

Agenda

Autumn Conference

Bournemouth 19th–23rd September 2015



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Welcome to the *Agenda* for the Liberal Democrat Autumn 2015 Federal Conference.

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

Conference venue

Bournemouth International Centre
(BIC)
Exeter Road
Bournemouth
BH2 5BH

Conference hotel

Bournemouth Highcliff Marriott
St Michael's Road
West Cliff
Bournemouth
BH2 5DU

Further information, registration and all conference publications (including plain text and large print versions) are available at:

[libdems.org.uk/
autumn_conference](http://libdems.org.uk/autumn_conference)



Contents

Information:	3–9
Auditorium information	3
Conference timetable 2016	3

Agenda:	10–68
Agenda index and timetable	10
Saturday 19th September	13
Sunday 20th September	18
Monday 21st September	28
Tuesday 22nd September	50
Wednesday 23rd September	63

Standing orders	69–79
Federal Party	80

For features, general conference information, exhibition and fringe, see the separate *Directory*.



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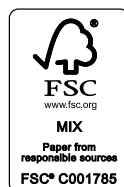
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co-opted

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Tom Brake MP, Chief Whip.

Baroness Sal Brinton, 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:

Saturday	13.00–15.00
Sunday to	10.30–12.30
Tuesday	

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

Auditorium information

Information concerning the conduct of the main conference sessions at this year's autumn federal conference is listed on the following pages of this Agenda.

General conference information can be found in the conference *Directory*. The formal rules are set out in standing orders on pages 69–79 of this Agenda.

Conference Extra and Daily

Conference Extra shows any changes to the order and timings of the conference sessions that are shown in this agenda, amendments to motions,

topical issues, emergency motions for debate or the ballot and questions to reports.

Conference Extra will be available online from Wednesday 16th September at www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers and at conference on Saturday 19th September.

Conference Daily will include last-minute changes to the order of business, movers, amendments, emergency motions, etc. Collect your copy of *Conference Daily* from the literature collection points at the start of each morning session.

Conference timetable 2016

11th–13th March 2016, York

Drafting advice deadline (motions)	13.00 Wednesday	30th December 2015
Motions deadline	13.00 Wednesday	13th January 2016
Drafting advice deadline (amendments, emergency motions)	13.00 Tuesday	23rd February 2016
Deadline for amendments to motions, emergency motions, topical issues, questions to reports	13.00 Tuesday	8th March 2016

17th–21st September 2016, Brighton

Drafting advice deadline (motions)	13.00 Wednesday	15th June 2016
Motions deadline	13.00 Wednesday	29th June 2016
Drafting advice deadline (amendments, emergency motions)	13.00 Monday	22nd August 2016
Deadline for amendments to motions, emergency motions, topical issues, questions to reports	13.00 Monday	5th September 2016

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Auditorium information

Venue

All auditorium sessions take place in the BIC – see conference venue plan and map in the *Directory*.

Access to the BIC is possible only with a valid, conference pass worn with the official lanyard. You will be asked to show your pass when you enter the secure area and you are required to wear the pass visibly at all times within the area.

Do allow time for security check queues during key times – particularly after lunch and ahead of popular events.

Be aware that flash photography is frequently used in the auditorium.

Please ensure that all mobile phones are on silent before entering the auditorium.

Disabled facilities

- Space for wheelchair users on the ground floor of the auditorium.
- Wheelchair lift access to the stage; the chair of the session will ensure wheelchair users are called in plenty

of time to access the stage.

- An induction loop system, which can be linked to hearing aids; please ask a member of the stewarding team to direct you to the appropriate seating block.
- Sign language interpretation during all auditorium sessions; a number of seats are reserved at the front of the auditorium. please ask a member of the stewarding team to direct you.

If you need assistance at the venue, please contact the Information desk where our dedicated steward will be on hand to help. If you need assistance or information in advance, please contact the Conference Team on conferences@libdem.org.uk or 020 7227 1322.



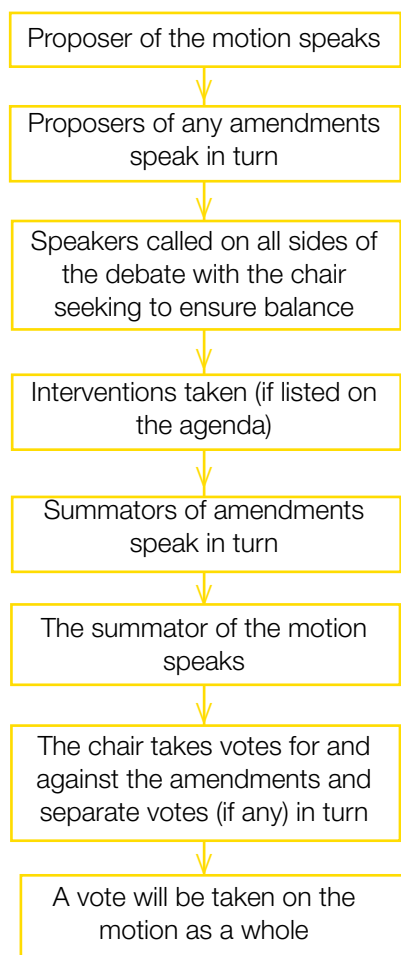
What's your top conference tip?
#ldconf @libdemconf



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:



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 libdems.org.uk/conference_papers, by email to 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 or to the Information Desk. 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.

Motions selected for debate, and/or for selection by ballot along with the ballot procedure, will be printed in Saturday's *Conference Daily*.

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*.

Leader's question & answer session

Concise questions (maximum 25 words) to the Leader on any 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 may be submitted using the online form at libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions:

- by 17.00 Thursday 17 September.

Questions may also be submitted on a form collected from and returned to the Speakers' Table in the auditorium

- by 12.40 Monday 21st September.

Reports

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

Any voting representative may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on these reports. 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, Monday 7th September.
- Parliamentary Parties – 17.00, Thursday 17th September.

Questions may be submitted using the online form at www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions

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;
- and be submitted by 13.00, Monday 7th September.

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, Monday 7 September.

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.

Drafting advice

Submitters are encouraged to use our drafting advice service: draft amendments and emergency motions should be submitted

- by 13.00, Tuesday 25th August.

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

- using the online form at www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions
- **or** by post to Policy Unit, 8–10 Great George Street, London SW1P 3AE.

Appeals

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

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

and:

- be submitted by 09.00, Thursday 17th September,
- to appeals@libdems.org.uk

Agenda index and timetable

Saturday 19th September

10.00–12.30	Consultative session: FPC Review of Policy Process	13
	Lunch break	
13.20–14.50	Consultative session: General Election Review <i>(party members only)</i>	13
14.50–15.15	F1 Opening of Conference	
	F2 Speech: Baroness Brinton	14
15.15–15.50	F2 Report: Federal Conference Committee	14
	F3 Report: Federal Policy Committee	14
15.50–16.50	F5 Policy motion: Creating Safe and Legal Routes for Refugees	15
16.50–17.20	F6 Policy Pitch	17

Sunday 20th September

09.00–09.15	F7 Report: Federal Finance & Administration Committee	18
09.15–09.25	F8 Business motion: Membership Subscription and Federal Levy	18
09.25–11.20	F9 Consultative session: Agenda 2020 – First Session	19
11.20–12.20	F10 Policy motion: Winning in Europe	20
12.20–12.40	F11 Speech: Sophie in t’Veld MEP	22
	Lunch break	
14.20–15.05	F12 Policy motion: Term-Time Family Holiday Rules	23
15.05–15.25	F13 Speech: Baroness Walmsley	24
15.25–16.10	F14 Q&A session: Tim Farron MP	25
16.10–17.10	F15 Policy motion: Reducing Tax on Tourism	25
17.10–17.45	F16 Report: Federal Executive	27
17.45–18.00	F17 Report: Diversity Engagement Group	27
	F18 Report: Campaign for Gender Balance	27

Monday 21st September

09.00–09.40	F19 Policy motion: Transgender and Intersex Health Charter	28
09.40–10.25	F20 Reports: Parliamentary Parties	32

Agenda index and timetable

10.25–11.10	F21	Policy motion: Urgent Action on Air Quality and Health	33
11.10–11.30	F22	Speech: Willie Rennie MSP	35
11.30–12.20	F23	Policy motion: Securing a Global Treaty on Climate Change	36
12.20–12.40	F24	Speech: Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP	37
		Lunch break	
14.20–15.05	F25	Policy motion: Public Health Service	38
15.05–15.25	F26	Speech: Kirsty Williams AM	39
15.25–17.00	F27	Policy motion: Scrapping Trident	40
17.00–18.00	F28	Constitutional amendment: One Member, One Vote	41
	F29	Standing order amendment: One Member, One Vote	48

Tuesday 22nd September

09.00–09.45	F30	Emergency motion and/or topical issue discussion	50
09.45–11.00	F31	Consultative session: Agenda 2020 – Second Session	50
11.00–12.20	F32	Policy motion: Delivering the Housing Britain Needs	51
12.20–12.40	F33	Speech: Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP	53
		Lunch break	
14.20–15.25	F34	Policy motion: Human Rights	54
15.25–15.35	F35	Charles Kennedy Tribute	57
15.35–16.45	F36	Constitutional amendment: Deputy Leader	57
	F37	Constitutional amendment: Leader's Veto	60
16.45–18.00	F38	Consultative session: Governance Review (party members only)	62

Wednesday 23rd September

09.00–10.00	F39	Emergency motion and/or topical issue discussion	63
10.00–11.00	F40	Policy motion: No-one Should be Enslaved by Poverty	63
11.00–11.45	F41	Policy motion: Youth Services	66
11.45–13.00	F42	Speech: Tim Farron MP	68

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Saturday 19th September

10.00–12.30 Consultative session

FPC Review of Policy Process

Dorchester Suite, Marriott Highcliff Hotel

Co-Chairs: Duncan Brack (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)
Baroness Smith (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)
Rapporteur: Christian Moon

Consultative sessions provide a less formal mechanism than the 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.

The session will be organised by the relevant Working Group or other party body. The conclusions of the session will be taken into account by the group when drawing up their final recommendations.

Lunch break

13.20–14.50 Consultative session

General Election Review

Auditorium, BIC

Chair: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: Liz Lynne
Hall Aide: Justine McGuinness

This consultative session forms part of the wider 2015 General Election Review.

