

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

AUTUMN CONFERENCE AGENDA

GLASGOW 4TH-8TH OCTOBER 2014

Clear print version

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

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STRONGER ECONOMY, FAIRER SOCIETY

Welcome to the Agenda for the Liberal Democrat Autumn 2014 Federal Conference.

Conference venue

Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC), Exhibition Way, Glasgow, G3 8YW
www.secc.co.uk

Conference hotel

Crowne Plaza Glasgow, Congress Road, Glasgow, G3 8QT
www.crowneplazaglasgow.co.uk

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

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

The Federal Conference Committee

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

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

Members of the FCC will be available to give advice at the Information Desk at the following times: Saturday 13.00-15.00; Sunday to Tuesday 10.30-12.30.

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

Conference Rally

Celebrating the campaigning spirit of the Liberal Democrats.

Featuring speakers Jo Swinson, Paddy Ashdown and Nick Clegg.

Looking ahead to the General Election and the local elections in 2015, join Liberal Democrats from across the UK showcasing the party's talent, spirit and ambition.

Saturday 4th October 2014, 18.30-19.30.

SECC, Clyde Auditorium.

Auditorium Information

Information concerning the conduct of the main conference sessions is listed on the following pages of this Agenda.

The formal rules for the conduct of federal conference are set out in standing orders on pages 98-115.

General conference information is listed alphabetically in the separate Directory. The Directory also contains a map of Glasgow and plans of the venue.

If you have any questions on-site, please ask a steward or go to the Information Desk in the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC).

Conference Extra and Daily

Conference Extra shows changes and updates to the Agenda and Directory, and amendments to motions, topical issues, emergency motions and questions to reports. Conference Extra will be available at conference and online at www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers.

Conference Daily includes a report back on the previous day's business, updated session timings and any last-minute changes to movers, amendments, emergency motions, etc. Collect your copy of Conference Daily from the literature collection points each day.

Venue

All auditorium sessions take place in the Clyde Auditorium of the SECC.

Access to the SECC secure zone is possible only with a valid, visible conference photo pass worn with the official lanyard. You will be asked to show your pass when

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you enter the secure area and you are required to wear the pass with the lanyard visible at all times within the area.

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

Be aware that flash photography is frequently used in the auditorium. Please ensure that all mobile phones are on silent before entering the auditorium.

Disabled facilities

- Space for wheelchair users on the ground floor of the auditorium.
- Ramped access to the stage; the chair of the session will ensure wheelchair users are called in plenty of time to access the stage.
- An induction loop system, which can be linked to hearing aids; please ask a member of the stewarding team to direct you to the appropriate seating block.
- Sign language interpretation during all auditorium sessions; a number of seats are reserved for representatives using this service, at the front of the auditorium to the left of the stage.
- Reserved seats at the front of the auditorium for those who would benefit from being closer to the stage due to a visual impairment.

If you need assistance at the venue, please contact a conference steward via the Information Desk or our disabled access steward Robert Littlehales on 07712 667702 or rlittlehales@aol.com.

Debates and votes at conference

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

INFORMATION

The structure of debate on policy and business motions:

Proposer of the motion speaks

V

Proposers of any amendments speak in turn

V

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

V

Interventions taken (if listed on the agenda)

V

Summators of amendments speak in turn

V

The summator of the motion speaks

V

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

V

A vote will be taken on the motion as a whole

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

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

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

Separate votes: a vote on whether to delete or retain the specified words or section. A request for a separate vote may be submitted by any voting representative: by the start of the first conference session on the day before the debate is scheduled, or by the deadline for emergency motions for debates scheduled for the first day of

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conference; using the online form at www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers, by email to separate.votes@libdems.org.uk, or in writing to the Speakers' Table in the auditorium.

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

Speaking in conference debates

Length of speeches

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

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

Eligibility to speak

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

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

Applying to speak

To make a speech in a debate you must complete a speaker's card, collected from

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and returned to the Speakers' Table at the front of the auditorium, an auditorium steward or the Information Desk.

Completing a speaker's card

When completing a speaker's card, remember:

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

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

3 Make sure it's readable!

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

Interventions

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

Other conference sessions

Emergency motions and topical issue discussions

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

INFORMATION

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

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

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

Question & answer sessions

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

Questions may be submitted using the online form at www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions: by 17.00 Thursday 2 October.

