

AGENDA

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

ONLINE AUTUMN CONFERENCE

25–28 SEPTEMBER 2020

Clear Print

This clear print / large text version of the Conference Agenda matches as closely as possible the text of the published Agenda. Motion line numbers match those in the printed Agenda.

Page number cross references are correct within this clear print document. Some information may appear in a different place from its location in the published Agenda. Complex layouts and graphics have been omitted.

The Agenda and Directory and other conference publications, in PDF, plain text and clear print formats, are available online at

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers

Welcome to the Liberal Democrat Autumn 2020 Conference Agenda.

If you have any questions whilst at conference, please email the conference team at: conferences@libdems.org.uk

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

Our virtual conference venue – Hopin

Registered attendees will be emailed details of how to log onto the Hopin platform a few days prior to the start of the conference. See page 3 for information about Hopin.

Please note that all events taking place on the Hopin platform (including fringe events and exhibitors) require you to have a valid conference registration.

To register, please go to: www.libdems.org.uk/autumn-conference

Further information, registration and conference publications (including plain text and clear print versions) are available at: www.libdems.org.uk/conference

Contents

Information:	3-13
Agenda:	14-61
Agenda index and timetable	14
Friday 25 September	16
Saturday 26 September	32
Sunday 27 September	39
Monday 28 September	53
Standing orders	62-83
Federal Party	84

Auditorium information

This Agenda covers the sessions held in the virtual auditorium at autumn conference.

General conference information can be found in the conference Directory, available online from mid to late August at:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference

- If you have any questions prior to or during conference please email: conferences@libdems.org.uk
- If you have any tech queries, please go to the tech helpdesk in the exhibition area of the online conference (see page 6).
- If you have a formal request that you wish to make of the chair of a debate, please email: debates@libdems.org.uk (available 24–28 Sept).
- If you have a question with regards to the session you are in, please use the conference chat function; do not use chat to communicate with the chair of a session. See guidance on page 5.

The running of conference

Conference will be asked to approve temporary changes to its formal rules, known as Standing Orders, as its first item of business on Friday 25 September – see page 16.

These rules will allow Conference to take place online as smoothly as possible.

Hopin: our virtual conference venue

All registered attendees will be emailed details of how to login to Hopin, our virtual conference venue, just prior to the conference starting.

For best results on 25–28 September, please use a computer when logging

INFORMATION

into Hopin, and use Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox. Ensure you turn off your ad blockers and don't have any other programs open. If something goes wrong, try refreshing your browser!

If you do not have a computer and are using a tablet, please ensure you have downloaded Google Chrome and are using this browser to enter Hopin.

There is a short video on how Hopin works on our website:

www.libdems.org.uk/autumn-conference

After the conference, all sessions will be available for 72 hours on Hopin and the auditorium sessions will be available on YouTube.

Hopin navigation

On the Hopin platform, the menu bar appears on the left.

Home

View the agenda and the exhibition tiles (one for each entity in the exhibition area).

Auditorium

Watch the debates and speeches. Members can vote on motions via polls (within Hopin). There will be BSL signers during auditorium sessions.

Fringe & Training

Fringe is available for all to view. Fringe events happen outside auditorium hours.

Training is only for party members to view and is run simultaneously alongside the auditorium sessions.

See the conference Directory for details.

INFORMATION

Exhibition

You can enter this area to view the exhibition stands throughout conference, view exhibitor's videos, ask questions in the chat function and connect to their websites.

See the conference Directory for details.

Networking

Chat with a randomly selected participant and share common interests.

If you wish to contact a particular individual to chat with them or have a live video link, please click onto 'people' next to the 'chat' function on the top right and find the person you wish to connect with.

Voting

Only registered members can vote at conference. Voting will be available through Hopin and the polling function in the auditorium.

For the emergency motions ballot, mi-voice voting will be used and registered members will be emailed a link prior to conference to vote in the ballot.

Conference Chat

In each auditorium session there will be a chat feature enabled, which allows attendees to post their views and comments about events in the auditorium.

The chat is public and visible to everybody: bear this in mind when posting. All comments in the chat must be respectful, lawful, and in keeping with the Members' Code of Conduct, accessible here:

www.libdems.org.uk/code-of-conduct

The chat will be moderated, and if your post does not meet the required standards of behaviour, sanctions start with post deletion, and more serious

INFORMATION

breaches may lead to you having your conference access revoked and/or disciplinary action within the party.

Please do not use the chat to attempt to communicate with members of the FCC or the chairs and aides of debates. There is a dedicated email address for raising points of order etc: debates@libdems.org.uk

Some Q&A sessions may use the chat to solicit questions; but not formal party reports, to which questions must be submitted in the usual manner, see page 12.

The chat is there to facilitate interactivity in our virtual conference, but it can only do this if everyone in it behaves responsibly and with courtesy and respect towards each other and the moderators.

Conference Extra and Conference Daily

Conference Extra is published ahead of conference and Conference Daily is published each day of conference. They both contain updates to the agenda including changes to timings, amendments, topical issues, emergency motions and questions to reports.

You can find them via the Conference App and online at:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers

Tech helpdesk

If you have any tech issues during the conference, we have a tech helpdesk located in the exhibition area which will be open at the following times:

Friday	25 Sept.	14.00–21.00
Saturday	26 Sept.	08.30–19.00
Sunday	27 Sept.	08.30–19.00
Monday	28 Sept.	11.30–21.00

INFORMATION

Federal Conference Committee helpdesk

Members of the FCC will be available to give advice at their FCC virtual exhibition at the following times:

Friday	25 Sept.	17.30–18.30
Saturday	26 Sept.	12.00–12.45 & 16.30–17.15
Sunday	27 Sept.	12.00–12.45 & 16.30–17.15
Monday	28 Sept.	12.00–12.45 & 16.30–17.15

The Federal Board will be running its helpdesk at the same times.

Spring Conference

19–21 March 2021

FCC is currently reviewing the timing of deadlines for the Spring Conference. The deadlines will be set and announced by the time that the online conference starts, via Conference Extra and other channels.

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 in other parties, Liberal Democrat members are sovereign, and what they decide really matters.

The structure of debate on policy and business motions:

Proposer of the motion speaks

V

Proposers of any amendments speak in turn

V

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

V

Summators of amendments speak in turn

V

The summator of the motion speaks

V

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

V

A vote will be taken on the motion as a whole

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

Communications with the chair and aide: At the virtual conference you can email the chair and aide team at: debates@libdems.org.uk

Please include the 'F' number of the session in the subject line of the email. DO NOT use this email to submit speaker's cards – it is solely for formal communication with the chair and the aide on procedural motions and points of order.

INFORMATION

Voting: decisions on most motions and all amendments and separate votes are by simple majority of those voting. (There are no constitutional amendments). To vote, registered members must use the polls function on Hopin. That is found by selecting the tab in the top right-hand corner when in the virtual auditorium. Vote by selecting the relevant button on the screen.

Separate votes: a vote to delete or retain the specified words or section. A request for a separate vote may be submitted by any party member. For agenda items on Friday the request must be submitted by the emergency motions deadline and for other days by the start of conference on the previous day, by email to: separate.votes@libdems.org.uk

Counted vote: all votes taking place at this conference will be counted by Hopin and the result will be announced by the chair.

Speaking and voting at conference

Eligibility to speak and vote

All party members are entitled to speak and vote in conference debates, providing they are attending conference as a party member (and not for example an exhibitor or observer).

Party members fulfilling these criteria are known as 'voting members'.

Length of speeches

The length of speeches is shown against each motion in the Agenda.

A set of traffic lights will appear on the screen to show the speaker and the audience how long the speaker has left. Green means that the end of the time is at least one minute away. The amber light comes on when there is one minute to go. The red light comes on when time is up and you should stop speaking immediately.

INFORMATION

Applying to speak

To make a speech in a debate you must submit an electronic speaker's card online at:

www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card

Applications open on Monday 21 September and close at 16.00 on the day BEFORE the debate.

Speakers selected for a debate (plus a couple of reserves) will be sent an email by 21.00 on the day before. If it is your first time speaking at this conference, you will be asked to log into a Debate Test meeting for our technical team to check your sound and vision. You will be required to download the Zoom app (or equivalent) prior to the test – a link will be in the email.

Our technical team will register you before the debate commences. 10 minutes before the start of the debate you will be asked to log out of Hopin and into a Motion meeting, which will have the same title as the agenda item. You will be able to follow the debate while waiting. The chair will ask you to stand by one speech before yours and then call you to speak when required.

Once you have finished speaking you must log out of the Motion meeting and return to Hopin. The email should answer any questions and will give you contact details to seek further help.

Completing a speaker's card

Please remember to:

- Submit your card no later than 16.00 on the day before the debate. There is no guarantee late cards will be considered.
- Complete the card fully so that the chair knows all about you and what you want to say, and can balance the debate.

Other conference sessions

Emergency motions

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.

There are two slots for emergency motions. If more than two motions that are in order are submitted, registered members will vote on which emergency motions they want to debate. An email will be sent shortly before conference to enable you to vote; the closing time for votes will be 19.00 on Friday 25 September.

Topical Issue Discussions

The FCC may decide to replace one or both of the slots with topical issue discussions. These allow members and spokespeople to discuss and comment on a political issue live at the time of conference; they do not make party policy.

Party members may submit suggested topics for a discussion, which will be considered by officers of the FCC and FPC. If a topical issue discussion is selected, it will be printed in the relevant Conference Daily.

Question & answer sessions

Any voting member may submit a concise question (maximum 25 words) on any subject for the Leader's Q&A (F13) or on subjects relevant to the Foreign Affairs and Brexit Q&A (F9) or The Impact of COVID-19 on the Economy, Jobs and Education Q&A (F16). Questions will be selected by the chair and the questioner will be able to ask their question via video.