Any conference representative wishing to make a maximum three-minute contribution should submit 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. See page 7 for further information.

Note: this session is for party members only.

Saturday 19th September

14.50 Party business

Chair: Cllr Zoë O'Connell

Aide: Pauline Pearce

Hall Aide: Linda Jack

F1 Opening of Conference by Baroness Brinton

F2 Speech by Baroness Brinton, President of the Liberal Democrats



15.15 Party business

Chair: Cllr Sarah Boad

Aide: Cllr Jon Ball

Hall Aide: Linda Jack

F3 Report of the Federal Conference Committee

Mover: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 7th September; questions selected will be printed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 12.20 on Saturday 19th September. See page 8 for further information.

F4 Report of the Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Duncan Brack (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 7th September; questions selected will be printed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 12.20 on Saturday 19th September. See page 8 for further information.

All conference sessions, apart from the first consultative session on Saturday morning, take place in the Auditorium in the BIC. See *Directory* for venue plans and map.

Saturday 19th September

15.50 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Paul Tilsley
Aide: Justine McGuinness
Hall Aide: Jeremy Hargreaves

F5 Creating Safe and Legal Routes for Refugees

19 conference representatives

Mover: Suzanne Fletcher

Summation: To be announced

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 I. There are currently almost 20 million refugees worldwide, who have
3 fled war and persecution, including nearly four million refugees who
4 have fled the ongoing conflict in Syria.
- 5 II. The vast majority of refugees are hosted by developing countries; for
6 example, only six percent of Syrian refugees have sought safety in
7 Europe.
- 8 III. Increasing numbers of people are attempting extremely dangerous
9 journeys across the Mediterranean, with over 100,000 arriving in
10 Europe by sea and nearly 2,000 people dying making the journey in
11 the first five months of 2015 alone.
- 12 IV. 33% of those crossing the Mediterranean have fled war-torn Syria,
13 10% have fled Eritrea, and 18% have fled Somalia and Afghanistan.

14 Conference welcomes the Liberal Democrat commitment to:

- 15 i) Give sanctuary to UN refugees, as stated in the party's 2015 General
16 Election Manifesto, *Stronger Economy. Fairer Society. Opportunity for
17 Everyone.*
- 18 ii) Increase the number of UN refugees resettled in the UK to 1,500 a
19 year, in line with the campaign by Citizens UK.

20 Conference expresses concern that:

- 21 A. Governments across Europe are making it increasingly difficult for
22 those fleeing war and persecution to seek safety on the continent by
23 removing safe and legal routes and creating 'Fortress Europe'.

Saturday 19th September

Saturday

- 24 B. The lack of safe and legal routes is forcing refugees to make
25 dangerous journeys, resulting in the loss of life.
- 26 C. Current UK policy limits the safe and legal routes available, including
27 through a limited number of places for resettled refugees and overly
28 restrictive family reunion rules that prevent, among others, adult
29 children being reunited with their parents and siblings.
- 30 D. Last December, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner
31 for Refugees called on governments around the world to provide
32 resettlement and other forms of admission for 130,000 Syrian
33 refugees by the end of 2016, yet the United Kingdom has only
34 pledged to resettle several hundred of the most vulnerable Syrian
35 refugees, and by the end of March 2015, just 187 Syrians had been
36 resettled here.
- 37 Conference calls on the Government to:
- 38 1. Create more safe and legal routes for refugees to seek safety in the
39 UK by:
- 40 a) Significantly increasing the number of refugees resettled in the
41 UK through UNHCR programmes, offering thousands rather than
42 hundreds of places to those fleeing war and persecution.
- 43 b) Making it easier for refugees to join relatives already living in safety
44 through UNHCR programmes in the United Kingdom.
- 45 2. Continue to advocate for, and contribute to, the European search and
46 rescue operation in the Mediterranean to save the lives of those who
47 are forced to make dangerous journeys.
- 48 3. In the long-term, tackle the root causes of why people become
49 refugees so that fewer people feel compelled to flee their homes.
- 50 4. Reaffirm the UK's international commitment to give protection to
51 those fleeing war and persecution.

Applicability: Federal.

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

Saturday 19th September

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 9 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 6 – is 13.00, Monday 7th September; amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

16.50 Party business

Chair: Jenni Lang
Aide: Chris Maines
Hall Aide: To be announced

F6 Policy Pitch

This is a new session. It has been introduced to encourage policy discussion and create space for policy ideas to come from informal or alternative routes to the Party's formal policy development process.

Liberal Democrat members are invited to put forward a 'policy pitch' idea for consideration. This should be set out in no more than 400 words. Ideas should embody the Party's values and should develop policy in an innovative way or not be currently Party policy. The Federal Conference Committee will select ideas for discussion in the time allocated.

The deadline for policy pitch proposals is 13.00, Monday 7th September; using the online form at www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions or by post to Policy Unit, 8–10 Great George Street, London SW1P 3AE.

Members will be offered a two minute 'pitch' to present their policy idea to an expert panel and the Party's Federal Conference. The panel will then discuss the idea and question the proposer, before giving their conclusions.

Support from FCC and the Policy Unit, if needed, will be arranged for successful pitches to be brought back to future conferences as motions for formal debate.

17.20 Close of session

Sunday 20th September

09.00 Party business

Chair: Kavya Kaushik
Aide: Chris Maines
Hall Aide: Cllr Zoë O'Connell

F7 Report of the Federal Finance & Administration Committee

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

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 7th September; questions selected will be printed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 17.20 on Saturday 19th September. See page 8 for further information.

F8 Membership Subscription

Federal Finance & Administration Committee

Mover: Peter Dunphy (Chair, Federal Finance & Administration Committee)
Summation: To be announced

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 a) The Federal Executive is proposing that there be no change to the
3 Minimum, Concessionary, or Liberal Youth subscription rates, and no
4 change to the Federal Levy.
5 b) The Federal Executive is proposing that the recommended rate
6 should remain at £70.
7 c) The proposed minimum rate, together with our concessionary rate of
8 £6 for those receiving or entitled to receive state benefits, maintains
9 our position of offering access to the widest possible proportion of
10 society.

11 Conference resolves that for the year 2016:

- 12 1. The recommended subscription rate shall be £70.
13 2. The minimum subscription rate shall be £12.
14 3. The concessionary subscription rate for those in receipt of, or entitled
15 to, state benefits other than child benefit or state pension shall be £6.
16 4. Those paying their subscription through Liberal Youth shall pay a

Sunday 20th September

- 17 minimum of £6 or, where a new member joins, a special introductory
18 rate of £1.
- 19 5. Nothing in this motion prevents a State Party from setting a
20 recommended rate or rates of subscription by its internal procedures
21 which is higher than that agreed by the Federal Conference, or from
22 introducing additional concessionary rates.
- 23 Conference further resolves that for the year 2016 the Federal Levy on
24 membership subscriptions shall be 44%.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 9 – is 13.00, Monday 7th September; amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes – see page 6 – is 13.20, Saturday 19th September.

09.25 Consultative session

Chair: Jeremy Hargreaves
Aide: Mary Reid
Hall Aide: Cllr Jon Ball

F9 Agenda 2020 – First Session

This consultative session forms part of the wider Agenda 2020 party values and philosophy review.

It will start with opening contributions from an invited panel. It will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the session. See page 7 for further information.

Sunday 20th September

11.20 Policy motion

Chair: Shas Sheehan
Aide: James Gurling
Hall Aide: Cllr Paul Tilsley

F10 Winning in Europe

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Peter Price

Summation: Baroness Ludford (Parliamentary Spokesperson on Europe)

- 1 Conference recognises that the creation of the European Union has led to
- 2 peace, prosperity, democracy and security for the peoples of Europe.
- 3 Conference believes that winning a decisive victory for YES in the
- 4 referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union is essential
- 5 because our position as one of the EU's largest member states gives us:
 - 6 a) Greater political and economic influence in the world, both in
 - 7 international fora and in bilateral relations.
 - 8 b) Free access to our principal export market – the world's largest single
 - 9 market of over 500 million consumers – together with a major role in
 - 10 shaping its rules, which has enabled the UK to lead the EU to greater
 - 11 openness and reduced protectionism.
 - 12 c) The ability to tackle more effectively shared problems, such as climate
 - 13 change, biodiversity including sustainable fishing, and cross-border
 - 14 crime.
 - 15 d) A wide range of future opportunities as the EU continues to reform
 - 16 and develop in order to focus on those actions which are most
 - 17 effective if undertaken at the EU level.
- 18 Conference calls for a positive and coordinated campaign, involving
- 19 members of all parties, businesses, trade unions, civil society groups and
- 20 others who share the commitment to securing a YES vote, and urges all
- 21 Liberal Democrats to play an active role in the campaign.
- 22 Conference notes that our party has always combined its recognition of
- 23 the essential role of EU membership with a constant drive to make EU
- 24 institutions and decision-making more democratic, effective, efficient and

Sunday 20th September

25 transparent, which places us in a strong position within the YES campaign
26 to present a clear and convincing case to voters.

27 Conference hopes that the campaign will achieve much wider public
28 recognition that:

- 29 1. The EU provides our best hope for building a more peaceful world,
30 constructed on firm foundations of shared democracy, human rights
31 and openness.
- 32 2. The EU continues to reform, intensifying its focus on job creation
33 through sustainable economic growth, boosting trade, and getting rid
34 of unnecessary regulations – an agenda which increasingly reflects
35 British priorities, such as liberalisation of digital services and capital
36 markets union – all of which demands that the UK continue to play a
37 leading role.
- 38 3. EU research programmes are crucial to the success of
39 British universities and UK science, promoting innovation and
40 competitiveness in the UK economy and laying the foundations for
41 faster advances in medicine, low-carbon energy, new materials,
42 food security and other fields of cutting-edge science; and enabling
43 speedier development into viable products with real commercial
44 potential.
- 45 4. The EU and our membership provides the UK with the best chance
46 of tackling climate change and biodiversity loss, while creating
47 green jobs in potentially world-leading industries, especially through
48 pressure for a global deal to reduce carbon emissions and the
49 development of low-carbon and energy-saving technologies.
- 50 5. EU membership – and the large scale of the EU single market – gives
51 the UK a voice in setting environmental, consumer safety, animal
52 welfare and other standards which govern European trade and are
53 often adopted globally, enabling expanded worldwide trade.
- 54 6. EU membership guarantees a wide range of workplace, consumer
55 and citizens' rights, including free movement, employment rights and
56 other protections enjoyed by an estimated two million British citizens
57 living in other EU countries.
- 58 7. EU membership enables UK law enforcement agencies to work
59 collaboratively across borders and so respond to the growing threat
60 of organised crime in areas such as human trafficking, drugs and
61 other smuggling, counterfeit products, wildlife trafficking and money
62 laundering.