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

- for the Leader's Q&A: by 12.40 Monday 6th October.
- for the environment Q&A: by 18.00 Tuesday 7th October.

Reports

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

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

INFORMATION

Deadlines for questions to reports:

- Federal Committees - 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September.
- Parliamentary Parties - 17.00, Thursday 2nd October.

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

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

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

Submitting amendments, emergency motions, topical issues, and appeals

Amendments and emergency motions

Amendments and emergency motions must be:

- signed by 10 voting representatives;
- or submitted by one or more of: a local party, state party, regional party in England, Federal Specified Associated Organisation or Federal Party Committee;
- and be submitted by 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September.

Submitters should include:

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

Topical issues

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

- by 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September.

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

Drafting advice

Submitters are encouraged to use our drafting advice service: draft amendments and emergency motions should be submitted by 13.00, Tuesday 9th September.

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

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

Appeals

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

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

and:

- be submitted by 09.00, Thursday 2nd October,
- to appeals@libdems.org.uk

Conference Timetable 2015

13th-15th March 2015, Liverpool

Drafting advice deadline (motions) - 13.00, Wednesday 5th January 2015

Motions deadline - 13.00, Wednesday 14th January 2015

Drafting advice deadline (amendments, emergency motions) - 13.00, Monday 24th February 2015

Deadline for amendments to motions, emergency motions, topical issues, questions to reports - 13.00, Tuesday 10th March 2015

19th-23rd September 2015, Bournemouth

Drafting advice deadline (motions) - 13.00, Wednesday 17th June 2015

Motions deadline - 13.00, Wednesday 1st July 2015

Drafting advice deadline (amendments, emergency motions) - 13.00, Monday 25th August 2015

Deadline for amendments to motions, emergency motions, topical issues, questions to reports - 13.00, Monday 7th September 2015

Ministerial Q&A Sessions

There will be a series of Ministerial Q&A sessions during conference, where you can ask questions of our Ministers on the issues relating to their responsibilities and their departments. All sessions will take place in Carron 1 in the SECC.

Saturday 4th October, 15.00-16.00: Energy; Ed Davey

Saturday 4th October, 16.30-17.30: DCLG; Stephen Williams

Sunday 5th October, 11.30-12.30: Business; Vince Cable & Jo Swinson

Sunday 5th October, 15.00-16.00: Home Affairs & Justice; Simon Hughes & Norman Baker

Sunday 5th October, 16.30-17.30: Treasury; Danny Alexander

Monday 6th October, 11.30-12.30: Scotland; Alistair Carmichael & Willie Rennie

Monday 6th October, 15.00-16.00: International Development; Lynne Featherstone

Monday 6th October, 16.30-17.30: Health; Norman Lamb

Tuesday 7th October, 11.30-12.30: Party Matters - members only; Tim Farron & Tim Gordon

Tuesday 7th October, 15.00-16.00: Work and Pensions; Steve Webb

Tuesday 7th October, 16.30-17.30: Education; David Laws

Wednesday 8th October, 09.30-10.30: DEFRA; Dan Rogerson & Kate Parminter

Wednesday 8th October, 11.00-12.00: Transport; Susan Kramer

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

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All conference sessions, apart from the Presidential Hustings above, take place in the Clyde Auditorium in the SECC. See Directory for venue plans and map.

Saturday 4th October

10.00-11.30 Presidential Hustings

The Presidential Hustings will take place in the Crowne Plaza, Argyll Suite.

13.20 Party business

Chair: Tim Farron MP

Aide: Dr Evan Harris

Hall Aide: Liz Lynne

F1 Formal Opening of the Federal Conference by Jo Swinson MP

13.25 Party business

Chair: Marisha Ray

Aide: Gareth Epps

Hall Aide: Liz Lynne

F2 Report of the Federal Conference Committee

Mover: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September; questions selected will be printed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 12.25 on Saturday 4th October. See page 9 for further information.