Questions may be submitted by 16.00 on the day before the session using the online form at:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions

INFORMATION

The Chair may also decide to put questions raised in the chat function during the session.

Reports

The reports of Federal Committees and Parliamentary Parties are printed in the separate reports document. Any voting member may submit concise questions on these reports. The chair will select which questions will be asked.

Questions may be submitted by 13.00 on 14 September using the online form at:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions

Questions received by the deadline above will be printed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadlines above may be submitted using the same online form up until 16.00 on the day before the relevant session.

Submitting amendments, emergency motions, topical issues and appeals

Amendments and emergency motions

Amendments, emergency motions and motions for debate on The COVID-19 Pandemic (F12) and Europe (F23) must be:

- signed by 10 party members; 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 must be submitted by 13.00 on 14 September online at:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions

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 party member by 13.00 on 14 September online at:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions

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 on 31 August online at:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions

Appeals

If you wish to appeal the FCC's decision not to select your emergency motion or amendment, you may appeal.

The appeal should come from the email address of the original contact for the motion and should be no longer than one side of A4. It should explain why you are appealing and any new information the FCC was unaware of when it made its decision.

The email should also contain a contact name and telephone number.

Appeals should be emailed by 17.00 on 23 September to:
appeals@libdems.org.uk

Agenda index and timetable

Friday 25 September

14.15–14.55	F1	Opening of Conference	16
	F2	Business motion: Standing Orders for a Conference Held Remotely	16
	F3	Report: Federal Conference Committee	19
15.00–16.10	F4	Consultative session: Party Strategy	20
16.15–17.00	F5	Policy motion: Improve Mental Health Support for Health and Care Staff	20
17.00–18.15		Auditorium break and fringe	
18.15–18.35	F6	Interview: Jane Dodds, Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats	23
18.40–19.45	F7	Policy motion: Nature of Public Debate During COVID-19	23
19.50–21.00	F8	Policy motion: Universal Basic Income	28

Saturday 26 September

10.00–10.40	F9	Question & answer session on Foreign Affairs and Brexit	32
10.45–11.05	F10	Spokesperson interview	32
11.10–12.00	F11	Policy motion: The Creation of a Federal United Kingdom	33
12.00–14.00		Auditorium break and fringe	
14.00–15.00	F12	Policy motion: The COVID-19 Pandemic	36
15.05–16.00	F13	Question & answer session with the Leader of the Liberal Democrats	37
16.00–17.00		Auditorium break and fringe	
17.00–17.30	F14	Reports: Parliamentary Parties	37
17.35–17.55	F15	Spokesperson interview	38
18.00–18.45	F16	Question & answer session on COVID-19: the economic, work and educational legacy	38

AGENDA INDEX & TIMETABLE

Sunday 27 September

10.00–10.45	F17	Emergency motion or topical issue discussion	39
10.50–12.00	F18	Policy motion: Racial Justice Cannot Wait	39
12.00–14.00		Auditorium break and fringe	
14.00–14.45	F19	Policy motion: Save the BBC	44
14.50–15.00	F20	Report: Federal Policy Committee	48
15.05–16.00	F21	Policy motion: A Green Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic	48
16.00–17.00		Auditorium break and fringe	
17.00–17.20	F22	Interview: Willie Rennie MSP, Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats	51
17.25–18.45	F23	Policy motion: Europe	51

Monday 28 September

14.00–14.10	F24	Report: Federal Board	53
	F25	Report: Campaign for Gender Balance	53
14.15–14.45	F26	Report motion: Federal Appeals Panel	54
	F27	Business motion: Membership Subscriptions and Federal Levy	54
14.50–16.00	F28	Speech: Leader of the Liberal Democrats	55
16.00–17.00		Auditorium break and fringe	
17.00–18.00	F29	Consultative session: The World After COVID-19	55
18.05–18.45	F30	Emergency motion or topical motion discussion	56
18.50–19.35	F31	Policy motion: Hong Kong's Future	56
19.40–20.40	F32	Business motion: Supporting Trans and Non-Binary People Within the Liberal Democrats	59
20.45–21.00	F33	Party Awards	61

Friday 25 September

14.15 Party business

Chair: Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC). Debate Aide: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC).
Technical Aide: Nick Da Costa (Vice Chair, FCC).

F1 Opening of Conference by Dr Mark Pack, President of the Liberal Democrats @markpack, #LDconf

Chair: Nick Da Costa (Vice Chair, FCC). Debate Aide: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC).
Technical Aide: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC).

F2 Standing Orders for a Conference Held Remotely

The Federal Conference Committee (FCC) used its power under Article 11.1 of the Federal Constitution to draft a new set of standing orders specifically for the virtual conference. That Article requires that the revised standing orders be approved by Conference. The Committee consulted Alan Masters, the Chair of the Federal Appeals Panel, on the correct approach and received the following advice:

You have explained that these ... enabling changes have been made to the current standing orders, in order to facilitate a virtual conference taking place. I agree that you have the power to create a new set of standing orders for this purpose and agree that the new set for virtual conferences will have to be voted on by the conference to enable the event to continue and function properly. It does not seem to me that in those circumstances that this proposal could disadvantage party members at all since they will clearly have the chance to vote on this at the virtual conference.

Federal Conference Committee
Mover: Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC).
Summation: Chris Adams.

FRIDAY 25, F2 CONTINUED

1 Conference welcomes the fact that Autumn Conference 2020 is being
2 held remotely given the COVID-19 pandemic.

3 Conference further welcomes the opportunity that a remote
4 conference brings to engage members who might not otherwise be
5 able to attend a physical event, debate policy and hold party officers
6 and Parliamentarians to account.

7 However, Conference notes that:

- 8 A. The current set of Standing Orders that were in operation in
9 previous conferences contain certain provisions that cannot
10 be applied to a remote conference; they need to be adapted to
11 make a virtual conference function and, in particular, to allow
12 votes to be taken.
- 13 B. Under Article 11.1 of the constitution, Federal Conference
14 Committee has power to make a set of Standing Orders for use
15 at conferences held remotely. Federal Conference Committee
16 has exercised that power and is proposing a new set of Standing
17 Orders which will only be used for conferences held remotely.
- 18 C. The new set of Standing Orders adopts every provision of the
19 original Standing Orders and makes only those modifications
20 required to make the virtual conference function; the original
21 Standing Orders will remain in force for use at all future
22 physical conferences and the new set will be used only where
23 conferences are held remotely.
- 24 D. The current Standing Orders have already been approved;
25 however, the new set of Standing Orders for conferences held
26 remotely must be approved by Conference in order for the
27 remote conference to properly function.

28 Conference therefore resolves:

- 29 1. To approve the following Standing Orders, for operation at a

30 remote conference:

31 **Standing Orders for a Conference held remotely**

32 a) In the event that the Federal Board determines it is
33 impossible to hold a conference under the normal rules,
34 and instead summons a special meeting of the conference
35 to be held remotely, or the Committee otherwise directs
36 that a conference shall be conducted remotely, these
37 Standing Orders shall apply.

38 b) A remote conference shall be conducted in accordance
39 with the Standing Orders that apply to a conference not
40 conducted remotely ('the original Standing Orders'), save
41 that:

- 42 i) All references in the original Standing Orders to votes,
43 whether by ballot, show of hands or show of voting
44 cards, shall instead be conducted via an online poll or
45 alternative secure method of online voting, designated
46 by the Committee; similarly all references to speakers
47 cards shall be taken to mean electronic speakers' cards.
- 48 ii) Any communications with the chair must be made via
49 an online channel designated by the Committee for
50 that purpose and advertised to voting members prior
51 to the commencement of a debate.
- 52 iii) In original Standing Order 6.2, the reference to the
53 Chief Steward shall also include lead moderators
54 designated by the Chief Steward.
- 55 iv) Original Standing Order 8.7 shall apply save that the
56 Committee may set a deadline in respect of any given
57 full session for the receipt of electronic speakers' cards;
58 the chair shall have discretion to accept electronic
59 speakers' cards after the deadline.

FRIDAY 25, F2 CONTINUED

- 60 v) Original Standing Orders 9.1, 9.2, 11.5 and Procedural
61 motion 3 (Request for a Count) in the Glossary of
62 Terms, shall not apply; instead, voting members shall,
63 when appropriate, be directed by the chair to vote
64 using the online voting tool made available to them.
65 Standing Order 2.3 shall not apply.
- 66 vi) In original Standing Order 10.1, any voting member
67 may signal to the Chair via the designated online
68 channel that they are moving a point of order, in lieu of
69 rising in their place.
- 70 vii) As, by necessity, all votes shall be counted votes,
71 original Standing Order 11.5 shall not apply; instead,
72 the chair shall ensure the result of the counted vote
73 is publicised to members, via the appropriate online
74 channel.
- 75 2. To preserve the original Standing Orders for operation at a
76 physical conference.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 9.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 12 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 9 – is 13.00, Monday 14 September. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Friday's Conference Daily.

The text of the original standing orders is published at pages 62–82 of this Agenda document.

F3 Federal Conference Committee Report: questions and accountability

FRIDAY 25, F3 CONTINUED

Mover: Geoff Payne (Chair, Federal Conference Committee).

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 14 September. Questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra and Friday's Conference Daily Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 16.00, Thursday 24 September. See page 12 for further information.

15.00 Consultative session

Chair: Jeremy Hargreaves. Debate Aide: Bex Scott. Technical Aide: Nick Da Costa (Vice Chair, FCC).

F4 Party Strategy: the hard questions we need to get right

The Election Review found many things wrong with the party's political and organisational strategy. In this consultative session, you can hear more on what the key lessons were, how the party is applying them and give your input into the hard questions that need addressing.

Party members wishing to contribute during the session should submit a speaker's card by 16.00, Thursday 24 September – see page 10.