Sunday 20th September

63 8. Young people in Britain are increasingly benefitting from the
64 opportunities EU membership gives of academic learning and
65 industrial training in other EU countries, enriching their lives and
66 capacities, and enlarging Europe's great pool of shared knowledge.
67 9. The UK's participation in the EU's extensive international development
68 programmes and humanitarian assistance budgets represents a
69 recognition of our common humanity, as well as our global inter-
70 dependence.

71 Conference calls for the EU Referendum Bill to include provision for all
72 those most affected by the decision – especially young people aged 16 to
73 18 – to be included in the franchise.

74 Conference wholeheartedly declares its ambition for Britain to fulfil the
75 leading role in our continent which our size, history and strengths offer to
76 us.

Applicability: Federal.

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

*The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 9 – is 13.00, Monday
7th September; amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference
Extra.*

*The deadline for requests for separate votes – see page 6 – is 13.20, Saturday
19th September.*

12.20 Speech

Chair: Liz Lynne
Aide: Pauline Pearce
Hall Aide: Joanne Foster



F11 Speech by Sophie in t'Veld MEP, Democrats 66

12.40 Lunch break

Sunday 20th September

14.20 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Paul Tilsley
Aide: Kavya Kaushik
Hall Aide: Joanne Foster

F12 Term-Time Family Holiday Rules

12 conference representatives

Mover: Karen Wilkinson

Summation: John Hemming

1 Conference notes:

- 2 i) The existing regulation on term-time family holiday, which only permits
- 3 term-time holiday in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the
- 4 head teacher, and the prohibitive restrictions this places on activities
- 5 beneficial to children and family life.
- 6 ii) The previous regulation which gave school heads discretion to grant
- 7 up to ten days authorised term-time leave per year.
- 8 iii) That Department for Education evidence shows no correlation
- 9 between decreased attainment and authorised leave for family
- 10 holiday, study leave or religious observance.
- 11 iv) The distortion the current regulation places on the tourism industry,
- 12 resulting in inflated prices, lost income and small business closures.

13 Conference is concerned that:

- 14 a) Current rules are socially divisive, placing holidays out of reach of low
- 15 income families, and fail to treat equally families of children within and
- 16 outside the state education system.
- 17 b) Many employees have no choice when to take their holiday.
- 18 c) These restrictions have inflicted upset and disadvantage upon many
- 19 families, particularly those with disabilities and who are on lower
- 20 incomes.
- 21 d) A reversal of the changes has been called for by the Local
- 22 Government Association and the National Union of Teachers.

23 Conference believes:

- 24 1. That education for all children is important.

Sunday 20th September

- 25 2. In the fundamental liberal principle of individual choice alongside the
26 immeasurable benefit of family time on the happiness and wellbeing of
27 children.
28 3. That the principle of equality of opportunity for all children is of vital
29 importance.
30 4. That policy should be based on firm evidence, stakeholder input and
31 an understanding of impact.
- 32 Conference therefore calls for the amendment to term-time family holiday
33 rules to be reversed, so that school head teachers can have the discretion
34 to grant up to ten days absence a year in special circumstances.

Applicability: England only.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 9 – is 13.00, Monday 7th September; amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes – see page 6 – is 13.20, Saturday 19th September.

15.05 Speech

Chair: Joanne Foster
Aide: Cllr Zoë O'Connell
Hall Aide: Pauline Pearce



F13 Speech by Baroness Walmsley, Parliamentary Spokesperson on Health

15.25 Question and answer session

Chair: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: Shas Sheehan
Hall Aide: Liz Lynne

Sunday 20th September

F14 Question and Answer Session with Tim Farron MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Conference representatives may put questions, on any topic, to the leader of the Liberal Democrats in a 'Town Hall' style event. Concise questions (maximum 25 words) may be submitted via the website until 17.00 on Thursday 17th September or to the Speakers' Table by 12.40 on Sunday 20th September. See page 8.

16.10 Policy motion

Chair: Liz Lynne
Aide: Jeremy Hargreaves
Hall Aide: Jenni Lang

F15 Reducing Tax on Tourism

Argyll & Bute, Arun, Calderdale, Ceredigion, Cheltenham, Dumbarton, Eastbourne, North Devon, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Torbay, Welsh Liberal Democrats and Westmorland & Lonsdale.

Mover: Eluned Parrott AM
Summation: To be announced

1 Conference notes:

- 2 a) The campaign to cut VAT on tourist accommodation and attractions
- 3 from 20% to 5% which is supported by the British Hospitality
- 4 Association; the British Association of Leisure parks, Piers and
- 5 Attractions; Merlin Entertainments Group; Butlins and many others.
- 6 b) That the UK Government can set VAT at either 20% or 5% under EU
- 7 regulations.
- 8 c) That the UK is the seventh largest international tourism destination,
- 9 ranked by visitor expenditure and numbers.
- 10 d) In 2013, tourism accounted for 9% of UK GDP (£127 billion) and more
- 11 than 3.1 million jobs, making tourism the UK's sixth largest export-
- 12 earner.
- 13 e) The World Economic Forum places Britain in 140th place for price
- 14 competitiveness for tourism, out of 141 countries.
- 15 f) 44% of people employed in the sector are less than 30 years old.
- 16 g) The UK has the second highest rate of VAT on hotel accommodation
- 17 in the EU.

Sunday 20th September

- 18 h) 25 of 28 EU member states have lowered VAT on tourist
19 accommodation and attractions.
20 i) In 2009, France cut VAT on meals in restaurants from 19.6% to 5.5%,
21 creating 28,200 jobs and saving 15,000 businesses.
22 j) Ireland's cut in VAT on tourism from 13% to 9% "appears to have met
23 its original aims of driving employment and stimulating activity in the
24 sector, at a lower cost than originally estimated" according to a Failte
25 Ireland/Deloitte analysis.
26 k) A 15% cut in tourism VAT could become revenue-neutral and result
27 in an increased tax take of £3.9 billion over 10 years, delivering a £4
28 billion boost per year to the gross domestic product, according to
29 research by Nevin Associates.

30 Conference believes that:

- 31 1. The UK should take advantage of EU dispensation for a lower VAT
32 rate on tourism supplies, as 25 other EU member states already do,
33 in order to reduce the burden on the tourism industry, enable growth,
34 and better compete with the rest of the EU.
35 2. The tourism industry was disproportionately affected by the recession,
36 with six out of eight UK regions outside of London seeing a reduction
37 in domestic visitor numbers in 2013.
38 3. Areas affected by flooding have seen their tourism industry negatively
39 impacted.
40 4. Supporting tourism across the UK will help rebalance the economy
41 and generate investment and regeneration in regions that rely heavily
42 on tourism.
43 5. Supporting the sector could generate 80,000 new jobs over three
44 years and 120,000 over ten years, according to research by Nevin
45 Associates, particularly for young people and those with low skills.
46 6. A VAT cut would send a strong message that Britain is open for
47 business and open to tourists.

48 Conference therefore calls for VAT on Visitor Accommodation & Attractions
49 to be reduced from 20% to 5%.

Applicability: Federal.

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

Sunday 20th September

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 9 – is 13.00, Monday 7th September; amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes – see page 6 – is 13.20, Saturday 19th September.

17.10 Party business

Chair: Shas Sheehan
Aide: Cllr Paul Tilsley
Hall Aide: Gareth Epps

F16 Report of the Federal Executive

Mover: Baroness Brinton (President of the Liberal Democrats)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Tuesday 7th September; questions selected will be printed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 16.10 on Sunday 20th September. See page 8 for further information.

F17 Report of the Diversity Engagement Group

Mover: Lord Dholakia (Chair, Diversity Engagement Group)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Tuesday 7th September; questions selected will be printed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 16.10 on Sunday 20th September. See page 8 for further information.

F18 Report of the Campaign for Gender Balance

Mover: Baroness Scott (Chair, Campaign for Gender Balance)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Tuesday 7th September; questions selected will be printed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 16.10 on Sunday 20th September. See page 8 for further information.

18.00 Close of session

Monday 21st September

09.00 Policy motion

Chair: Linda Jack
Aide: Cllr Paul Tilsley
Hall Aide: Shas Sheehan

F19 Transgender and Intersex Health Charter

LGBT+ Liberal Democrats and Calderdale

Mover: Sarah Noble
Summation: Sarah Brown

1 Conference notes with concern that:

- 2 A. The transgender and intersex communities are too often marginalised,
3 with little or no emphasis on their needs from government or third
4 sector organisations. Transgender and intersex individuals experience
5 similar levels and types of discrimination within society, including but
6 not limited to hate crime, health discrimination, and difficulty obtaining
7 documents in the correct gender.
- 8 B. Legislation concerning the transgender population often does not fully
9 advance – and sometimes actively hinders – transgender equality.
- 10 C. Transgender and intersex people are at a higher risk of mental health
11 issues and suicidal ideation than the general population and the rest
12 of the LGBT+ population, especially among BME transgender and
13 intersex people.

14 Conference welcomes the party's strong record of promoting transgender
15 and intersex equality at all levels of politics. Conference also welcomes
16 the commitment made in the 2015 General Election Manifesto, *Stronger
17 Economy. Fairer Society. Opportunity for Everyone*, to allocate £8 billion
18 per year of additional funding to the NHS.

