matters of conference procedure.
- c) As a member of the Federal Executive representing that committee on matters of party business.
- d) If called by the chair of the session, after the Committee has given permission. Such permission shall only be given exceptionally.

Additionally the Committee may invite any person to address the conference as a guest.

#### 8.6 The special rights of the Federal Committees

Provided that the Federal Policy Committee is not proposing the motion or any of the amendments to be taken in a debate on a policy motion or on motions relating to the policy-making processes of the Party it shall have the right to nominate a person to report its views on the subject before the conference. The Federal Executive shall have similar rights on business motions or motions to amend the constitution, as shall the Federal Conference Committee on motions relating to the proceeding and procedures of the conference and to amend standing orders. Such a person shall be called to speak for the same length of time as the person replying on behalf of the mover of the motion.

#### 8.7 The selection of speakers

Voting and non-voting members wishing to speak in any debate shall submit a speaker's card, prior to the commencement of the debate in which they wish to speak, stating whether they wish to speak for or against an amendment, the motion or part of the motion. The chair shall be responsible for the choice of the speakers and shall attempt to provide a balanced debate between the different viewpoints in the conference, but may announce a departure from this rule if there is an overwhelming preponderance of members wishing to speak on the same side. The chair shall have the discretion to accept speakers' cards after the start of the debate. Save as provided for in these standing orders, no person may speak more than once in any debate.

#### 8.8 The length of speeches

The Committee shall set out in the agenda time limits for speeches.

### 9. Voting at conference

#### 9.1 The method of voting

Voting cards shall be issued at each meeting to voting members. The Committee may direct that voting on any issue be by ballot. Subject thereto all votes at full sessions shall be taken by show of voting cards.

#### 9.2 Counting of votes

A vote by show of voting cards shall be counted:

- a) If the Committee has so directed.

## STANDING ORDERS continued

- b) If the chair so directs.
- c) As the result of a procedural motion under Standing Order 11.5 below.  
A recount will only be held if the chair is not satisfied that the first count was accurate.

### 9.3 Separate votes

A separate vote may be taken on a part of a motion or amendment:

- a) On the direction of the Committee.
- b) At the discretion of the chair.
- c) As a result of a procedural motion under Standing Order 11.4 below.

## 10 Points of order

### 10.1 Making a point of order

Any voting member may rise on a point of order which shall be taken immediately except that, during a vote, no point of order shall be taken that does not refer to the conduct of the vote. The chair's decision on all points of order shall be final.

## 11 Procedural motions

### 11.1 Next business

- a) A voting member may, during any full conference session, submit, in writing, a request that conference move to next business, giving the reasons to do so. The submission shall not exceed 75 words.
- b) The chair may either take the request immediately upon receipt, or at the end of any speech currently being made. If more than one request is received the chair shall decide which to take. No more than one request may be taken in respect to any motion or report.
- c) When the request is to be taken, the chair shall read the statement of reasons and ask conference whether it wishes to consider the request to move to next business. If conference decides, by a simple majority of those voting, to do so, the person who made the request may speak. The chair may allow other speakers. All speeches under this standing order shall be limited to two minutes. If conference decides not to debate the proposal, it falls.
- d) The proposal shall require a two-thirds majority of those voting being to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any

further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.

#### 11.2 Reference back (moved by a representative)

- a) A voting member, who has not already spoken in the debate, may, at any time before the chair has asked the first speaker in reply to stand by, submit, in writing, a request to refer back the motion under debate. The submission shall state to whom the motion is to be referred and shall include a statement of the reasons, including reasons why voting against the motion would not achieve a similar result, not exceeding 75 words.
- b) The chair may take the request to refer back at whatever stage of the debate they consider appropriate. If more than one request is received, the chair shall decide which to take. No more than one request may be taken with respect to any motion.
- c) When the request is to be taken, the chair shall read the statement of reasons and ask conference whether it wishes to consider the request to refer. If conference decides, by a simple majority of those voting, to do so, the person who made the request may speak and the mover of the substantive motion, or their nominee, may reply. The chair may allow other speakers. All speeches under this standing order shall be limited to two minutes. If conference decides not to debate the reference back, it falls.
- d) The reference back shall require a simple majority of those voting to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.
- e) If the substantive motion is referred to the Federal Executive, the Federal Policy Committee or the Federal Conference Committee that body shall, in its report to the next meeting of the conference, state what action it has taken on the reference.