13.40 Speech

Chair: Paul Tilsley

Aide: Shas Sheehan

Hall Aide: Dr Evan Harris

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F3 Speech by Lynne Featherstone MP, Parliamentary Undersecretary of State for International Development

@lfeatherstone #LDconf

14.00 Policy motion

Chair: Chris Maines

Aide: David Rendel

Hall Aide: Gareth Epps

F4 Reducing Poverty and Discrimination

38 conference representatives

Mover: Professor Myles Wickstead

Summation: Dr David Hall-Matthews

- 1 Conference believes that:
- 2 A. It is unacceptable that anyone, anywhere in the world, should live in
3 absolute poverty in the twenty-first century.
- 4 B. A world in which there is deep-seated poverty and injustice is a more
5 dangerous place.
- 6 C. Absolute poverty can and must be eliminated by 2030, through
7 ambitious and concerted international efforts.
- 8 D. Such ambition is both morally right and in the national interest.
- 9 E. Principles of transparency and accountability must underpin all
10 international development activities, to enable people to pursue their
11 own paths from poverty to prosperity.
- 12 Conference notes that:
- 13 i) Significant progress has been made towards achieving the Millennium
14 Development Goals since 2000, in particular halving the proportion of
15 people living in absolute poverty globally.

- 16 ii) Helping to build prosperity abroad also helps to create British jobs and
17 provide markets for British exports.
- 18 iii) In an increasingly globalised world, challenges such as climate
19 change, pollution and disease affect developed and developing
20 countries alike, requiring a coordinated approach.
- 21 iv) Policies on issues such as trade, transparency, climate change,
22 agricultural subsidies and arms sales can impact partner countries
23 as much as - or more than - the provision of official development
24 assistance (ODA).
- 25 v) NGO and private sector partnerships add great value alongside aid;
26 both by helping to develop capacity in low-income and middle-income
27 countries, and by increasing public understanding of and support for
28 international development in the UK.
- 29 vi) There is potential for wider and deeper international networks across
28 civil society.
- 29 vii) The impacts of global threats are exacerbated by poverty and
30 inequality.
- 31 vii) Eliminating absolute poverty requires specific action to address the
32 needs of groups facing social, political or economic discrimination, in
33 order to ensure that no-one is left behind.
- 34 ix) Extreme discrimination and violence, such as Female Genital
35 Mutilation, need to be addressed not only in the developing world but
everywhere, including in the UK.

36 Conference welcomes:

- 37 a) The Coalition Government's achievement in becoming the first G8
38 country to meet its commitment to provide 0.7% of gross national
39 income in ODA, despite challenging economic circumstances.
- 40 b) Liberal Democrat Michael Moore's Private Member's Bill to enshrine
41 this commitment in law.
- 42 c) Government efforts to increase the transparency of financial flows to
43 developing countries, including the activities of the extractive industries
44 as well as aid.
- 45 d) The efforts of Lynne Featherstone MP and other Liberal Democrats in

46 government to address Female Genital Mutilation, and to increase global
47 recognition of its importance, after it had been overlooked for decades.

48 Conference urges Liberal Democrats in government to:

- 49 1. Commit to elimination of absolute poverty by 2030, guided by the
50 principle of leaving no-one behind.
- 51 2. Provide support to people in developing countries that enables
52 everyone to participate fully in economic, political and social life and
53 have a say in decisions that affect them.
- 54 3. Focus on reducing discrimination against the poorest and most
55 disadvantaged members of society; particularly on the grounds of
56 gender, sexual orientation, disability or ethnicity.
- 57 4. Develop an International Gender Equality Strategy, including
58 recognition of women's right to education and freedom from enforced
59 marriage.
- 60 5. Deliver on our commitment to ending Female Genital Mutilation within
61 a generation.
- 62 6. Support an International LGBT Strategy, including a guaranteed right
63 not to be discriminated against.
- 64 7. Ensure that issues of environment and sustainability are fully integrated
65 with issues of economic development and equity in the post-2015
66 Goals.
- 67 8. Commit a significant proportion of aid to meeting global challenges
68 such as Climate Change and pollution.
- 69 9. Commit to eliminating TB, HIV and malaria - which disproportionately
70 affect poor people - within a generation.
- 71 10. Develop a 'whole of Government' approach to international
72 development, ensuring that policies of Ministries other than the
73 Department for International Development support global efforts to
74 reduce absolute poverty.
- 75 11. Lead international action to ensure that multinational companies
76 pay fair taxes in the developing countries in which they operate, by
77 proposing global tax standards that would eliminate tax evasion
78 practices such as transfer pricing and intra-corporation lending.