19 Conference is also concerned that:

- 20 I. Gender identity clinics are chronically underfunded and waiting times
21 for each step of the gender transition process are often in excess of
22 the statutory eighteen-week limit by a factor of three or more.
- 23 II. Funding problems and waiting lists often force transgender people
24 to seek private medical treatment at great personal expense, from

Monday 21st September

Monday

- 25 obtaining hormone replacement therapy to updating documentation
26 and obtaining second opinions for treatment.
- 27 III. The lack of a gender identity clinic in Wales forces transgender
28 patients to travel to London for their appointments at personal cost in
29 both time and money.
- 30 IV. The right of transgender people – and especially transgender children
31 – to receive adequate necessary medical care is increasingly under
32 threat from multiple fronts.
- 33 V. The statutory NHS scrutiny body Healthwatch has described the
34 treatment of transgender people in the NHS as that of “second-class
35 citizens”.
- 36 VI. Several gender identity clinics refuse to treat intersex patients or
37 patients who do not fully identify as either male or female.
- 38 VII. There are no explicit protections for transgender refugees seeking
39 asylum due to fear of persecution in their home country.
- 40 VIII. Current practices in data collection make it difficult for a transgender
41 person to have their gender recorded accurately under the terms of
42 the Data Protection Act 1998, and that, without a gender recognition
43 certificate, their transgender status is not guaranteed to be treated as
44 protected or sensitive data.
- 45 IX. There are provisions in the Equality Act 2010 which mean that jobs
46 and services cannot be open to only transgender people, but can
47 be open to only cisgender people; this can prevent autonomous
48 organising for transgender rights.
- 49 X. Very few people are fairly compensated for transgender or intersex
50 activism, leading activists to sacrifice great amounts of their own time
51 and money to ensure their voices can be heard.
- 52 XI. Depictions of transgender people, both in fiction and political
53 discourse, invariably resort to stereotypes and innuendo at best, and
54 are outright voyeuristic and bigoted at worst, and almost entirely
55 are a result of cisgender people projecting what they believe to be a
56 transgender person’s experience.

57 Conference believes that:

- 58 i) Variations in sex and gender, however they manifest, are a simple
59 fact of human physiology and psychology, and neither the state nor
60 society should pass judgement on people who deviate from what is
61 considered the norm.
- 62 ii) It is irresponsible at best and malicious at worst, to refuse
63 marginalised people such as the transgender community the right to

Monday 21st September

- 64 organise or access sheltered accommodation.
65 iii) Every person has a right to receive prompt medical care that is free at
66 the point of service.
67 iv) No person, and especially no child, should be made to undergo
68 unnecessary medical treatments without their informed consent.
69 v) We have a responsibility as liberals to represent and liberate the most
70 marginalised people in society.

71 Conference calls for:

- 72 1. The funding that NHS England has requested to be provided to
73 ensure compliance with each person's needs and with waiting time
74 standards in all aspects of the gender healthcare service.
- 75 2. The NHS to guarantee in their gender dysphoria protocols, in line with
76 the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH)
77 Standards of Care:
- 78 a) The right of transgender and gender-variant children to receive
79 puberty-blocking medications until they are eligible for hormone
80 replacement therapy.
81 b) The right of genderqueer, non-binary, and intersex people to
82 access gender identity and reassignment services without
83 discrimination based on their identity.
- 84 3. An independent inquiry into widespread and systemic abuse of
85 transgender people within the health service.
- 86 4. Protections on gender reassignment in equality law to be expanded
87 to also explicitly cover gender identity and expression, and all legal
88 protections on the basis of sexual orientation to be extended to
89 include gender identity and intersex status where appropriate.
- 90 5. Provisions in the Equality Act 2010 that legalise discrimination against
91 transgender people and prevent autonomous organising to be
92 reversed.
- 93 6. A streamlined simplification of the Gender Recognition Act 2004 to
94 allow individuals to change their legal gender at will.

Monday 21st September

- 95 7. The phased removal of gender markers in documentation unless it is
96 absolutely necessary, and the introduction of an 'X' gender option and
97 'Mx.' title option on the remainder.
- 98 8. Changes to government-issued documentation on the basis of
99 gender reassignment to be provided free of charge.
- 100 9. The Equalities and Human Rights Commission to develop standards
101 of best practice in which equality and diversity monitoring forms
102 request transgender status separate from gender and sexual
103 orientation, with options for 'prefer not to say' and 'other (please
104 specify)' for each question.
- 105 10. Transgender status of any kind to be explicitly designated as 'sensitive
106 personal data' under the Data Protection Act 1998 and 'protected
107 information' under the Gender Recognition Act 2004.
- 108 11. The practice of unnecessary surgery on children for the purpose
109 of resolving intersex variations of primary sex characteristics to
110 be phased out, and for the Royal College of Surgeons to develop
111 standards on that basis.
- 112 12. More paid roles to help increase transgender and intersex
113 representation, especially in third sector organisations working with
114 LGBT+ or young people.
- 115 13. The government to recognise and observe Bisexual Visibility Day (23
116 September), Intersex Awareness Day (26 October) and Transgender
117 Day of Remembrance (20 November).
- 118 14. The party to continue to make the case for transgender and intersex
119 equality, especially through challenging transphobia in political
120 discourse and encouraging positive depictions in the media.
- 121 Conference also supports the Welsh Liberal Democrats in campaigning to
122 establish a gender identity clinic in Wales.

Applicability: England only, except 4–10 (lines 86–107) and 13–14 (lines 115–120) which are Federal.

Monday 21st September

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 9 – is 13.00, Monday 7th September; amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes – see page 6 – is 09.00, Sunday 20th September.

09.40 Party business

Chair: Joanne Foster
Aide: Chris Maines
Hall Aide: Kavya Kaushik

F20 Reports of the Parliamentary Parties of the Liberal Democrats

Commons: Tom Brake MP (Chief Whip)
Lords: Lord Wallace (Leader) and Lord Newby (Chief Whip)
Europe: Catherine Bearder MEP (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 to allow conference representatives to put questions on any aspect of Liberal Democrat activities in the Westminster and European Parliaments to the panel.

Conference representatives may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) via the website until 17.00 on Thursday 17th September or to the Speakers' Table by 18.00 on Sunday 20th September. The Chair will select which questions shall be asked during the session. See page 8.

10.25 Policy motion

Chair: Justine McGuinness
Aide: Joanne Foster
Hall Aide: Jeremy Hargreaves

F21 Urgent Action on Air Quality and Health

Camden

Mover: Paul Braithwaite

Summation: Keith Moffitt

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 A. Poor air quality is a significant health problem – after smoking,
3 estimates suggest it is Britain's second biggest public health
4 challenge, with particulates responsible for the equivalent of 29,000
5 deaths every year and the most recent study published by King's
6 College, London on 15th July, which incorporates nitrogen dioxide,
7 revises that national figure to 80,000.
- 8 B. Air pollution has damaging effects on the quality of life of citizens and
9 severely impacts on vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly
10 and those with heart problems or asthma.
- 11 C. Air pollution also affects natural ecosystems causing acidification and
12 eutrophication which poses a threat to biodiversity.
- 13 D. Across the UK, EU air pollution limits are being exceeded in cities
14 including London, Glasgow and Leeds and following the adverse
15 judgment by the UK's Supreme Court, the European Court of Justice
16 has recently ordered the UK Government to submit a viable plan for
17 compliance with the EU Air Quality Directive by the end of this year.
- 18 E. As a large proportion of the air pollution in the UK comes from
19 abroad, including 40% of particulate matter, local measures to tackle
20 air pollution must be combined with action at the European and global
21 level.
- 22 F. At the European level there are ongoing negotiations to introduce
23 cleaner European standards (Euro 6) for vehicle emissions of nitrogen
24 oxides and particulate matter.
- 25 G. New binding EU national limits are currently being negotiated to
26 reduce key pollutants including sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides,
27 methane, volatile organic compounds and ammonia through the
28 revision of the National Emission Ceiling directive, which should
29 ensure EU governments take action across the board to tackle air
30 pollution, making it easier for local authorities to coordinate efforts and
31 improve air quality across the country.
- 32 H. Research suggests that the current diesel test regime underestimates
33 emissions by as much as ten times.

Monday 21st September

34 Conference welcomes the recent EU decision to introduce 'real-world'
35 emissions testing for diesel vehicles.

36 Conference reaffirms the Party's recent manifesto commitments to
37 promote cleaner air, in particular:

38 I. A National Air Quality Plan including:

- 39 a) A legal requirement targeted at the most polluted towns and cities,
40 to create Low Emission Zones.
- 41 b) New incentives for local schemes that cut transport-related
42 pollution, and encourage walking and cycling.
- 43 c) A review of the MOT process, to see whether changes could be
44 introduced to cut emissions from existing vehicles.

45 II. Reforms to Vehicle Excise Duty to drive continuous reductions in
46 greenhouse gas and other pollutants from the UK car fleet, including
47 introducing separate banding for new diesel cars.

48 III. Implementation of the recommendations of the Get Britain Cycling
49 report, allowing greater investment in cycling including bike lanes,
50 high-volume secure bike parking, and road safety measures to keep
51 cyclists safe.

52 Conference further calls for:

- 53 1. A nationwide advertising and promotion campaign to raise public
54 awareness of these air pollutants' effects on health and the quality of
55 life and how to mitigate them.
- 56 2. A diesel engine scrappage scheme for cars and taxis that are not up
57 to Euro 4 standard.
- 58 3. A ban on any diesel-powered vehicle (including trains) keeping
59 engines running while parked or at a terminus.
- 60 4. A ban on Heavy Goods Vehicle movement in city centres in rush
61 hours.
- 62 5. More support for the introduction of electric buses.
- 63 6. Ambitious EU limits to reduce air pollution across Europe through
64 the revision of the National Emissions Ceiling Directive, including for
65 ammonia and methane.
- 66 7. Research into how best to tackle airborne particulates from vehicle

Monday 21st September

- 67 tyres and brake pads, and from the road surface itself, for example
68 regenerative braking systems.
69 8. Encouragement for the planting of large trees in urban areas which
70 have, in many studies, been shown to cut air pollution significantly.

Applicability: Federal, except I b) (lines 41–42), III (lines 48–51), 4 and 5 (lines 60–62), and 8 (lines 69–70) which are England only.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 9 – is 13.00, Monday 7th September; amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes – see page 6 – is 09.00, Sunday 20th September.

11.10 Speech

Chair: Jenni Lang
Aide: Gareth Epps
Hall Aide: Cllr Jon Ball

F22 Speech by Willie Rennie MSP, Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats



11.30 Policy motion

Chair: James Gurling
Aide: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Hall Aide: Shas Sheehan

Monday 21st September

F23 Securing a Global Treaty on Climate Change

19 conference representatives

Mover: Lord Purvis (Parliamentary Spokesperson on Energy and Climate Change)

Summation: Neil Stockley

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 a) The 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United
3 Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is scheduled to
4 take place in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015.
5 b) This will be a crucial conference, as it needs to achieve a new
6 international agreement on the climate, applicable to all countries,
7 with the aim of keeping global warming within 2°C above pre-
8 industrial levels.