#### 11.3 Reference back (moved by the Federal Policy Committee)

- a) The Federal Policy Committee may, at any time before the beginning of the debate on a motion, submit, in writing, a request to refer that motion to the next meeting of the conference. The chair shall announce the existence of such a request

at the start of the debate.

- b) The chair may take the request to refer back at whatever stage of the debate they consider appropriate. A nominee of the Federal Policy Committee will speak and the mover of the substantive motion, or their nominee, may reply. The chair shall have discretion whether to allow other speakers on the request.
- c) The reference back shall require a simple majority of those voting to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.
- d) If passed, the Federal Policy Committee shall, before the next meeting of the conference, circulate its reasons for acting under this section and its comments on the motion and any amendments thereto accepted for debate.

#### 11.4 Separate vote

A voting member of conference may request that the chair take a separate vote on a part of a motion or amendment provided that such a request is in writing and received by the commencement of the first conference session on the day before the debate is scheduled. If the debate is scheduled for the first day of conference, the request must be received in writing by the same deadline as that for emergency motions. The Committee shall have complete discretion whether to take a separate vote. In exceptional circumstances, the Chair of the debate shall have discretion to accept a request for a separate vote if it is received in writing after this deadline.

#### 11.5 Counted vote

Any voting member may ask for a counted vote, which shall be taken if the request is supported by 50 members rising in their places and showing their voting cards.

#### 11.6 Suspension of standing orders

- a) A voting conference member may, during any full conference session, move a motion for the suspension of standing orders. The mover shall submit the motion together with a written statement of its purpose, not exceeding 75 words, to the chair, who shall read them to the meeting. The chair may either take the request immediately upon receipt, or at the end of the speech currently being made.
- b) No motion to suspend standing orders may suspend any requirement of the constitution, nor any part of these standing orders which govern:



## STANDING ORDERS continued

- i) The rights of, or timetable for, submission of motions and amendments.
- ii) Consultative sessions.
- iii) Procedural motions for next business or suspension of standing orders.
- c) No motion to suspend standing orders to introduce a motion or amendment on to the agenda can be taken unless the motion or amendment has been submitted to the Committee in accordance with the published timetable and, where a right of appeal against non-selection exists, the right has been exercised.
- d) The chair shall read the statement of purpose and, if the suspension is allowable in the terms of this standing order, ask the conference whether it wishes to debate the request for suspension. If the conference decides not to debate the request, it falls. If the conference decides, by a majority of those present and voting, to hear the request the mover may speak and a representative of the Committee may reply. The chair shall have the discretion to allow other speakers. All speeches on the motion to suspend standing orders will be limited to two minutes.
- e) A motion to suspend standing orders shall only be carried if supported by at least two-thirds of the conference members voting. If the procedural motion is carried all standing orders shall remain in force except only for the purposes set out in the motion.

### 11.7 No procedural motions during votes

No procedural motion can be moved during a vote.

## 12 Reports

### 12.1 Which reports are tabled

The business session or sessions of the conference must include consideration of reports from the bodies listed in Standing Order 1.1(b).

### 12.2 Submission and selection of questions

A voting member may submit questions to any report tabled for consideration, by the deadlines set under Standing Orders 1.5 (d) and (e). The Committee shall publish in advance of the report session all the questions submitted under Standing Order 1.5 (d) which are in order, compositing similar questions where appropriate.

### 12.3 Whether questions are in order or not

A question shall be ruled out of order if it asks the body submitting the report about

## STANDING ORDERS continued

issues which are outside its duties and responsibilities. If the question could be answered by another body reporting to the same conference, the Committee may transfer the question to that body.

### 12.4 How questions and supplementary questions are put and answered

After the report is moved, the mover, or their nominee, shall answer the questions in turn. After each question has been answered, the voting member who submitted the question will be given the opportunity to put a supplementary question, speaking for a maximum of two minutes, and the mover, or their nominee, will be given an opportunity to respond. The chair shall determine the time given to the mover in moving the report and replying to questions. The chair shall also determine how many of the published questions, and how many of the questions submitted under Standing Order 1.5 (e), can be taken. After the conference the Committee shall publish the answers to all questions submitted under Standing Orders 1.5 (d) and (e) which are in order, and to all supplementary questions asked.