16.15 Policy motion

Chair: Jennie Rigg. Debate Aide: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC). Technical Aide: Chris Maines.

F5 Improve Mental Health Support for Health and Care Staff

10 members

Mover: Munira Wilson MP (Spokesperson for Health, Wellbeing & Social Care).
Summation: Baroness Tyler.

FRIDAY 25, F5 CONTINUED

1 Conference believes that:

2 i) Our health and care workforce have gone above and beyond
3 to tackle coronavirus with thousands having lost colleagues,
4 endured serious illness, or faced significant trauma.

5 ii) The mental health impacts will last a lifetime and we must
6 ensure that health and care workers are supported right
7 through this crisis and beyond.

8 iii) The UK's mental health response to COVID-19 should be world-
9 class.

10 Conference notes that:

11 a) Before the coronavirus crisis, sickness absence rates in the
12 NHS were higher than in the rest of the economy, with anxiety,
13 stress, depression and other psychiatric illnesses accounting for
14 nearly a quarter of NHS absences, exceeding other reasons for
15 sickness absence.

16 b) The health and care workforce were already under pressure and
17 overstretched with a high number of vacant posts in the NHS
18 and in the care sector, and an ever-increasing rise in demand
19 for care.

20 c) Experts are warning of high rates of post-traumatic stress
21 disorder (PTSD) to health and care workers as a result of the
22 coronavirus crisis; studies following the SARS outbreak found
23 approximately 10% of health staff had PTSD, and many more
24 had other signs of psychological distress.

25 d) While the NHS provides care 24 hours a day, 365 days a
26 year, the COVID-19 support hotline for staff set up by the
27 Government is only available between 7am and 11pm.

28 e) Health and care workers include not only nurses and doctors,
29 but ancillary staff such as cleaners and porters who may have
30 also had their mental health impacted by the crisis.

31 f) Following the launch of the Liberal Democrat campaign to

FRIDAY 25, F5 CONTINUED

32 improve mental health support for health and care staff, the
33 Labour Party reiterated Liberal Democrat calls by launching a
34 similar campaign.

35 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitment to ensure
36 that all frontline public service professionals receive better training in
37 mental health, and add a requirement for mental health first aiders
38 in the Health and Safety First Aid Regulations.

39 Conference calls for:

- 40 1. The COVID-19 support phone hotline to be made available 24/7
41 for health and care staff.
- 42 2. A signposting service to be created so all health and social care
43 workers know the support resources available to them.
- 44 3. The guarantee of a high universal mental health support service
45 that can be accessed by all health and social care workers,
46 replicating models such as the Medical Assessment Programme.
- 47 4. The removal of the use of the Bradford Factor – a formula used
48 to discourage short, frequent, unplanned absences – and other
49 HR practices that reinforce a culture of presenteeism.
- 50 5. The introduction of an ‘occupational health passport’ so workers
51 do not have to relive mental health traumas when they change
52 jobs.
- 53 6. Every health and social care worker to have access to reflective
54 practice groups with protected time to help prevent longer term
55 mental ill health.
- 56 7. Steps to encourage every setting to have a qualified mental
57 health first aider.

Applicability: England only; except the words ‘and add ... Regulations’ in lines 37–38, which are Federal.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

FRIDAY 25, F5 CONTINUED

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 9.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 12 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 9 – is 13.00, Monday 14 September. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Friday's Conference Daily.

17.00 Auditorium break and fringe

18.15 Interview

Chair: Jennie Rigg.

F6 Jane Dodds, Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats
@DoddsJane, #LDconf

18.40 Policy motion

Chair: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Debate Aide: John Bridges. Technical Aide: Cllr Joe Otten.

F7 Nature of Public Debate during COVID-19

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Daisy Cooper MP (Spokesperson for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport).

Summation: Helen Belcher.

- 1 Conference believes that a decline in the nature of public debate
- 2 in recent years has made the task of managing the COVID-19
- 3 public health pandemic more difficult – and that the Conservative
- 4 Government's approach during the pandemic made this situation
- 5 much worse.

- 6 Conference is dismayed to note that, during the first wave of the

FRIDAY 25, F7 CONTINUED

7 crisis, public trust in the UK Government's handling of the crisis fell
8 from 70% in mid-April to just 30% in June; and, by the start of June,
9 less than half of Britons trusted the UK government to provide
10 correct information on the pandemic.

11 Conference notes that international criticism of the UK's approach
12 as complacent and incompetent stood in stark contrast to the Prime
13 Minister's stated pride in the Government's approach, and notes
14 that, to this day, the Prime Minister has continued to defend his chief
15 advisor, Dominic Cummings, who broke lockdown rules.

16 Conference condemns the use of such political misdirection, the
17 politics of denial and the elitist defence of double standards.

18 In general, Conference notes with concern that:

19 A. The UK government is the most centralised in Europe and
20 that over-centralisation and a lack of transparency in decision-
21 making at the heart of government disconnects people from the
22 decisions that affect their lives.

23 B. Politicians and political campaigns have a track record of
24 misrepresenting statistics to manipulate messages rather than
25 informing the public, and obfuscating facts in a manner that
26 has eroded trust in polls, official statistics and news reporting
27 amongst a large percentage of the population.

28 C. The scientific community have long-standing concerns about
29 the independence of the UK government's advisory bodies,
30 composed of scientists and other experts who provide their
31 service without payment, and the way that government and
32 opposition parties treat scientific advice and those who provide
33 it.

34 D. Social media companies and other tech giants have failed to
35 tackle the spread of fake news and misinformation on their
36 platforms.

FRIDAY 25, F7 CONTINUED

- 37 E. The 24-hour news cycle has changed the nature of political
38 journalism to encourage polarisation, binary thinking, over-
39 politicisation, sound bites and extreme controversy, and that
40 this is poorly suited to covering nuanced and complex debates,
41 including public health crises.
- 42 F. There is increasing hostility from some in politics towards the
43 media and journalists, with people denouncing challenging
44 questions or alternative agendas or stories as ‘fake news’, which
45 has led to an erosion in trust in all politicians and media outlets,
46 with people forming their own social media bubbles and losing
47 the ability to disagree well.
- 48 G. According to the House of Lords Committee on Democracy and
49 Digital Technologies, power online has been ceded to a “few
50 unelected and unaccountable digital corporations”.

51 During the COVID-19 crisis, Conference also notes with concern that
52 this has led to:

- 53 i) Confusion around the Government’s strategy, slow and poor
54 decision-making by the Conservative Government that ignored
55 the warnings from other countries and expert communities, a
56 breakdown of expert and public trust and ultimately one of the
57 worst death tolls from COVID-19 in the world.
- 58 ii) Ministers being reprimanded by the UK Statistics Authority
59 several times for presenting statistics in a misleading manner in
60 No.10 daily briefings, as well as being slow to measure fatalities
61 in care homes, stopping international comparisons when
62 it became clear that the UK was performing poorly and not
63 reporting testing statistics in a transparent manner.
- 64 iii) A blurring of the lines between scientific advice and political
65 decisions, with repeated mischaracterisation of political
66 decisions as ‘following the science’ which has caused concern
67 that scientific advisors are being positioned to take the blame
68 for poor political decisions.

FRIDAY 25, F7 CONTINUED

- 69 iv) Conspiracy theories being spread online causing serious harm,
70 including attacks on 5G masts and the workers involved in
71 installing them, a heightened risk of people drinking bleach, and
72 some people not seeking medical help at all, believing wrongly
73 that medical professionals want to kill them or that entering
74 hospital environments now poses an unacceptable risk.
- 75 v) Unsourced pre-briefings of changes in government advice to
76 friendly journalists which, when reported, sensationalised the
77 scale and meaning of some changes and caused public confusion.
- 78 vi) Political attempts to make it harder for journalists to do their
79 jobs and hold the Government to account by, for example,
80 banning reporters from press briefings, not allowing follow-
81 up questions on difficult subjects, preventing specialists
82 from answering questions, and branding challenging outlets
83 as 'campaigning newspapers' when they bring important
84 information to light.
- 85 vii) The Government's channelling of state advertisement contracts
86 to the wealthiest press corporations without any requirement
87 to protect journalists' jobs and without evidence that their
88 approach provides value for money for the taxpayer, whilst
89 failing to provide support for smaller independent, investigative,
90 and scientific publishers, despite the particularly important role
91 these types of journalism play in countering the proliferation
92 of fake news and underpinning democracy, especially during
93 pandemics.

94 Conference believes that:

- 95 a) Radical transparency is essential: open government empowers
96 citizens to access the documents and proceedings of the
97 government to allow for effective public oversight.
- 98 b) Statistics are an essential public asset and a necessity for
99 informed public policy decisions.
- 100 c) Open public discourse and public participation improves policy-

FRIDAY 25, F7 CONTINUED

- 101 making and builds public trust.
- 102 d) The independence of scientific advisors should be protected.
- 103 e) Publishers and platforms should be subject to effective
- 104 regulation regarding their content.
- 105 f) A free and accountable media is essential for retaining public
- 106 trust.