9 Conference applauds the achievements of Liberal Democrats in
10 government from 2010 to 2015 in maintaining momentum towards a new
11 global treaty on climate change, working constructively with other EU
12 member states for more ambitious action on green growth and making
13 progress towards decarbonising the UK economy.

14 Conference calls on the Government to:

- 15 1. Play a leading political and diplomatic role as part of the EU
16 negotiating effort to secure agreement on a fair, effective and legally
17 binding new global climate treaty at the conference, including
18 commitments by all countries to reduce emissions, with the richer
19 countries taking the lead, supported by a well-financed Green
20 Climate Fund to assist poorer countries to tackle and adapt to climate
21 change.
22 2. Cooperate with other European countries to address environmental
23 threats and tackle climate change by securing a formal agreement
24 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030 (from 1990
25 levels), as part of a global agreement, reforming the EU Emissions
26 Trading System and developing the EU Energy Union.
27 3. Continue pressing for the greater use of EU funds to support
28 innovative low-carbon investments.
29 4. Ensure that the UK meets its own targets to reduce greenhouse
30 gas emissions and plays a leadership role within Europe and

Monday 21st September

- 31 internationally on efforts to combat climate change.
32 5. Pursue additional actions outside the UN climate talks, including EU
33 and international initiatives to reduce hydrofluorocarbons and other
34 'short-lived climate forcers'.
35 6. Ensure that UK and EU development aid, free trade and investment
36 agreements support environmental goals and sustainable investment,
37 including maintaining the UK's International Climate Fund and
38 supporting direct bilateral programmes with developing countries on
39 climate change.
- 40 Conference condemns the Government for its ideologically-motivated
41 decision to end support for onshore wind power, which can only serve
42 to increase the cost of the low-carbon transition while at the same
43 time losing jobs and investment and harming the UK's international
44 competitiveness.

Applicability: Federal.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 9 – is 13.00, Monday 7th September; amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes – see page 6 – is 09.00, Sunday 20th September.

12.20 Speech

Chair: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: Mary Reid
Hall Aide: Linda Jack



F24 Speech by the Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP

12.40 Lunch break

Monday 21st September

14.20 Policy motion

Chair: Mary Reid
Aide: Liz Lynne
Hall Aide: Gareth Epps

F25 Public Health Service

Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors

Mover: Cllr Anood al-Samerai

Summation: Cllr Chris White

1 Conference notes:

2 a) The importance of a properly funded public health service in
3 connecting and linking up an area's local services to ensure healthier
4 outcomes including:

5 i) Education programmes to address issues like smoking, obesity
6 and teenage pregnancy and tackling sexually transmitted
7 diseases.

8 ii) Promotion of healthier lifestyles and exercise.

9 b) The work undertaken by Liberal Democrats in the Coalition
10 Government to ensure that responsibility for public health returned
11 to local authorities – which also gave local councillors a lead role on
12 public health and wellbeing in their communities.

13 c) That public health work can stop people from becoming ill in the
14 first place; recent research from the Kings Fund and the Local
15 Government Association shows just how valuable timely public health
16 interventions can be – for instance:

17 i) For every £1 spent on smoking prevention programmes in
18 schools, £15 can be saved in NHS treatment later in life.

19 ii) For every £1 spent on developing supportive networks for people
20 with drug and alcohol addictions returns £5 to the public sector in
21 reduced health care, social care and criminal justice costs.

22 d) The importance of continuing this work, for example to achieve further
23 cuts to air pollution.

Monday 21st September

- 24 e) That one of the first acts of the Conservative Government was to
25 slash £200 million from public health budgets as an immediate 'in-
26 year' cut, meaning a permanent reduction in funding.
- 27 Conference calls on Liberal Democrats to:
- 28 1. Launch a campaign to oppose the Conservative Government's cuts
29 to public health budgets.
- 30 2. As part of a wide-ranging review of party policy, work with local
31 authorities, service providers and local communities to understand
32 better the level of ongoing funding that would be needed to deliver
33 the maximum net savings to the future NHS budget together with the
34 associated quality of life benefits.
- 35 3. Commit to work towards the goal of providing this level of funding for
36 public health work as part of an integrated and devolved public health
37 budget.
- 38 4. Highlight the successes of local authorities and partner organisations
39 in improving public health outcomes.

Applicability: England only.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 9 – is 13.00, Monday 7th September; amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes – see page 6 – is 09.00, Sunday 20th September.

15.05 Speech

Chair: Chris Maines
Aide: Pauline Pearce
Hall Aide: Kavya Kaushik

F26 Kirsty Williams AM



Monday 21st September

15.25 Policy motion

Chair: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: Jenni Lang
Hall Aide: Justine McGuinness

F27 Scrapping Trident

128 conference representatives, Calderdale and Liverpool

Mover: Kelly-Marie Blundell

Summation: Dr Julian Huppert

- 1 Conference notes that the go-ahead for building Successor submarines
- 2 for the Trident system is scheduled to be decided upon in 2016.
- 3 Conference believes that British possession of nuclear weapons is
- 4 inappropriate and unhelpful to today's needs.
- 5 Conference rejects the projected spending of £100billion on the system
- 6 over its lifetime, believing the money could be better spent.
- 7 Conference therefore calls for the plans to renew the Trident system to
- 8 be scrapped, and for the earliest decommissioning of the existing Trident
- 9 forces.

Applicability: Federal.

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

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See page 7 for further information.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 9 – is 13.00, Monday 7th September; amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes – see page 6 – is 09.00, Sunday 20th September.

Monday 21st September

17.00 Constitutional amendment

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball

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

Hall Aide: Linda Jack

F28 One Member, One Vote

Federal Executive

Mover: Sue Doughty

Summation: To be announced

- 1 *In 2.7(a): delete 'representatives' and insert 'members'.*
- 2 *In 3.2: delete 'but excluding the appointment of representatives to Federal*
- 3 *Conference'.*
- 4 *In 4.1: delete '4.3(b)' and insert '4.3', and delete '6.2 and 6.3'.*
- 5 *Delete Article 4.3(b).*
- 6 *In 4.9: delete 'A Local Party shall not while its rights are suspended be*
- 7 *entitled to representation at the Federal Conference.'*
- 8 *In 5.5(b): delete 'circulating consultation papers to, Federal Conference*
- 9 *representatives' and insert 'making consultation papers available to*
- 10 *members'.*
- 11 *In 5.6: delete 'members of the Federal Conference' and insert 'party*
- 12 *members,'.*
- 13 *Delete 6.1(a) to 6.1(h) and insert 'party members'.*
- 14 *Delete Articles 6.2, 6.3, and 6.4.*
- 15 *In 6.5: delete 'and for all members who are not representatives to address*
- 16 *other sessions of the Conference'.*
- 17 *In 6.6: delete '200 representatives entitled to attend Conference' and*
- 18 *insert '200 members, in not fewer than 20 local parties'.*

Monday 21st September

- 19 *Insert new Articles 6.11, 7.3 and 8.3 to apply to the Federal Conference*
20 *Committee, Federal Policy Committee and Federal Executive respectively:*
- 21 The Chair of the *[Federal Conference Committee/Federal Policy*
22 *Committee/Federal Executive]* shall, within 14 days of each committee
23 meeting, make available to party members and other Federal
24 Committees a written report on the proceedings of the meeting,
25 including reports from their established sub-committees with
26 delegated responsibility, in a manner deemed practical by the Federal
27 Chief Executive.
- 28 *In 11.5(i): delete '4.3(a)' and insert '4.3'.*
- 29 *In 12.1: delete 'representatives entitled to attend the Federal Conference'*
30 *and insert 'members'.*
- 31 *In 13.2: after 'two-thirds majority of' delete 'Conference' and insert*
32 *'members present and voting at the Federal Conference'.*
- 33 *In 13.8: delete 'for the purpose of Article 6.2', and after 'exercising the*
34 *rights of the SAO under Articles 6, 10' insert 'and 12'.*

The existing text of relevant articles of the Federal Constitution:

2.7 This Constitution may only be altered:

- (a) by a two-thirds majority of representatives present and voting at the Federal Conference;
- (b) where any such alteration has been submitted in accordance with the Standing Orders of that Conference by the Federal Executive or any other persons or bodies entitled to submit motions or amendments under Article 5.6 and notified to Local Parties at least six weeks in advance; and
- (c) in the case of any alteration to the relative powers and functions of the Federal Party and the State Parties or to this paragraph (c), it is passed by the internal procedures of each State Party.

...

3.2 Membership shall be acquired through an enrolling body, being:

...

An applicant shall become a member on acceptance by the enrolling body, payment of the requisite subscription and registration. However, a State Party may, by its internal procedures, determine that eligibility of a member to vote in Local Party elections (including Parliamentary and local government selections, but excluding the appointment of representatives to Federal Conference) may be subject to a minimum requirement as to age (not being more than 10 years) and/or length of continuous membership (not being more than 15 months); and the provisions of this constitution as to members' voting rights shall be construed accordingly.

...

- 4.1 There shall be Local Parties so far as possible throughout Great Britain. Local Parties may be formed in Northern Ireland or places outside the United Kingdom. Save as provided for in Articles 4.2, 4.3(b), 4.9, 4.10, 4.11, 4.12, 6.2 and 6.3, all matters relating to the formation, operation, suspension or dissolution of Local Parties shall be determined by the Constitutions of the State Parties or by rules made under them, except that where, anywhere in Great Britain, provision is not made in any of these respects by the State Party concerned the relevant parts of the following Articles 4.2 to 4.8 shall apply.

...

- 4.3 Save as hereinafter provided, each Local Party in Great Britain shall contain one parliamentary constituency. The members in each of two or more adjacent parliamentary constituencies may agree to combine into a single Local Party, in which case the combined Local Party shall be deemed for all the purposes of this Constitution to be a Local Party, save that:

...

- (b) the combined Local Party shall be entitled to send to the Federal Conference the higher of:
- (i) the number of representatives which each component constituency with 30 members or more would be entitled to send if it formed a separate Local Party; and
 - (ii) the number of representatives which that Local Party would be entitled to send if it comprised a single constituency.

...