### 12.5 Approval or rejection of reports from Federal Party committees or sub-committees

Any report tabled by a Federal Party committee or sub-committee must be submitted for approval by the conference and must be voted upon accordingly. A voting member may move the rejection of any part of the report or of the report as a whole. A voting member wishing to move a rejection shall submit a speaker's card prior to the commencement of the consideration of the report, stating the section(s) which they wish to have rejected. All moves to reject a report must be debated (except that the chair shall have discretion to choose between moves to reject the same part of the report), at the conclusion of the question session. The person who made the request shall speak and the mover of the report, or their nominee, shall reply. The chair may allow other speakers, and shall determine the time given to all speakers.

### 12.6 Receipt of reports from other bodies

Any report tabled by a body other than a Federal Party committee or sub-committee must be submitted for receipt by the conference and must be voted upon accordingly. A voting member may move not to receive the report, by submitting a speaker's card prior to the commencement of the consideration of the report. A move not to receive a report must be debated (except that the chair shall have

discretion to choose between more than one move not to receive the same report), at the conclusion of the question session. The person who made the request shall speak and the mover of the report, or their nominee, shall reply. The chair may allow other speakers, and shall determine the time given to all speakers.

### 13 Amendment of standing orders

#### 13.1 Amendment of standing orders

These standing orders may be amended by a two-thirds majority of members of conference voting on a motion duly submitted and selected in accordance with standing orders. Subject to any amendment they shall remain in force from meeting to meeting.

### 14 The Chair and Vice Chairs of the Committee

#### 14.1 Chair and Vice Chairs

At its first meeting after a new election the Committee shall elect a Chair, who must be a member of the Committee directly elected by conference, and at least one Vice Chair, who must be members of the Committee either directly elected by conference or elected by one of the State Parties.

# The Federal Party

## Officers of the Federal Party

Leader      Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP

President    Tim Farron MP

Chair of FFAC    Peter Dunphy

Treasurer    Sir Ian Wigglesworth

Vice President (England)      Peter Ellis

Vice President (Scotland)      Craig Harrow

Vice President (Wales)    John Last CBE

Chief Executive    Tim Gordon

# Federal Executive

The FE is responsible for directing, co-ordinating and implementing the work of the Federal Party, including strategy, campaigning, organisation and staffing. The Campaigns and Communications Committee and FFAC report to the FE.

The FE has 29 voting members: the Party President (who chairs it) and three Vice Presidents; the Leader and two other MPs; one peer; one MEP; two councillors; three state party representatives; and 15 members directly elected by conference representatives.

## Federal Finance and Administration Committee

The FFAC is responsible for planning and administering the budget and finances of the Federal Party, directing its administration and ensuring its compliance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. It is responsible to the FE, but also reports directly to Federal Conference.

The FFAC has 14 voting members: the Chair (currently Peter Dunphy), Party Treasurer and five other members (elected by the FE); the Party President; three state party representatives; and the Chief Executive and two other members of Federal (HQ and Parliamentary) staff.

## Federal Policy Committee

The FPC is responsible for researching and developing policy and overseeing the Federal Party's policy-making process, including producing policy papers for debate at conference and drawing up (in consultation with the relevant parliamentary party) the Federal election manifestos for Westminster and European elections.

The FPC has 29 voting members: the Party Leader and four other MPs; the Party President; one peer; one MEP; three councillors; three state party representatives; and fifteen members directly elected by conference representatives. It must be chaired by one of the five MP members, and is currently chaired by the Leader.

# Federal Conference Committee

The FCC is responsible for organising the two Federal conferences each year. This includes choosing the agenda from the policy and business motions submitted by conference representatives, local, regional and state parties, specified associated organisations and Federal committees, and taking decisions on venues, registration rates and other organisational matters. It works within a budget set by the FFAC.

The FCC has 21 voting members: the Party President; the Chief Whip; three state party representatives; two representatives from the FE and two from the FPC; and twelve members directly elected by conference representatives. It elects its own chair (currently Andrew Wiseman), who must be one of the directly elected representatives – see page 2 for the members of the FCC.