107 Conference calls for:

- 108 1. The Government to re-commit to the principles of open
- 109 government, starting with an independent assessment of its
- 110 performance during the COVID-19 pandemic in line with the
- 111 principles of recent National Action Plans for Open Government.
- 112 2. Parliamentary scrutiny to be intensified during crises, such
- 113 as through a virtual parliament and a special parliamentary
- 114 committee to be chaired by a respected opposition party figure.
- 115 3. Mandating the Chair of the UK Statistics Authority to provide
- 116 regular proactive comment on the presentation of official
- 117 statistics by Government during COBR level crises.
- 118 4. A review into the appointment and composition of the Scientific
- 129 Advisory Groups for Emergencies, and the transparency of
- 120 its decision-making process with a view to embedding the
- 121 principles of diversity, independence and transparency, which
- 122 will in future improve decision-making and build public trust
- 123 and remove any potential for or perception of political or other
- 124 undue influence.
- 125 5. The Government to use citizens' juries, virtual if necessary, to
- 126 give the public a greater voice on the choices as we either come
- 127 out of the crisis or enter a new phase, so that consensus and
- 128 public trust can be built.
- 129 6. The Leveson model of co-regulation for publishers to be
- 130 extended to all platforms which allow comment from both paid
- 131 and unpaid contributors.
- 132 7. Government support packages to be made available to

FRIDAY 25, F7 CONTINUED

- 133 independent and corporate publishers on the same basis,
134 with greater transparency around the criteria and process for
135 applying for such funds.
- 136 8. The UK's political journalists to host regular press
137 conferences to which they choose which members of the
138 Government, or bodies and individuals of nationwide political
139 importance, to invite, and determine which journalists
140 and outlets ask questions, using the model of the German
141 Bundespressekonferenz.
- 142 9. A new charitable status created for public interest journalism
143 and tax credits for their subscribers.

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 9.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 12 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 9 – is 13.00, Monday 14 September. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Friday's Conference Daily.

19.50 Policy motion

Chair: Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC). Debate Aide: Nick Da Costa (Vice Chair, FCC).
Technical Aide: Jennie Rigg.

F8 Universal Basic Income

13 members

Mover: Adam Bernard.

Summation: Jane Dodds.

FRIDAY 25, F8 CONTINUED

1 Conference believes that:

- 2 A. The process of rebuilding Britain's economy after the COVID-19
3 pandemic, and the successful transition to a low-carbon, high-
4 tech economy, will require people to feel empowered to embark
5 on new careers, to undertake new training and learning, and to
6 start new enterprises.
- 7 B. The rapidly changing economy will necessitate a more flexible,
8 more supportive social security infrastructure to allow society
9 to cope with automation and changing patterns in commerce,
10 industry, and other areas of work.
- 11 C. The wide-scale social costs imposed by the pandemic have
12 made a greater scale of universal social support clearly
13 necessary and realistic, beyond what was possible when current
14 Liberal Democrat policy was formed.
- 15 D. In light of the above, a Universal Basic Income will be the best
16 way to provide people with a guarantee of income security and
17 thereby more flexibility and control over their careers and lives.

18 Conference furthermore believes that:

- 19 i) No-one should be left with insufficient income to feed, clothe,
20 and house themselves to an adequate standard.
- 21 ii) Having a secure income is a vital component for allowing people
22 to be able to exercise other freedoms and liberties.

23 Conference notes that:

- 24 a) Social security cuts, coupled with an extremely arduous claims
25 system, have left a great number of UK households lacking in
26 income security, a problem which is a source both of direct
27 hardship and considerable distress to those facing it.
- 28 b) The COVID-19 pandemic has, up to the start of June 2020, led
29 to over 600,000 job losses and a drop of almost half in job

FRIDAY 25, F8 CONTINUED

30 vacancies.

31 c) The Government hastily and inadequately implemented large-
32 scale income support, with many in need 'falling through the
33 cracks' and not receiving essential support in a timely manner; a
34 universal system, were one already in place, could have allowed
35 for a smoother transition to lockdown and provided greater
36 social and economic resilience during the crucial early stages of
37 the crisis.

38 d) Liberal Democrat policy has in recent times included living cost
39 support for entrepreneurs and improved financial support for
40 student living costs and lifelong learning, which a Universal
41 Basic Income framework would be a major step towards
42 implementing.

43 e) The existence of a Universal Basic Income must be in addition
44 to targeted welfare payments to those who have additional
45 needs – such as for housing, for single parents, or for expenses
46 incurred due to disabilities.

47 f) In Finland's recent UBI pilot, those who had received UBI
48 reported better financial wellbeing, stronger mental health
49 and a higher level of confidence. UBI did not deter people
50 from working; indeed, there was a slight tendency for them
51 to be more likely to find work. Manitoba's Minimum Income
52 experiment found similar results.

53 Conference therefore calls for:

54 1. Liberal Democrats to campaign for a Universal Basic Income,
55 paid to all long-term UK residents.

56 2. This income to be funded in a socially just and equitable
57 manner to create a fairer social security system for all.

59 3. This income to be implemented based on the best available
60 international evidence, rolled out in a phased manner to ensure
61 the reliability and effectiveness of the system.

62 4. This income to be streamlined and integrated with other

FRIDAY 25, F8 CONTINUED

- 63 necessary income support mechanisms including pensions and
64 student living cost support.
- 65 5. The Federal Policy Committee to work further on the details of
66 the implementation.
- 67 6. Liberal Democrats to continue to campaign for strong and
68 accessible targeted income support mechanisms, including but
69 not limited to effective housing and disability support payments.

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 9.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 12 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 9 – is 13.00, Monday 14 September. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Friday's Conference Daily.

21.00 Close of auditorium session, start of late fringe

Saturday 26 September

10.00 Question & answer session

Chair: Chris Maines. Debate Aide: Jenni Lang. Technical Aide: Jennie Rigg.

F9 Question and answer session on foreign affairs and looking beyond the end of the Brexit transition period

The panel will include:

- Baroness Northover (Lords Spokesperson on Foreign Affairs).
- Baroness Ludford (Lords Spokesperson on Europe).

Voting members may put questions on issues relating to foreign affairs and looking beyond the end of the Brexit transition period to the panel. Concise questions (maximum 25 words) may be submitted via the website at www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions until 16.00, Friday 25 September, or using the conference chat whilst the session is in progress. See page 11.

10.45 Interview

Chair: Bex Scott.

F10 Spokesperson Interview

The name of the spokesperson will be announced prior to conference.

#LDconf

11.10 Policy motion

Chair: Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC). Debate Aide: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC).
Technical Aide: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC).

F11 The Creation of a Federal United Kingdom

Scottish Liberal Democrats, Welsh Liberal Democrats, Rutherglen & Hamilton West.

Mover: Wendy Chamberlain MP (Spokesperson for Political & Constitutional Reform, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland).

Summation: Cllr Robert Brown.

- 1 Conference notes that:
 - 2 A. The future cohesion and existence of the United Kingdom is
3 threatened by a sense of alienation and powerlessness amongst
4 many of our citizens which has fuelled Brexit and the growth of
5 nationalism.
 - 6 B. The COVID-19 crisis and Brexit have demonstrated both the
7 value of the United Kingdom and the damaging inadequacies of
8 its current constitutional arrangements.
 - 9 C. Most people across the United Kingdom have multiple identities
10 which they recognise to varying degrees and which should be
11 reflected in the institutions of government.
 - 12 D. There is growing support for constitutional reform across the
13 nations and regions of the United Kingdom.

14 Conference believes that:

- 15 i) The constitution of the United Kingdom is not fit for the needs
16 of a 21st century liberal democracy.
- 17 ii) The best way to ensure the continued union between Scotland,
18 England, Wales and Northern Ireland is to create a truly federal
19 United Kingdom, as long advocated by Liberal Democrats.

20 Conference calls for:

- 21 1. A Declaration that the United Kingdom is a federal union that

SATURDAY 26, F11 CONTINUED

- 22 exists by the consent of the people of Scotland, England, Wales
23 and Northern Ireland where the founding principles of the
24 Union are:
- 25 a) Democratic government based on liberal values in
26 compliance with the European Convention of Human Rights
27 and which fully respect the diverse identities of our people.
 - 28 b) An equitable distribution of resources between different
29 parts of the United Kingdom based on their respective
30 needs.
 - 31 c) A duty of co-operation on both the Federal and State
32 governments to work for equality of opportunity, guarantee
33 the essentials of a decent life for our citizens, tackle climate
34 change and meet the challenges of a global economy.
 - 35 d) Subsidiarity so that the Federal Parliament does not have
36 the power to legislate in areas of competence of the
37 parliaments of the nations and regions of the Union without
38 their consent and that the exercise of public responsibilities
39 is decentralised as much as reasonably practicable.
- 40 2. Early measures to implement the Federal Declaration including:
- 41 a) Creating a Declaration of Rights as a foundation document
42 of a Federal United Kingdom which includes a new, modern,
43 inclusive definition of citizenship.
 - 44 b) The enactment and endorsement of the Federal Declaration
45 by Westminster and the Parliaments and Assemblies of
46 Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
 - 47 c) The creation of a United Kingdom Constitutional
48 Convention to lead the creation, on a wide civic and popular
49 basis, of a codified written constitution for Britain.
 - 50 d) The election of the House of Commons by Single
51 Transferable Vote and replacement of the House of Lords
52 by an Upper House with a proper democratic mandate on a

SATURDAY 26, F11 CONTINUED

53 basis that represents the nations and regions of the United
54 Kingdom.

55 3. The creation of powerful institutions to encourage and enable
56 co-operation between the governments and parliaments of the
57 various parts of the United Kingdom that would include:

58 a) Creating a United Kingdom Federal Council of Ministers to
59 enable the governments and parliaments of the various
60 parts of the Union to work better, building on the work of
61 the joint Ministerial Committees.

62 b) A power for one government to request formally that
63 another take specific necessary action to facilitate policy
64 objectives in an area where the other government has the
65 policy lead.

66 c) A duty on the Federal Government to consult with the
67 governments of the particular parts of the Union on
68 federal policies that would impact on their statutory
69 responsibilities.

70 d) Reform of United Kingdom-wide institutions to enable them
71 to serve all governments and parliaments within the United
72 Kingdom.

73 4. The transfer of additional powers to the Senedd Cymru (Welsh
74 Parliament) to create broad parity with the powers of the
75 Scottish Parliament including the creation of Wales as a distinct
76 legal jurisdiction.

77 5. Liberal Democrats in positions of power or influence in the
78 Scottish Parliament, Senedd Cymru and in local and regional
79 government to collaborate in campaigning and using their
80 influence to build a federal United Kingdom.