- 4.9 The rights of a Local Party under this Constitution may be suspended by the relevant State Party in accordance with its internal procedures (or, in the case of a Local Party outside Great Britain, by the Federal Executive), if it is not adhering to the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, this (or its own) Constitution or if events have taken place or are about to take place which are or may be seriously detrimental to the Local Party or to the Party as a whole. A Local Party shall not while its rights are suspended be entitled to representation at the Federal Conference.

...

- 5.5 In the course of developing policy the FPC shall:
- (a) consider policy proposals submitted to it by State Parties, Regional Parties in England, Local Parties, Associated Organisations and individual members of the Party; together with the responses to the consultations carried out according to Article 5.5 (b); and
 - (b) ensure consultation generally with, including circulating consultation papers to, Federal Conference representatives, State Parties, Regional Parties in England, Local Parties and Associated Organisations. Such consultations shall include responses to references under Article 5.7.

- 5.6 Policy motions and amendments (including emergency motions and amendments) may be submitted for debate by Federal Conference (in accordance with its Standing Orders) by the Federal Policy Committee, members of the Federal Conference, State Parties in accordance with their internal procedures, Regional Parties in England, Local Parties and Specified Associated Organisations. Amendments to motions accompanying policy papers may be submitted in the same way.

...

- 6.1 The Conference shall consist of
- (a) representatives of Local Parties (and the Specified Associated Organisations representing youth and/or students as provided by Article 13.8);
 - (b) the Parliamentary Parties as defined by Article 9;
 - (c) Members of the Scottish Parliament and National Assembly for Wales in receipt of the party's whip;

- (d) the Officers specified in Article 12;
- (e) prospective parliamentary and European parliamentary candidates who shall continue as members of the Conference until the end of the calendar year in which they stood for election, unless a new prospective candidate is selected for the constituency;
- (f) Elected Mayors who are members of the Party;
- (g) Elected members of regional assemblies in receipt of the Party's whip; and
- (h) Leaders of council groups of the Party on principal councils.

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

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

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

6.3 Representatives of Local Parties shall be elected by all members of the Local Party concerned in accordance with election rules made under Article 8.4 for a term of one calendar year subject to the following provisions: ...

6.4 For the purpose of such elections:

- (a) each Local Party shall give reasonable notice of a closing date for nominations; and
- (b) if there are not more nominations than vacancies, a general meeting shall be invited to confirm each nominee: if it shall not do so in any particular case, there shall be a second call for nominations.

Monday 21st September

6.5 The Standing Orders of the Conference shall provide for consultative sessions of the Conference at which any member of the Party may speak, and for members who are not representatives to address other sessions of the Conference, but such provisions shall not prejudice the right of the chair of a session to select speakers.

6.6 The Conference shall normally meet twice a year, for a week in the early autumn and a weekend in the early spring; additional meetings may be summoned upon the requisition of the Federal Executive or the Federal Policy Committee or the Conference itself or 200 representatives entitled to attend the Conference . A meeting may be cancelled by the Federal Executive in exceptional circumstances.

...

11.5 The rules for the selection of Westminster candidates shall comply with the following requirements:

...

- (i) the electorate for selection ("the eligible voters") shall subject to the provisions of Article 4.3(a) be the members of the Local Party at a specified date not later than the closing date for submission of applications;

...

12.1 The President shall be the principal public representative of the Party and shall chair the Federal Executive. The President shall be elected by the members of the Party for a term of two years starting from 1st January in the year immediately following the election and shall hold office until death, incapacity, resignation or the election of a successor; the President shall be eligible for re-election once only. A candidate for the office of President shall require the nomination of not less than 200 representatives entitled to attend the Federal Conference in not less than 20 Local Parties (including, for this purpose, the Specified Associated Organisations representing youth and students as provided by Article 13.8). ...

...

13.2 Any such organisation which, in addition to satisfying the criteria set forth in Article 13.1, consists solely (except in the case of youth and/or students) of members of the Party and is listed in

Monday 21st September

the Annexe to this Constitution shall be recognised as a Specified Associated Organisation (“SAO”) at federal level by the Federal Executive or at state level by the internal procedures of a State Party. Other organisations may, subject to any criteria established pursuant to Article 8.4, qualify for status as a Specified Associated Organisation following a proposal from the Federal Executive and a two-thirds majority of Conference. ...

...

13.8 A member of an SAO shall not be counted as a member for the purpose of Article 6.2 or participate in exercising the rights of the SAO under Articles 6 and 10 of this Constitution:

- (a) if such member is not a member of the Party;
- (b) in the case of the Youth and/ or Student Organisation, if such member has reached the age of 26 and is not a student;
- (c) if such member, having been originally enrolled by an SAO, has elected to exercise the related constitutional rights through a Local Party; or
- (d) if such member, having been originally enrolled by a Local Party, has not elected to exercise the related constitutional rights through an SAO: no person may exercise the related constitutional rights concurrently as a member of more than one SAO or as a member of both an SAO and a Local Party.

Applicability: Federal.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 9 – is 13.00, Monday 7th September; amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes – see page 6 – is 09.00, Sunday 20th September.

A constitutional amendment requires at least a two-thirds majority to pass.

Monday 21st September

17.30 Standing order amendment

F29 One Member, One Vote

Federal Executive

Mover: Sue Doughty

Summation: To be announced

1 *In the Glossary of Terms, delete the terms 'Elected Representative ...' and*
2 *'Non-Voting Member ...'.*

3 *In the Glossary of Terms, under 'Special Conference' delete '200*
4 *conference representatives' and insert '200 members, in not fewer than*
5 *20 local parties'.*

6 *In the Glossary of Terms, under 'Voting Member': delete all and insert:*

7 A member attending conference who has satisfied the requirements for
8 attendance and has paid the registration fee presently in force for party
9 members as agreed by FCC, and who is not a day visitor [or observer].

10 *In 1.3(b) and 1.3(d): delete '10 conference representatives' and insert '10*
11 *party members'.*

12 *In 1.3(f): delete 'voting' and insert 'party'.*

13 *In 1.4: delete 'conference representatives' and insert 'party members'.*

14 *In 1.6: delete 'notified to conference representatives' and insert 'publicised*
15 *to party members', and after 'newspaper' insert '/magazine and website'.*

16 *In 3.1: delete 'conference representative' and insert 'party member'.*

EITHER:

17 *Delete paragraph 3.2.*

OR:

18 *In 3.2: after 'must be' delete 'either', and delete 'or included in a ballot*
19 *to allow conference representatives to determine an order of priority for*
20 *allocating time'*

Monday

Monday 21st September

21 *In 4.5: delete 'representatives attending Conference' and insert 'voting*
22 *members'.*

23 *In 6.2: delete 'If the person who is excluded is a voting member of*
24 *conference, their local party or SAO shall be contacted immediately and*
25 *invited to appoint a substitute for the remainder of the conference.'*

26 *In 8.5: under 'Who may speak' delete all and insert:*

27 *All voting members may speak at a full session of conference. Additionally,*
28 *the Committee may invite any person to address the conference as a*
29 *guest. Neither such provision shall prejudice the right of the chair of a*
30 *session to select speakers.*

31 *In 8.7: delete 'and non-voting'.*

32 *In 11.2 (heading): delete 'representative' and insert 'voting member'.*

33 *In 14.1, both instances: delete 'directly elected by conference' and insert*
34 *'directly elected by party members'.*

Applicability: Federal.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 9 – is 13.00, Monday 7th September; amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes – see page 6 – is 09.00, Sunday 20th September.

The existing text of standing orders is given on pages 69–79 of this Agenda.

A standing order amendment requires at least a two-thirds majority to pass.

18.00 Close of session

Tuesday 22nd September

09.00 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball
Aide: Jenni Lang
Hall Aide: Cllr Paul Tilsley

F30 Emergency motion and/or topical issue discussion

This slot has been reserved for an emergency motion or motions, or discussion of a topical issue. The deadline for emergency motions and for suggestions for topical issues is 13.00, Monday 7 September. Motions selected for debate and/or the ballot will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. See pages 8 and 9.

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

Topical issue timing – 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 7.

09.45 Consultative session

Chair: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: Justine McGuinness
Hall Aide: Chris Maines

F31 Agenda 2020 – Second Session

This consultative session forms part of the wider Agenda 2020 party values and philosophy review.

Any conference representative wishing to make a maximum three-minute contribution should submit 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. See page 7 for further information.

Tuesday 22nd September

11.00 Policy motion

Chair: Gareth Epps
Aide: Shas Sheehan
Hall Aide: Jeremy Hargreaves

F32 Delivering the Housing Britain Needs

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Cllr Keith House
Summation: Baroness Bakewell

1 Conference believes that an adequate supply of decent homes at a cost
2 people can afford is essential to personal fulfilment, economic stability, and
3 community wellbeing.

4 Conference notes that:

5 I. The demand for new homes is increasing due to factors including
6 rising life expectancy and the growing number of one-person
7 households.

8 II. Too many homes are left standing empty for large parts of the year.

9 III. Britain has failed for decades to build enough homes.

10 IV. Home ownership in the under 40s is falling rapidly and many young
11 people are priced out of the private rental market.

12 V. Steps taken by Liberal Democrats in the previous government led to
13 an increase in the supply of housing to nearly 150,000 a year.

14 Conference notes with concern that the Conservative Government has not
15 committed to building the 300,000 homes Britain needs each year.

16 Conference deplores:

17 A. The Government's plans to extend Right to Buy to Housing
18 Association properties, which will lead to a drastic reduction in the
19 amount of social and affordable housing available, fail to help those
20 in greatest housing need, provide poor value to the taxpayer, and are
21 likely to be subject to legal challenges by housing associations as they
22 object to what is essentially expropriation of their assets by the state.

23 B. Conservative plans to force councils to sell off their most valuable
24 housing stock which will create 'social cleansing' in high value areas,

Tuesday

Tuesday 22nd September

25 push up living costs of less affluent residents forced to live further
26 from jobs, and lead to a shortage of affordable housing for larger
27 families.

28 Conference therefore calls on the Government to abandon its plans
29 to extend Right to Buy to Housing Association properties and to force
30 councils to sell off their most valuable housing stock.

31 Conference instead calls for the implementation of policies to increase the
32 availability of housing including:

33 1. An ambitious target to increase the rate of house building to 300,000
34 homes a year.

35 2. A government commissioning programme to boost house building.

36 3. Local Authorities to be required to make a plan for 15 years of
37 housing need.

38 4. At least ten new Garden Cities in England.