Applicability: Federal.

SATURDAY 26, F11 CONTINUED

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 9.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 14 September; see page 12. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 10.00, Friday 25 September; see page 9.

12.00 Auditorium break and fringe

14.00 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC). Debate Aide: Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC).
Technical Aide: Nick Da Costa (Vice Chair, FCC).

F12 The COVID-19 Pandemic

To ensure a timely and relevant debate on the COVID-19 pandemic, the Federal Conference Committee have decided to reserve this space on the agenda and to invite party members to submit motions about the pandemic up to the Emergency Motion deadline.

The deadline for submission of motions on the pandemic is 13.00, Monday 14 September. The selected motion will be available online the following week and in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily. See page 12.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 17.00, Wednesday 23 September. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 10.00, Saturday 26 September; see page 9.

SATURDAY 26

15.05 Question & answer session

Chair: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Debate Aide: Jennie Rigg. Technical Aide: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC).

F13 Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Members may put questions on any topic to the Leader of the Liberal Democrats.

Concise questions (maximum 25 words) may be submitted via the website at www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions until 16.00, Friday 25 September, or using the conference chat whilst the session is in progress. See Page 11.

16.00 Auditorium break and fringe

17.00 Party business

Chair: John Bridges. Debate Aide: Jenni Lang. Technical Aide: Duncan Brack.

F14 Reports of the Parliamentary Parties

Movers: Rt. Hon. Alistair Carmichael MP (Chief Whip of the Commons Parliamentary Party) and Lord Newby (Leader of the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords).

The deadline for questions to these reports is 13.00, Monday 14 September. Questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted until 16.00, Friday 25 September. See page 12 for further information.

SATURDAY 26

17.35 Interview

Chair: Bex Scott.

F15 Spokesperson Interview

The name of the spokesperson will be announced prior to conference.

#LDconf

18.00 Question & answer session

Chair: Cllr Joe Otten. Debate Aide: Chris Maines. Technical Aide: Jenni Lang.

F16 Question and answer session on COVID-19: the economic, work and educational legacy

The panel will include:

- Lord Fox (Lords Spokesperson on Business).
- Baroness Kramer (Lords Spokesperson on the Economy).
- Lord Storey (Lords Spokesperson on Education).

Voting members may put questions on issues relating to the economic, work and educational legacy of the COVID-19 pandemic to the panel. Concise questions (maximum 25 words) may be submitted via the website at www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions until Friday 25 September, or using the conference chat whilst the session is in progress. See page 11.

18.45 Close of auditorium session, start of late fringe

Sunday 27 September

10.00 Policy motion

Chair: Jenni Lang. Debate Aide: Chris Adams. Technical Aide: John Bridges.

F17 Emergency Motion or Topical Issue Discussion

This slot has been reserved for the debate of an emergency motion and / or discussion of a topical issue. The deadline for emergency motions and for suggestions for topical issues is 13.00 on 14 September. See pages 11 and 12.

The motion selected for debate or the motions proposed for the ballot will be printed in Conference Extra and Sunday's Conference Daily.

Emergency motion timing – mover of motion: 5 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 9.

10.50 Policy motion

Chair: Duncan Brack. Debate Aide: Nick Da Costa (Vice Chair, FCC). Technical Aide: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC).

F18 Racial Justice Cannot Wait

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Christine Jardine MP (Spokesperson for Women & Equalities).

Summation: Dr Mohsin Khan.

- 1 Conference notes with deep concern and regret that:

SUNDAY 27, F18 CONTINUED

- 2 i) George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man, was killed by a
3 Minneapolis police officer who knelt on his neck for 8 minutes
4 and 46 seconds, sparking overwhelmingly peaceful Black Lives
5 Matter protests in the US, the UK and around the world.
- 6 ii) In the UK, too many people's lives are blighted by discrimination
7 and inequality; for example, black and Asian children are more
8 than twice as likely to grow up in persistent poverty as white
9 children and, in the mental health system, black, Asian and
10 minority ethnic (BAME) people have worse outcomes.
- 11 iii) The UK has never properly addressed the long shadow of
12 the British Empire; the Windrush Lessons Learned Review
13 identified "poor understanding of Britain's colonial history, the
14 history of inward and outward migration, and the history of
15 black Britons" as one of the reasons the scandal was able to
16 happen, compounded by "a lack of institutional memory" and
17 "an unwillingness or inability to learn from past mistakes, or to
18 engage with experts and local communities".
- 19 iv) BAME people are over-represented throughout the criminal
20 justice system, including being more likely to be stopped and
21 searched, and being more likely to be sentenced to prison once
22 convicted of a crime.
- 23 v) Gypsy, Roma and Traveller, Black Caribbean and mixed-race
24 children are significantly more likely to be excluded from school
25 than other pupils.
- 26 vi) Parts of British society where significant power resides are
27 still disproportionately dominated by white people, including
28 the judiciary, police, senior ranks of the Armed Forces, and
29 corporate boards.
- 30 vii) Under the Conservatives' Hostile Environment, people who have
31 every right to live in the UK – disproportionately those from
32 BAME backgrounds – continue to be wrongly denied access to
33 healthcare, made homeless, detained and even deported, as
34 demonstrated by the appalling Windrush Scandal.
- 35 viii) BAME communities have been disproportionately affected by

SUNDAY 27, F18 CONTINUED

36 the coronavirus pandemic, both in terms of health outcomes
37 and the economic impact.

38 ix) The impact of inequality, prejudice, and discrimination is
39 multiplied for BAME women, those who are disabled and those
40 who are LGBT+.

41 Conference affirms that Black Lives Matter.

42 Conference believes it is unacceptable that, in the 21st century,
43 people are discriminated against on the basis of their race, and
44 reaffirms the commitment in the Liberal Democrat constitution to
45 uphold the values of individual and social justice, reject all prejudice
46 and discrimination, and oppose all forms of entrenched privilege and
47 inequality.

48 Conference further reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitment to
49 combat racism – whether conscious or unconscious, individual or
50 institutional – wherever we find it, including within our own party.

51 Conference calls on the Government to tackle racial injustice now,
52 including by abolishing the Conservatives' Hostile Environment,
53 ending the disproportionate use of Stop and Search, reducing
54 the number of pupils excluded from school, and exposing and
55 confronting the stereotyping and demagoguing in public life and the
56 media that inflames hatred and leads to spikes in hate crimes.

57 In particular, conference calls on the Government to:

58 1. Address structural inequality by:

59 a) Developing a COVID-19 Race Equality Strategy, to form part
60 of a new Social and Race Equality Contract, which should
61 inform all areas of policymaking to ensure fairness and
62 equality.

SUNDAY 27, F18 CONTINUED

- 63 b) Implementing in full the recommendations of the Windrush
64 Lessons Learned Review, without further delay.
- 65 c) Immediately repealing the Conservatives' 'Right to Rent'
66 law, which has been shown to cause racial discrimination in
67 access to housing.
- 68 d) Supporting BAME survivors of domestic abuse including by
69 recognising and addressing the additional barriers they face
70 to receiving the help they need.
- 71 e) Requiring organisations with more than ten employees and
72 in receipt of public funds to use name-blind recruitment
73 processes, and requiring all universities to use name-blind
74 student recruitment processes.
- 75 f) Implementing in full the recommendations of the
76 McGregor-Smith Review, including ensuring that all listed
77 companies and businesses employing more than 50 people
78 publish workforce data broken down by race and pay band
79 and publish five-year aspirational diversity targets.

80 2. Deliver equality in the justice system by:

- 81 a) Implementing in full the recommendations of the Lammy
82 Review and the Angiolini Review, without further delay.
- 83 b) Repealing Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public
84 Order Act, which allows police officers to stop and search
85 people without suspicion.
- 86 c) Immediately halting the police's use of facial recognition
87 surveillance, which is most likely to wrongly identify black
88 people and women.
- 89 d) Reducing the number of people unnecessarily in prison,
90 including through greater use of pre-charge diversion
91 schemes for young people, effective community sentences
92 and restorative justice where appropriate.

93 3. Guarantee equal representation in society by:

SUNDAY 27, F18 CONTINUED

- 94 a) Legislating to allow all-BAME shortlists for candidates for
95 public office.
- 96 b) Requiring the police, prison service, judiciary and other
97 public bodies to adopt ambitious targets for improving the
98 diversity of their workforce and make regular reports on
99 their progress to Parliament.
- 100 c) Scrapping Conservative plans to require voters to bring
101 identification with them to vote, which would present a
102 significant barrier to democratic engagement for already
103 marginalised groups, including BAME communities.
- 104 4. Address the suffering and injustice caused by the British Empire
105 and promote reconciliation, including by:
- 106 a) Funding local Citizens' Assemblies to bring people together
107 to learn about and discuss the portrayal of the British
108 Empire in their areas and identify positive actions to
109 address it, including the removal of statues and memorials
110 that commemorate slavery and other racist practices and
111 identifying people and events to be celebrated in their
112 place.
- 113 b) Setting up a commission to establish, through public
114 hearings, the scale and extent of human rights abuses and
115 other wrongdoing committed by the British Empire, and to
116 formally recognise living victims of torture and other forms
117 of ill treatment at its hands and determine appropriate
118 redress for them, while maintaining our support for the
119 Stormont House Agreement in relation to Northern Ireland.
- 120 c) Facilitating a review of the national history curriculum by
121 leading historians and advocates from BAME backgrounds,
122 with the aim of diversifying the syllabus and broadening
123 its remit to cover a much wider range of not only black
124 history but the history of all BAME people, and providing an
125 understanding of the complex history of the British Empire.

SUNDAY 27, F18 CONTINUED

Applicability: Federal; except lines 1. c) and d) (lines 65–70), the words ‘and requiring ... processes’ in 1. e) (lines 73–74), 4. a) (lines 106–112) and 4. c) (lines 120–125), which are England only; and 2. (lines 80–92) and 3. b) (lines 96–99), which are England and Wales.

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 9.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 14 September; see page 12. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Sunday’s Conference Daily.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 10.00, Saturday 26 September; see page 9.

12.00 Auditorium break and fringe

14.00 Policy motion

Chair: Chris Adams. Debate Aide: Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC). Technical Aide: Jennie Rigg.

F19 Save the BBC

10 members

Mover: Daisy Cooper MP (Spokesperson for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport).

Summation: Baroness Bonham-Carter (Lords Spokesperson for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport).

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 i) On 16 February 2020, the Sunday Times reported that the
- 3 Government plans to force the BBC to sell off most of its radio

SUNDAY 27, F19 CONTINUED

- 4 stations, close some television channels, scale back its website,
5 and replace the television licence with a subscription model
6 from 2027.
- 7 ii) The Prime Minister's most senior adviser, Dominic Cummings,
8 has described the BBC as the Conservative Party's "mortal
9 enemy"; his think-tank called for a campaign to undermine the
10 BBC's credibility, for a new broadcaster akin to Fox News in the
11 USA, and for the legalising of political advertising on television.
- 12 iii) The Government's consultation on decriminalising evasion of
13 the licence fee, published on 5 February, ignores the conclusion
14 of the comprehensive and independent 2015 Perry review that
15 the current regime is "broadly fair and proportionate", and
16 admits that this would lead to higher, non-means-tested fines
17 for evaders, the use of bailiffs, the loss of up to £150 million a
18 year in revenue, and up to £45 million extra in collection costs,
19 which could "significantly reduce the value for money for both
20 licence fee payers and taxpayers".
- 21 iv) The BBC has played a uniquely invaluable role in educating the
22 public on the coronavirus pandemic, producing informative
23 documentaries and online content that clearly distinguishes
24 safe courses of action from pseudoscientific, inaccurate
25 proposals and misinformation campaigns.
- 26 v) The strength of the BBC lies in its universal availability, its
27 independent and impartial approach, and its accountability to
28 the viewing public.

29 Conference believes that:

- 30 a) As a public service broadcaster, the BBC has a vital and unique
31 place in the UK's media landscape, with a mission to inform,
32 educate and entertain across television, radio and online, unlike
33 its competitors; this includes providing impartial news coverage,
34 specialist education programming, risk-taking creative output, a
35 range of original content, and content that reflects all the UK's

SUNDAY 27, F19 CONTINUED

36 nations and regions.

37 b) The BBC helps to promote the UK around the world, being one
38 of the top four most recognised British brands internationally,
39 according to 2018 research.

40 c) The UK's creative industries require a strong, politically
41 independent BBC, alongside a thriving independent television
42 sector, to invest in British talent and prevent the domination of
43 the creative landscape by US corporates.

44 d) The Conservative Government is not interested in a fairer
45 system of funding the BBC but is instead seeking to undermine
46 it at every turn to force it to cut much-loved television and radio
47 programmes and online services.

48 e) The Government was wrong to force upon the BBC the cost of
49 free licences for people aged over 75, and all funding decisions
50 must be subject to independent and transparent consultation in
51 future.

52 f) Dismantling the BBC was not in the Conservatives' 2019
53 manifesto and the Government has no mandate to attack the
54 broadcaster.

55 g) The current enforcement system means that fines are issued
56 in line with people's ability to pay, but magistrates must ensure
57 that imprisonment is reserved only for those who wilfully refuse
58 to pay accumulated fines, despite having the means to do so.

59 h) Every politician and party has their frustrations with the BBC's
60 news and political coverage – Liberal Democrats included – but
61 it is vital for our democracy that an independent, impartial
62 broadcaster can hold our politicians to account.

63 i) The BBC provides a range and universality of content that its
64 streaming rivals cannot; platforms such as Netflix and Amazon
65 Prime are (according to Netflix) "complementary to, and not a
66 replacement for, public service broadcasting" and this variety
67 benefits audiences and creatives alike.

68 Conference calls for:

SUNDAY 27 F19 CONTINUED

- 69 1. The Conservative Government to protect the BBC as an
70 independent, universally available, properly resourced public
71 service broadcaster, and to rule out moving the BBC to a
72 subscription model.
- 73 2. The Government to maintain stable, secure and long-term
74 funding for the BBC through the continuation of the licence fee
75 to the end of the current Charter period in December 2027, and
76 to ensure continued equivalent public funding beyond that.
- 77 3. Future decisions about the level of the licence fee to be made
78 transparently by an independent body to better ensure the
79 BBC's financial, operational and editorial independence from
80 the government of the day.
- 81 4. Senior politicians, particularly party leaders, to make themselves
82 available for scrutiny by journalists, such as through televised
83 interviews and debates, especially during election time.
- 84 5. The BBC's workforce and output at all levels and across all
85 nations and regions to be more diverse and reflective of the
86 country it serves.

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 9.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 14 September; see page 12. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Sunday's Conference Daily.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 10.00, Saturday 26 September; see page 9.

SUNDAY 27

14.50 Party business

Chair: John Bridges. Debate Aide: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Technical Aide: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC).

F20 Federal Policy Committee Report: questions and accountability

Mover: Sally Burnell (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee).

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 14 September. Questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra and Sunday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted until 16.00, Saturday 26 September. See page 12 for further information.

15.00 Policy motion

Chair: Nick Da Costa (Vice Chair, FCC). Debate Aide: Bex Scott. Technical Aide: Jenni Lang.

F21 A Green Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic

10 members

Mover: Wera Hobhouse MP (Spokesperson for the Climate Emergency, Energy and the Environment).

Summation: Duncan Brack.

- 1 Conference notes that:
 - 2 A. Despite the extensive economic disruption caused by the
 - 3 COVID-19 pandemic, global emissions of greenhouse gases are
 - 4 projected to fall by only four to seven per cent during 2020.
 - 5 B. The need for government intervention to ensure that the UK

SUNDAY 27, F21 CONTINUED

6 economy recovers from the impacts of the lockdown offers an
7 unprecedented opportunity to rebuild the economy to face the
8 climate emergency.

9 C. A climate-friendly recovery is better for the economy as well as
10 the environment as it generates more jobs and is less prone to
11 offshoring than orthodox recovery packages.

12 Conference believes that:

13 i) Excluding the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate emergency is the
14 biggest issue facing the UK and the world.

15 ii) The Government has so failed to face up to this challenge and,
16 in particular, has failed to publish a comprehensive programme
17 to achieve net zero emissions.

18 iii) The economic recovery must focus on green growth, creating
19 new green jobs and cutting emissions.

20 Conference reaffirms pledges in the Liberal Democrat 2019
21 manifesto to:

22 a) Cut emissions by 75 per cent by 2030, and achieve net zero
23 emissions by 2045 at the very latest.

24 b) Undertake a ten-year programme to retrofit homes and
25 business premises by 2030 to reduce emissions, cut energy bills
26 and eliminate fuel poverty.

27 c) Invest in renewable power so at least 80 per cent of electricity
28 is generated from renewables by 2030, while permanently
29 banning fracking.

30 d) Plant at least 60 million trees a year and restore the UK's
31 peatlands to absorb emissions and improve biodiversity.

32 e) Invest in public transport, electrifying Britain's railways and
33 ending the sales of new petrol and diesel cars by 2030.

34 Conference calls on the Government to:

SUNDAY 27, F21 CONTINUED

- 35 1. Set out plans for a green recovery from the economic damage
36 caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 37 2. Ensure that a large proportion of new jobs created are 'green
38 jobs' and ensure those who are unemployed due to COVID-19
39 are helped to reskill to fill them.
- 40 3. Refocus Treasury spending on to green projects and
41 infrastructure such as investment in public transport instead of
42 new roads.
- 43 4. Put the UK on the path to net zero by adopting binding interim
44 targets through the sixth carbon budget, due to be agreed in
45 2021.
- 46 5. Place a duty on all government departments and local
47 authorities to reduce emissions in areas they have responsibility
48 for.
- 49 6. Ensure that support packages for businesses recovering from
50 the impacts of lockdown include, where appropriate, legally
51 binding commitments to reduce emissions.
- 52 7. Embrace the positive impacts of the lockdown, including
53 encouraging more flexible working and increasing walking and
54 cycling.
- 55 8. Work as closely as possible with the EU in tackling the climate
56 emergency, including joining the EU Emission Trading Scheme
57 and fulfilling the UK's climate commitments jointly with the EU.
- 58 9. Work to ensure that the delayed climate conference (CoP26)
59 sees countries adopting much more ambitious emission targets
60 than in their initial national plans.

Applicability: Federal; except b) (lines 24–26) and 5. (lines 46–48), 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 9.

SUNDAY 27, F21 CONTINUED

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 14 September; see page 12. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Sunday's Conference Daily.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 10.00, Saturday 26 September; see page 9.

16.00 Auditorium break and fringe

17.00 Interview

Chair: John Bridges.

**F22 Willie Rennie MSP,
Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats
@willie_rennie, #LDconf**

17.25 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC). Debate Aide: Jenni Lang. Technical Aide: Chris Adams.

F23 Europe

To ensure a timely and relevant debate on the UK's future relationship with the European Union, the Federal Conference Committee have decided to reserve this space on the agenda and to invite members to submit motions on this subject up to the Emergency Motion deadline.

The deadline for submission of motions on Europe is 13.00, 14 September. The selected motion and agenda items will be available online the following week and in Conference Extra. See page 12.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 17.00, Wednesday 23

SUNDAY 27, F23 CONTINUED

September; see page 12. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Sunday's Conference Daily.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 10.00, Saturday 26 September; see page 9.