39 5. Ambitious targets for development on unwanted public sector sites.

40 6. Local Authorities to be allowed more flexibility to borrow to build
41 affordable housing and encouraged to take responsibility for housing
42 delivery in their areas, including by directly commissioning or
43 developing homes of all tenures.

44 7. Devolution of full control over the Right to Buy council housing to local
45 authorities.

46 8. Local Authorities to be allowed to:

- 47 a) Attach planning conditions to new developments to ensure
48 homes are occupied, tackling the growth of 'buy to leave empty'
49 investments from overseas in property hotspots like London.
50 b) Levy up to 200% Council Tax on second homes where they judge
51 this to be appropriate.
52 c) Pilot new planning conditions to ensure local communities benefit
53 from increased housing supply.

Tuesday 22nd September

Applicability: England only, except 1 (lines 33–34) which is Federal.

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

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See page 7 for further information.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 9 – is 13.00, Monday 7th September; amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes – see page 6 – is 09.00, Monday 21st September.

12.20 Speech

Chair: Mary Reid
Aide: Cllr Zoë O'Connell
Hall Aide: Pauline Pearce



F33 Speech by Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP

12.40 Lunch break

14.20 Policy motion

Chair: Baroness Dee Doocey
Aide: Gareth Epps
Hall Aide: Cllr Zoë O'Connell

F34 Human Rights

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Lord Marks QC (Parliamentary Spokesperson on Justice)

Summation: Jenny Woods

1 Conference believes that:

2 I. Human rights and civil liberties are fundamental to a fair, free and
3 open society. They are vital to ensuring that the state is appropriately
4 constrained and accountable for its use of power.

5 II. Human rights laws protect everyone, not only weak and vulnerable
6 people, for example they have:

- 7 a) Stopped the state spying on citizens, supported peaceful protest
8 and protected soldiers.
9 b) Helped rape victims, defended domestic violence victims and
10 guarded against slavery.
11 c) Enhanced media freedom, protected whistle-blowers and provided
12 answers for grieving families.
13 d) Preserved the right to a fair trial, prevented indiscriminate stop-
14 and-search and protected minorities.
15 e) Helped elderly people subjected to physical abuse in their care
16 homes and patients who suffered inhumane and degrading
17 treatment at Mid Staffordshire NHS Trust.
18 f) Ended corporal punishment in schools and protected parents'
19 rights in care proceedings.

20 III. Liberal Democrats recognise the leading role the UK took in drawing
21 up the European Convention on Human Rights after the Second
22 World War, based on long-standing British traditions of civil liberties.

23 IV. Membership of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) is
24 particularly important for the UK because among its 46 signatories the
25 UK is in a very small minority in not having its own written constitution.

26 V. The UK has a vital role in showing world leadership in the upholding
27 of universal human rights, which would be wrecked by the UK joining
28 the pariah states who reject international human rights agreements.

Tuesday 22nd September

- 29 VI. While UK law enforcement and intelligence agencies have a vital role
30 in protecting the public and investigating criminal activity, we must
31 ensure the state does not over-reach the bounds set by the ECHR in
32 pursuing those roles.
- 33 VII. Transparency and independent scrutiny of the activities of security
34 agencies is vital.
- 35 Conference applauds the fact that Liberal Democrats in Government
36 in the last Parliament blocked Conservative plans to repeal the Human
37 Rights Act and the Conservatives' Communications Data Bill (the so-called
38 'Snoopers' Charter') which would have forced internet service providers
39 to keep records of citizens' texts, emails and every website visited.
40 Conference notes that the previous Labour Government attempted to
41 introduce similar legislation.
- 42 Conference is therefore deeply alarmed by:
- 43 i) The threat posed to human rights in the United Kingdom by
44 Conservative plans to replace the Human Rights Act with a British
45 Bill of Rights, which could weaken the protection of human rights in
46 Britain, including the right to privacy and family life.
 - 47 ii) The unwillingness of many Conservatives to accept the decisions
48 of the European Court of Human Rights and to abide by the UK's
49 international treaty obligation under the Convention.
 - 50 iii) The prospect that the UK may leave, or be forced out of, the ECHR if
51 plans supported by some Conservatives are implemented, depriving
52 our citizens of the protection of the Convention and the Strasbourg
53 Court and destroying the UK's capacity to lead on human rights
54 internationally.
 - 55 iv) The threat to the peace and stability of Northern Ireland posed by the
56 potential repeal of the Human Rights Act, which implemented a key
57 element of the Good Friday Agreement 1998 to incorporate the ECHR
58 into Northern Ireland law.
 - 59 v) Proposals included in the Queen's Speech, which are similar to those
60 in the Communications Data Bill, and which would lead to the bulk
61 collection of information by internet service providers.
 - 62 vi) The Conservatives' opposition to recommendations in the report by
63 David Anderson QC for more accountable security services, including
64 judicial approval for requests to intercept communications.

Tuesday 22nd September

65 Conference resolves to:

- 66 A. Champion human rights and the UK's membership of the ECHR.
- 67 B. Challenge misleading accounts of the effects of the ECHR.
- 68 C. Retain the Human Rights Act unless it is replaced with a Bill of Rights
- 69 which incorporates and builds on those rights set out in the ECHR
- 70 and oppose any attempts by Conservatives to introduce a British Bill
- 71 of Rights which does not achieve this.
- 72 D. Oppose measures called for by the Conservatives, such as the bulk
- 73 collection of data by internet service providers, which would lead to a
- 74 disproportionate level of surveillance of members of the public.

75 Conference also calls for:

- 76 1. A Digital Bill of Rights, to define and enshrine the digital rights of the
- 77 citizen, including:
 - 78 a) The principle that everyone has the right to control their own data.
 - 79 b) The right to use strong encryption to protect privacy and security.
 - 80 c) The principle that public bodies should only be able to invade an
 - 81 individual's privacy where there is reasonable suspicion of criminal
 - 82 activity.
- 83 2. A new Freedoms Act, to protect citizens from excessive state power,
- 84 including:
 - 85 a) Measures to protect free speech and the right to cause offence.
 - 86 b) Measures to prevent heavy handed policing with tighter regulation
 - 87 of 'kettling'.
 - 88 c) Tighter rules on the use of CCTV and facial images.

Applicability: Federal.

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

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See page 7 for further information.

Tuesday 22nd September

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 9 – is 13.00, Monday 7th September; amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes – see page 6 – is 09.00, Monday 21st September.

15.25 Party business

Chair: Linda Jack
Aide: Joanne Foster
Hall Aide: Cllr Paul Tilsley

F35 Charles Kennedy Tribute

15.35 Constitutional amendment

Chair: Jenni Lang
Aide: Liz Lynne
Hall Aide: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F36 Deputy Leader

10 conference representatives

Mover: Justine McGuinness
Summation: Jon Gleeson

- 1 *In 9.1: delete 'and, if thought fit, a Deputy Leader'.*
- 2 *In Article 10, title: after 'The Leader' insert 'and Deputy Leader'.*
- 3 *In 10.1: after 'The Leader' insert 'and Deputy Leader'.*
- 4 *Insert new 10.3:*
- 5 10.3 An election for the Deputy Leader shall be called upon:
- 6 (a) the Deputy Leader asking for an election;
- 7 (b) the death or incapacity of the Deputy Leader;
- 8 (c) the receipt by the President of the resignation of the Deputy Leader
- 9 or of a declaration of intent to resign upon the election of a new
- 10 Leader;

Tuesday 22nd September

- 11 (d) the receipt by the President of a requisition submitted by at
12 least 75 Local Parties (including for this purpose, the Specified
13 Associated Organisation or Organisations representing youth and/
14 or students) following the decision of a quorate general meeting; or
15 (e) the first anniversary of the preceding general election being
16 reached without an election being called under any of paragraphs
17 (a) through (d), provided that the Federal Executive may postpone
18 such an election for no more than one year by a two-thirds
19 majority of those present and voting.

20 *In (new) 10.4: after 'Leader' insert 'and Deputy Leader', and delete 'an*
21 *election' and insert 'elections'.*

22 *(New) 10.6 becomes 10.6 (a).*

23 *In (new) 10.6 (a): delete 'not less than' and insert 'no fewer than'.*

24 *After 10.6 (a), insert:*

- 25 (b) Nominations for the Deputy Leader must be of a member of the
26 Party, supported by 200 members in aggregate in no fewer than 20
27 Local Parties (including, for this purpose, the Specified Associated
28 Organisations representing youth and students as provided by Article
29 13.8) and must indicate acceptance of nomination.

The existing text of relevant articles of the Federal Constitution:

9: The Parliamentary Parties

9.1 The Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons shall consist of all Members of that House in receipt of the Party's whip. Its Leader shall be the Leader of the Party elected as provided in Article 10. It shall be entitled to make such regulations (not being inconsistent with this Constitution) as it thinks fit for the conduct of its own proceedings. In particular, these regulations shall make provision for a Chief Whip and, if thought fit, a Deputy Leader of such Parliamentary Party.

...

10: The Leader

10.1 The Leader of the Party shall be elected by the members of the Party in accordance with election rules made pursuant to Article 8.4.

10.2 An election for the Leader shall be called upon:

- (a) the Leader asking for an election;
- (b) the death or incapacity of the Leader;
- (c) the Leader ceasing to be a Member of the House of Commons (other than a temporary cessation by reason of a dissolution);
- (d) the receipt by the President of the resignation of the Leader or of a declaration of intent to resign upon the election of a new Leader;
- (e) a vote of no confidence in the Leader being passed by a majority of all Members of the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons;
- (f) the receipt by the President of a requisition submitted by at least 75 Local Parties (including for this purpose, the Specified Associated Organisation or Organisations representing youth and/or students) following the decision of a quorate general meeting; or
- (g) the first anniversary of the preceding general election being reached without an election being called under any of paragraphs (a) through (f), provided that:
 - (i) the Federal Executive may postpone such an election for no more than one year by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting; and
 - (ii) this paragraph (g) shall not apply if the Leader is a member of the Government.

10.3 Upon election, the Leader shall hold office until death, incapacity or resignation or the completion of an election called under this Article.

10.4 Upon the calling of an election, the Federal Executive shall publish a timetable for nominations, withdrawals, despatch and receipt of ballot papers and the holding of ballots and shall appoint a disinterested person or body to receive and count the ballot papers.