18.45 Close of auditorium session, start of late fringe

Monday 28 September

14.00 Party business

Chair: Duncan Brack. Debate Aide: Jennie Rigg. Technical Aide: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC).

F24 Federal Board Report: questions and accountability

Mover: Dr Mark Pack (President of the Liberal Democrats).

The Federal Board report is the chance for party members to hear how the party is being run and what is being done to implement the election review, and to put questions direct to the Party President.

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 14 September. Questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra and Monday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted until 16.00, Sunday 27 September. See page 12 for further information.

F25 Campaign for Gender Balance Report: questions and accountability

Mover: Candy Piercy (Chair, Campaign for Gender Balance).

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 14 September. Questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra and Monday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted until 16.00, Sunday 27 September. See page 12 for further information.

14.15 Party business

Chair: Duncan Brack. Debate Aide: Jennie Rigg. Technical Aide: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC).

MONDAY 28

F26 Federal Appeals Panel Report and Appointment

Mover: Alan Masters (Chair, Federal Appeals Panel).

Conference will be asked to vote on the membership of the Federal Appeals Panel as set out in the report document.

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 14 September. Questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra and Monday's Conference Daily. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted until 16.00, Sunday 27 September. See page 12 for further information.

F27 Membership Subscriptions and Federal Levy

Federal Board

Mover: Anthony Harris (Chair, Federal Finance and Resources Committee).

Summation: Dr Mark Pack (President of the Liberal Democrats).

- 1 Conference agrees to the following for 2021:
 - 2 1. To encourage further membership growth by maintaining
3 the current membership rates of £72 (recommended), £12
4 (standard minimum), £6 (minimum for those in receipt of or
5 entitled to state benefits), £6 (minimum for members paying
6 via Young Liberals), and £1 (minimum for members paying via
7 Young Liberals in their first two years).
 - 8 2. That nothing in this motion shall prevent a State Party from
9 setting via their internal procedures higher recommended or
10 minimum subscription rates or from introducing additional
11 concessionary rates.
 - 12 3. That the Federal Levy remain at 55% for 2021.

MONDAY 28, F27 CONTINUED

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 9.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 14 September; see page 12. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Sunday's Conference Daily.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 10.00, Sunday 26 September; see page 9.

14.50 Speech

Chair: Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC).

F28 The Leader of the Liberal Democrats

#LDconf

16.00 Auditorium break and fringe

17.00 Consultative session

Chair: Jennie Rigg. Debate Aide: Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC). Technical Aide: John Bridges.

F29 The World After COVID-19

How does the party need to update and develop its policy in the light of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 emergency? How do we want the World after COVID-19 to be different from business as usual? The Federal Policy Committee has organised this session to consult party members on these vital questions.

MONDAY 28, F29 CONTINUED

The session will allow party members to feed back ideas in response to the consultation paper (available on the website at www.libdems.org/conference_papers) and also give an opportunity to highlight some of the ideas that have emerged from the Liberal Democrat Policy Lab.

Party members wishing to contribute during the session should submit a speaker's card by 16.00, Sunday 27 September. See page 10.

18.05 Policy motion

Chair: Chris Adams. Debate Aide: Nick Da Costa (Vice Chair, FCC). Technical Aide: Cllr Joe Otten.

F30 Emergency Motion or Topical Issue Discussion

This slot has been reserved for the debate of an emergency motion and / or discussion of a topical issue. The deadline for submitting emergency motions and suggestions for topical issues is 13.00, Monday 14 September. See pages 11 and 12.

The motion selected for debate or the motions proposed for the ballot will be printed in Conference Extra and Monday's Conference Daily.

Emergency motion timing – mover of motion: 5 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 9.

18.50 Policy motion

F31 Hong Kong's Future

MONDAY 28, F31 CONTINUED

Chair: Chris Maines. Debate Aide: Duncan Brack. Technical Aide: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC).

16 members

Mover: Rt. Hon. Alistair Carmichael MP (Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs).

Summation: Christine Jardine MP (Spokesperson for Home Affairs).

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 i) The UK and China signed the Sino-British Declaration in 1984;
3 it was lodged at the United Nations, and included a 50 year-
4 long commitment to ensure that Hong Kong functions under a
5 'one country, two systems' framework in order to uphold Hong
6 Kong's high degree of autonomy.
- 7 ii) The late Lord Ashdown campaigned to provide the right of
8 abode to the people of Hong Kong if China ever reneged on the
9 promises enshrined in the Handover Declaration.
- 10 iii) In the last 18 months, up to two million people, across different
11 socio-economic backgrounds, have taken to the streets of
12 Hong Kong, calling for democratic reforms as well as protesting
13 against the Extradition Bill introduced in February 2019.
- 14 iv) Investigations by the Hong Kong government's Independent
15 Police Complaints Council (IPCC) into reports of police use
16 of rubber bullets, tear gas, water cannons, and firing live
17 ammunition lacked the power to subpoena witnesses, and a
18 panel of foreign experts working on the investigation stood
19 down after they claimed their concerns went unresolved.
- 20 v) Beijing passed the 'national security law' on 30 June 2020; the
21 law criminalises activities including undermining the power of
22 the central government, as well as giving the National Peoples'
23 Congress the power of interpretation of Hong Kong law.
- 24 vi) The UK Government have stated that the law is a violation of
25 the Joint Declaration, and have pledged that British National
26 (Overseas) status holders and their dependents will be eligible

MONDAY 28, F31 CONTINUED

27 to live and work in the UK for five years, after which time they
28 can apply for settled status, and after a further year, seek
29 citizenship.

30 vii) There are currently almost three million BNO status holders
31 and dependents; the BNO status scheme closed in 1997 and the
32 status cannot be inherited, so many young Hong Kongers are
33 not eligible.

34 Conference believes that:

35 a) The UK has a moral and legal duty to ensure that democracy,
36 the rule of law and human rights are upheld in Hong Kong.

37 b) The UK must stand with the people of Hong Kong in their fight
38 for human rights, calling for an independent investigation into
39 police violence, and for universal suffrage in fair elections.

40 c) The so-called security law represents a flagrant violation of the
41 Sino-British Joint Declaration and the UK must therefore ensure
42 the people of Hong Kong have the right to live in the UK so that
43 their rights and freedoms are protected.

44 Conference calls for the UK Government to:

45 1. Expand their proposals so that all Hong Kongers are given
46 the right of abode and a pathway to citizenship, regardless of
47 whether or not they have BNO status; as well as to provide
48 an international 'lifeboat' system if the situation in the region
49 deteriorates.

50 2. Help ensure a truly transparent, independent investigation into
51 the protests, including police violence in the region; and to call
52 for the appointment of a UN Special Envoy or Rapporteur on
53 Hong Kong.

54 3. Work with other countries, including the G7 and the EU,
55 to encourage Beijing to retract the 'security law', which
56 contravenes the Sino-British Joint Declaration and the

MONDAY 28, F31 CONTINUED

- 57 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
58 4. Enact Magnitsky legislation and encourage mutual action
59 from other countries to hold Hong Kong and Chinese officials
60 responsible to account in the event of any gross breaches of
61 human rights in Hong Kong.

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 9.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 14 September; see page 12. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Sunday's Conference Daily.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 10.00, Sunday 27 September; see page 9.

19.40 Business motion

Chair: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Debate Aide: Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC).
Technical Aide: Jennie Rigg.

F32 Supporting Trans and Non-Binary People Within the Liberal Democrats

LGBT+ Liberal Democrats

Mover: Fraser Graham.

Summation: Charley Hasted.

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 i) The trans community has been subjected to widespread attack
3 within the media in recent years.

MONDAY 28, F32 CONTINUED

- 4 ii) The UK Government has shelved proposed reforms to the
- 5 Gender Recognition Act despite 70% of respondents to the
- 6 Government's consultation being in favour of self-definition.
- 7 iii) There has yet to be a trans or non-binary individual elected to
- 8 be a member of the House of Commons.
- 9 iv) All individuals should be able to be addressed using pronouns
- 10 with which they are comfortable.
- 11 v) All individuals should be able to use toilet facilities at
- 12 conferences without fear of harassment.

13 Conference believes that:

- 14 a) Trans women are women, trans men are men and non-binary
- 15 identities are non-binary.
- 16 b) People are free to define their gender as they choose, and that
- 17 choice should be respected.
- 18 c) All party members should feel able to attend party conferences
- 19 and events without fear of harassment or discrimination due to
- 20 their gender identity or presentation.

21 Conference calls for:

- 22 1. Liberal Democrat HQ and all venues for federal and regional
- 23 conferences to have at least one gender-neutral toilet facility;
- 24 this should be separate from the accessible toilet facility and
- 25 should be clearly signposted within the venue.
- 26 2. Conference passes to include preferred pronouns for all
- 27 attendees, with all attendees permitted to specify their
- 28 preferred pronouns at the time of registration or to opt not to
- 29 have pronouns shown on their pass.
- 30 3. Speakers cards for conference debates to allow for pronouns
- 31 to be specified to allow those moderating debates to address
- 32 speakers by their preferred pronouns.
- 33 4. Presenters, chairs and stewards at party events and training

MONDAY 28, F32 CONTINUED

- 34 sessions to be given guidance on avoiding unnecessarily
35 gendered language.

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 9.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 14 September; see page 12. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Sunday's Conference Daily.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 10.00, Sunday 27 September; see page 9.

20.45 Party business

Chair: Dr Mark Pack. Debate Aide: Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC). Technical Aide: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC).

F33 Party Awards

- The President's Award
- The Harriet Smith Liberal Democrat Distinguished Service Award
- The Belinda Eyre-Brook Award
- The Dadabhai Naoroji Award
- The Penhaligon Award
- The Patsy Calton Award
- The Bertha Bowness Fischer Award

21.00 Close of Conference

Standing orders

Note: These are the standing orders that apply to a party conference held physically. On Friday afternoon, Conference will be asked to approve an additional set of standing orders to allow conference to take place remotely. That set of standing orders for a remote conference can be found at the end of the original standing orders. Annotations in square brackets indicate those parts of the original standing orders which will not apply in a remote conference, but which will be re-applied at future physical conferences.

Standing orders – 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.

STANDING ORDERS

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.

Point of order

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

Policy motion

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

Policy amendment

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

Policy paper

A paper prepared by the Federal Policy Committee and submitted to conference for debate under the terms of Article 7.4 of the Federal Party constitution.

Procedural motion

A proposal that the conduct of a debate should be changed in a specific way. Procedural motions are:

STANDING ORDERS

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. [*Note: this does not apply to a virtual conference.*]

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 Board, Federal Policy Committee, conference itself or 2% of party members, in not fewer than 10% of local parties, under the provisions of Article 6.3 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 member attending conference who has satisfied the requirements for

STANDING ORDERS

attendance and has paid the registration fee presently in force for party members as agreed by FCC, and who is not a day visitor [or observer].

Original 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 each 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 Parties as listed in Article 17 of the Federal Party's Constitution, the Federal Board, 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, a motion accompanying the proposed strategy of the party, business motions, constitutional amendments and standing order amendments.
- c) Policy motions (including motions accompanying policy papers).
- d) Emergency motions.
- e) Topical issue discussions.
- f) Any other business which the Committee thinks appropriate.

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

1.2 Conference or council of state parties

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

1.3 Right to submit agenda items

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

STANDING ORDERS

- 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 Board, Federal Policy Committee, state parties, regional parties in England, local parties, Specified Associated Organisations and 10 party members. 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 party members.
- e) Proposals for topical issue discussions may be submitted by any party member.

1.4 How motions and amendments are submitted

All motions and amendments must be submitted to the Committee. They must identify a person authorised to agree to their being composited or redrafted. The detail of methods of submission will be notified for each conference via the party website.

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.

STANDING ORDERS

- c) The closing date for the submission of written reports from the bodies listed in paragraph 1.1(b), which will be set so as to enable their distribution with the agenda. Any supplementary report submitted later than this deadline may only be tabled at conference with the permission of the Committee.
- d) The closing date for the submission of questions to any of the reports listed in the agenda, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference, except for questions to the reports of the Parliamentary Parties in the House of Commons, House of Lords and European Parliament, where the closing date shall be at least one hour before the start of the business session at which the report is due to be considered.
- e) Notwithstanding 1.5(d), questions may always be submitted to any of the reports listed in the agenda arising from events occurring after the deadline specified in 1.5(d). The deadline for these questions shall be one hour before the start of the business session at which the report is due to be considered.
- f) The closing date for proposals for topical issue discussions, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference

1.6 Notification of deadlines

All dates specified under Standing Order 1.5 shall be publicised to party members and bodies entitled to submit motions. Publication in the party newspaper/magazine and website 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.

STANDING ORDERS

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 Board, 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. [*Note: this Standing Order will NOT apply to a virtual conference; voting will be undertaken in a different way if needed.*]

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 party member 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 selected for debate.

3.3 Balance between State and Federal policy debates

The Committee shall, in drawing up the agenda, have due regard to the

STANDING ORDERS

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

4. Selection of motions and amendments

4.1 Compositing or otherwise altering motions

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

The Committee may:

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

STANDING ORDERS

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 voting members as soon as practicable and shall specify a closing time for the ballot. Following the counting of any ballots the Committee shall organise the debates on the motions in the order chosen by conference in the ballots.

4.6 Emergency amendments

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

4.7 Topical issue discussions

The choice of subjects for topical issue discussions shall be made by the Officers of the Committee in consultation with the Officers of the Federal Policy Committee. In choosing the subjects, the Officers shall have regard to

STANDING ORDERS

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.

STANDING ORDERS

The exclusion shall remain in force pending the appeal. [*Note: this Standing Order will apply with modifications to a virtual conference: the Chief Steward may designate people to act as lead moderators for the conference chat.*]

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.

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

STANDING ORDERS

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

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

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 Board 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.

STANDING ORDERS

8.7 The selection of speakers

Voting members wishing to speak in any debate shall submit a speaker's card, prior to the commencement of the debate in which they wish to speak, stating whether they wish to speak for or against an amendment, the motion or part of the motion. The chair shall be responsible for the choice of the speakers and shall attempt to provide a balanced debate between the different viewpoints in the conference, but may announce a departure from this rule if there is an overwhelming preponderance of members wishing to speak on the same side. The chair shall have the discretion to accept speakers' cards after the start of the debate. Save as provided for in these standing orders, no person may speak more than once in any debate. *[Note: this Standing Order will apply with modifications to a virtual conference: speakers cards must be submitted electronically and by no later than 16.00 on the day before the relevant debate, although the chair has a discretion to accept cards submitted after the deadline.]*

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.

[Note: this Standing Order will NOT apply to a virtual conference if the new set of Standing Orders for a virtual conference is passed; instead a secure online poll or alternative shall be used.]

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.

STANDING ORDERS

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.

[Note: this Standing Order will NOT apply to a virtual conference.]

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. *[Note: this Standing Order will apply with modifications to a virtual conference: the chair must be contacted via debates@libdems.org.uk.]*

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

STANDING ORDERS

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 voting member)

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

STANDING ORDERS

- e) If the substantive motion is referred to the Federal Board, the Federal Policy Committee or the Federal Conference Committee that body shall, in its report to the next meeting of the conference, state what action it has taken on the reference.

11.3 Reference back (moved by the Federal Policy Committee)

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

11.4 Separate vote

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

STANDING ORDERS

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. [*Note: this Standing Order will NOT apply to a virtual conference.*]

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

STANDING ORDERS

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 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

STANDING ORDERS

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.

STANDING ORDERS

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 party members, and at least one Vice Chair, who must be members of the Committee either directly elected by party members or elected by one of the State Parties.

Standing Orders for a Conference held remotely

(pending approval by conference)

- a) In the event that the Federal Board determines it is impossible to hold a conference under the normal rules, and instead summons a special meeting of the conference to be held remotely, or the Committee otherwise directs that a conference shall be conducted remotely, these Standing Orders shall apply.
- b) A remote conference shall be conducted in accordance with the Standing Orders that apply to a conference not conducted remotely ('the original Standing Orders'), save that:
 - i) All references in the original Standing Orders to votes, whether by ballot, show of hands or show of voting cards, shall instead be conducted via an online poll or alternative secure method of online voting, designated by the Committee; similarly all references to speakers cards shall be taken to mean electronic speakers' cards.
 - ii) Any communications with the chair must be made via an online channel

STANDING ORDERS

designated by the Committee for that purpose and advertised to voting members prior to the commencement of a debate.

- iii) In original Standing Order 6.2, the reference to the Chief Steward shall also include lead moderators designated by the Chief Steward.
- iv) Original Standing Order 8.7 shall apply save that the Committee may set a deadline in respect of any given full session for the receipt of electronic speakers' cards; the chair shall have discretion to accept electronic speakers' cards after the deadline.
- v) Original Standing Orders 9.1, 9.2, 11.5 and Procedural motion 3 (Request for a Count) in the Glossary of Terms, shall not apply; instead, voting members shall, when appropriate, be directed by the chair to vote using the online voting tool made available to them. Standing Order 2.3 shall not apply.
- vi) In original Standing Order 10.1, any voting member may signal to the Chair via the designated online channel that they are moving a point of order, in lieu of rising in their place.
- vii) As, by necessity, all votes shall be counted votes, original Standing Order 11.5 shall not apply; instead, the chair shall ensure the result of the counted vote is publicised to members, via the appropriate online channel.

The Federal Party

Officers of the Federal Party

Leader – to be announced, 27 August 2020

President – Dr Mark Pack

Vice President (England) – Gerald Vernon-Jackson

Vice President (Scotland) – Sheila Ritchie

Vice President (Wales) – Paula Yates

Vice President (BAME) – Isabelle Parasram

Chair of FFRC – Anthony Harris

Treasurer – Lord German

Chief Executive – Mike Dixon

Federal Conference Committee (FCC)

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 FFRC.

The FCC has 22 voting members: the Party President; the party's Chief Whip in the House of Commons; three state party representatives; one representative from the FB, two from the FPC, one from the Federal Communications & Elections Committee (FCEC), one from the Federal People Development Committee (FPDC); and fifteen directly elected members. It elects its own chair, who must be one of the directly elected representatives.

Federal Policy Committee (FPC)

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.

FEDERAL PARTY

The FPC has 29 voting members: the Party Leader and six other parliamentarians, the Party President; two local councillors, three state party representatives, one member of the FCEC and 15 members directly elected by members. It must be chaired by the Leader.

Federal Board (FB)

The FB is responsible for directing, co-ordinating and overseeing the implementation of the Party's strategy and the work of the Federal Party. The FB also has responsibility, at least once per Parliament, for preparing a document outlining the Party's Strategy, for submission for debate and agreement by Conference.

The FB has 35 voting members: the Party President (who chairs it), the Party Leader and three other parliamentarians; the chairs of the three state parties; the chairs of each of the Federal Committees including a vice-chair of the FPC; a local councillor; a Young Liberals representative; three state party representatives; and 15 directly elected members.

Federal Finance and Resources Committee (FFRC)

The FFRC is responsible for planning and administering the budget and finances of the Federal Party, overseeing its administration and ensuring compliance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, as well as overseeing the Party's risk management operations and its Risk Register.

The FFRC has 14 voting members: the Registered Treasurer (who chairs it); the Registered Treasurers of the three state parties; five other members (elected by the FB); the Party Treasurer; the Party President; one representative of the Parliamentary Office of the Liberal Democrats; the Chief Executive; and one member of Federal staff.