Tuesday 22nd September

10.5 Nominations must be of a Member of the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons, who must be proposed by at least ten percent of other members of the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons and supported by 200 members in aggregate in not less than 20 Local Parties (including, for this purpose, the Specified Associated Organisations representing youth and students as provided by Article 13.8) and must indicate acceptance of nomination.

Applicability: Federal.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 9 – is 13.00, Monday 7th September; amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes – see page 6 – is 09.00, Tuesday 22nd September.

A constitutional amendment requires at least a two-thirds majority to pass.

Constitutional amendment

F37 Leader's Veto

17 conference representatives

Mover: Joe Otten

Summation: Nick Thornsby

- 1 *In article 7.3: at the end of the first sentence insert ' , and subject to the*
- 2 *Leader's right to veto the inclusion of any specific policy'.*

Tuesday 22nd September

The existing text of relevant articles of the Federal Constitution:

7: The Federal Policy Committee

...

7.3 The FPC shall have the responsibility for preparing the Party's General Election manifesto for the UK and its manifesto for elections to the European Parliament in consultation with the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons and with the Parliamentary Party in the European Parliament. It shall have the right to be consulted upon, and in the case of a conflict (but after consultation with the State Party concerned) to over-ride any proposal to be contained in the General Election manifesto of any State or Regional Party unless the proposal relates solely to an issue which is the specific concern of the State or Regional Party.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 9 – is 13.00, Monday 7th September; amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes – see page 6 – is 14.20, Saturday 19th September.

A constitutional amendment requires at least a two-thirds majority to pass.

Tuesday

Tuesday 22nd September

16.45 Consultative session

Chair: Duncan Brack (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

Aide: Justine McGuinness

Hall Aide: Liz Lynne

F38 Governance Review

This consultative session forms part of the wider party Governance Review.

Any conference representative wishing to make a maximum three-minute contribution should submit 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. See page 7 for further information.

Note: this session is for party members only.

18.00 Close of session

Wednesday 23rd September

09.00 Policy motion

Chair: Duncan Brack (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)
Aide: Mary Reid
Hall Aide: Jenni Lang

F39 Emergency motion and/or topical issue discussion

This slot has been reserved for an emergency motion or motions, or discussion of a topical issue. The deadline for emergency motions and for suggestions for topical issues is 13.00, Monday 7 September. Motions selected for debate and/or the ballot will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily. See pages 8 and 9.

Emergency motion timing – mover of motion: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

Topical issue timing – 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 7.

10.00 Policy motion

Chair: Justine McGuinness
Aide: Kavya Kaushik
Hall Aide: James Gurling

F40 No-one Should be Enslaved by Poverty

25 conference representatives

Mover: George Potter
Summation: James Sandbach

1 Conference notes:

- 2 i) The Liberal Democrat role in Coalition in preventing the Conservatives
- 3 from making drastic cuts to social security, including disability
- 4 benefits.

Wednesday 23rd September

- 5 ii) The Conservative Government's announcement of a £12 billion cut
6 to social security spending, including measures set out in the July
7 Budget to:
- 8 a) Freeze working age benefits, including tax credits and the Local
9 Housing Allowance, in cash terms for four years.
- 10 b) Cut Employment and Support Allowance for sick and disabled
11 people in the Work Related Activity Group by 30% for new
12 claimants.
- 13 c) End Housing Benefit for those under 25, making it harder for
14 young people to move to new areas in search of a job.
- 15 d) Change tax credits and Universal Credit by increasing the 'taper'
16 rate and decreasing the amount families can earn before payments
17 start to be reduced, thereby reducing the benefit of being in work
18 and particularly affecting families with children.
- 19 e) Restrict Child Tax Credit to a maximum of two children for new
20 claimants.
- 21 f) Reduce the annual household benefit cap to £23,000 per family in
22 London and £20,000 per family for the rest of the UK.
- 23 iii) That the Institute for Fiscal Studies has said that the benefit cuts in
24 the Budget will hit 13 million families, who will each lose at least £260
25 each year by the end of the Parliament.
- 26 iv) That the Universal Credit programme is a good liberal idea that is
27 being poorly implemented by Conservative Ministers.
- 28
- 29 v) The "Five Giant Evils" (squalor, ignorance, want, idleness, and
30 disease) identified by Beveridge in the last century are rearing their
31 heads again in this century, as evidenced by overcrowded rented
32 housing, growing dependence on foodbanks, and unacceptable
health inequalities.
- 33 vi) The findings of the World Health Organisation's Commission on Social
34 Determinants of Health that based on an assessment of global health
35 data, generous universal social protection systems are associated
36 with better population health, including lower excess mortality among
37 the old and lower mortality levels among socially disadvantaged
38 groups.

Wednesday 23rd September

- 39 vii) The findings of a 2014 report by the Poverty and Social Exclusion
40 project which showed that in the UK 18 million people are unable to
41 afford adequate housing and four million are not properly fed.
- 42 viii) That the economic cost to the UK of child poverty alone is estimated
43 as being £29 billion a year by the Child Poverty Action Group.
- 44 ix) That the last comprehensive Liberal Democrat policy paper on welfare
45 was published in 1992.
- 46 Conference believes:
- 47 A. No one should be enslaved by poverty or be left without food, shelter
48 and clothing.
- 49 B. Everyone should be entitled to a minimum standard of living, sufficient
50 to allow participation in society, according to their needs rather than
51 on the basis of who is deemed to be 'deserving' or not.
- 52 C. It is a fundamental duty and responsibility of a civilised society to
53 provide a social safety net for all those in need and those who are
54 vulnerable.
- 55 D. The Government's cuts to the welfare budget are motivated by
56 ideology rather than necessity or rationality and will mean that the UK
57 will fail in its responsibilities as a civilised society.
- 58 E. It is morally and economically unjustifiable to make cuts to support
59 for the most vulnerable while protecting universal benefits for the
60 wealthiest pensioners, such as the winter fuel allowance.
- 61 F. Liberal Democrats should campaign against cruel and unnecessary
62 cuts which affect the most vulnerable.
- 63 G. Liberal Democrats should challenge the Conservative Government
64 over failures in Universal Credit's implementation, whereby individuals
65 are left destitute
- 66 H. Liberal Democrats should oppose the proposed £12 billion of cuts to
67 working age benefits, tax credits and sickness and disability benefits
68 noting that following the Welfare Reform Act 2012 the welfare budget
69 has already had to take significant cuts amounting to £22 billion a
70 year.
- 71 I. Liberal Democrats should develop further policy on social security,
72 in particular recognising the importance of ensuring that all systems
73 of social protection, advice and support, including employability and
74 skills development, can work together nationally and locally to provide
75 integrated and holistic services which address the real needs.

Wednesday 23rd September

76 Conference further calls for reform of the welfare system to:

- 77 1. Prioritise support for the most vulnerable over the wealthy and aim to
78 ensure a minimum standard of living for all UK citizens.
79 2. End the practice of higher rate taxpayers receiving pensioner benefits
80 such as the winter fuel allowance.
81 3. Focus on enabling people to participate in society and achieve their
82 potential.
83 4. Provide adequate support for those living with disability or long-term
84 health problems.

Applicability: Federal.

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

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See page 7 for further information.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 9 – is 13.00, Monday 7th September; amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes – see page 6 – is 09.00, Tuesday 22nd September.

11.00 Policy motion

Chair: Chris Maines
Aide: Pauline Pearce
Hall Aide: Linda Jack

F41 Youth Services

10 conference representatives

Mover: Cllr Mathew Hulbert
Summation: Jack Davies

Wednesday 23rd September

1 Conference notes:

- 2 A. The commitment of the Liberal Democrats when in Government
- 3 to improve outcomes for children and young people via the pupil
- 4 premium, free school meals and other measures.
- 5 B. The significantly increased number of apprenticeships for young
- 6 people.
- 7 C. Existing Liberal Democrat policy to put youth services on a statutory
- 8 footing.

9 Conference notes with concern:

- 10 i) The depletion of youth services across the UK, leaving whole areas
- 11 without youth provision denying many young people, particularly the
- 12 most vulnerable, access to non-formal education, emotional support,
- 13 an adequate youth voice in decision-making and our democratic
- 14 structures and opportunities to develop their talents, social skills and
- 15 pursue their interests.
- 16 ii) The lack of attention being paid to equality issues in access to youth
- 17 provision, whether it be LGBT+, BAME, gender issues or socio-
- 18 economic divides.

19 Conference believes that:

- 20 a) Youth work has an important role in tackling inequalities, raising
- 21 aspiration and supporting young people's social and emotional
- 22 development.
- 23 b) All young people should have access to excellent youth services and
- 24 qualified youth workers.

25 Conference calls for:

- 26 1. Liberal Democrats to commit to championing out-of-school youth
- 27 services and for our MPs and education spokespeople in the House
- 28 of Lords to speak out on these issues at every available opportunity.
- 29 2. A commitment to do all we can, within the wider economic
- 30 constraints, to press the Government to help local authorities rebuild
- 31 and fund youth services.
- 32 3. The Government to initiate an immediate review of youth services,
- 33 including a gap analysis in terms of quality, quantity and funding of
- 34 youth provision across the country, taking account of equality issues.

Wednesday 23rd September

- 35 4. A requirement for youth services to be included in the inspection
36 regime.
37 5. Investment in workforce development and training so that all young
38 people have access to excellent youth work.

Applicability: England only.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 9 – is 13.00, Monday 7th September; amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes – see page 6 – is 09.00, Tuesday 22nd September.

11.45 Speech

Chair: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Hall Aide: Justine McGuinness

F42 Speech by Tim Farron MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats



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 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.*

Standing orders

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:

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.

Standing orders

- 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).
- 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,

Standing orders

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.

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

Standing orders

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 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.

Standing orders

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

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 or 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

Standing orders

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.
 - 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

Standing orders

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.
- 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.

11.3 Reference back (moved by the Federal Policy Committee)

- a) The Federal Policy Committee may, at

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

Standing orders

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:

- 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 issues which are outside its duties and responsibilities. If the question could be answered by another body reporting to

Standing orders

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	Tim Farron MP
President	Baroness Sal Brinton
Chair of FFAC	Peter Dunphy
Treasurer	Sir Ian Wigglesworth
Vice President (England)	Steve Jarvis
Vice President (Scotland)	Craig Harrow
Vice President (Wales)	Rodney Berman
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.