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79 12. Begin work to develop a new civil society partnership scheme,
80 supported by Government, that will encourage new sorts of
81 partnership; such as municipality to municipality, trades union to trades
82 union, and emergency service to emergency service.

Applicability: Federal.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion - see page 10 - and for requests for separate votes - see page 6 - is 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September; amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

14.45 Speech

Chair: Justine McGuinness

Aide: Pauline Pearce

Hall Aide: Shas Sheehan

F5 Speech by Rt Hon Simon Hughes MP, Minister of State for Justice and Civil Liberties

@SimonHughesMP #LDconf

15.05 Party business

Chair: Sarah Boad

Aide: Paul Tilsley

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

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F6 Expanding the Democracy of our Party with 'One Member, One Vote'

Federal Executive and 30 conference representatives

Mover: Sue Doughty

Summation: To be announced

1 Conference notes that currently, voting at conference is confined to
2 a limited number of members including MPs, Peers, Prospective UK
3 and European Parliamentary Candidates, Elected Mayors, Leaders of
4 Principal Councils and those who have been elected as Conference
5 Representatives by Local Parties, the number of Representatives being
6 determined by the size of the Local Party.

7 Conference believes that all members of the Federal Party should be
8 entitled, subject to the payment of the relevant registration fee, to:

- 9 1. Vote at Federal conference.
10 2. Vote for and stand for election to those Federal Committees which
11 include directly elected members.

12 Conference resolves this change should take effect from July 2015.

Applicability: Federal.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion - see page 10 - and for requests for separate votes - see page 6 - is 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September; amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

Constitutional amendment

F7 Expanding the Democracy of our Party with 'One Member, One Vote'

Federal Executive and 30 conference representatives

Mover: Sue Doughty

Summation: To be announced

- 1 In 2.7 (a): delete 'representatives present and voting' and insert
- 2 'members'.

- 3 In 3.2: delete 'but excluding the appointment of representatives to Federal
- 4 Conference'.

- 5 Delete 4.3 (b).

- 6 In 4.9: delete 'A Local Party shall not while its rights are suspended be
- 7 entitled to representation at the Federal Conference'.

- 8 In 5.5(b): delete 'Conference Representatives' and insert 'members'.

- 9 In 6.1: delete (a) to (h) inclusive and insert 'those members of the party
- 10 who have registered for Conference in accordance with any provisions set
- 11 out by the Federal Conference Committee and who attend'.

- 12 Delete 6.2, 6.3, and 6.4.

- 13 In 6.5: delete 'consultative', delete 'any member' and insert 'all members',
- 14 and delete 'and for all members who are not representatives to address
- 15 other sessions of the Conference'.

- 16 In 6.6: delete '200 representatives entitled to attend the Conference' and
- 17 insert '200 members'.

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- 18 In 7.2(i): delete 'elected by Federal Conference' and insert 'directly elected
19 members'.
- 20 In 8.1(i): delete 'elected by Federal Conference' and insert 'directly elected
21 members'.
- 22 In 12.1: delete '200 representatives entitled to attend the Federal
23 Conference in not less than 20 Local Parties (including, for this purpose,
24 the Specified Associated Organisations representing youth and students
25 as provided by Article 13.8' and insert '200 members'.
- 26 Conference resolves these amendments will take effect from July 2015.

Applicability: Federal.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion - see page 10 - and for requests for separate votes - see page 6 - is 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September; amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The existing text of relevant parts of the constitution is given below. A constitutional amendment requires at least a two-thirds majority to pass.

2.7 This Constitution may only be altered:

- (a) by a two-thirds majority of representatives present and voting at the Federal Conference;

...

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

- (a) a Local Party in the area of which the member lives, works or studies (or, with its consent, another Local Party);
- (b) a Specified Associated Organisation representing youth and/or

students; or

- (c) a State Party in accordance with its internal procedures (and so that any overseas member in a location where there is no Local Party may become a member via a State Party designated by the Federal Executive to act as agent for the Federal Party).

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

...

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

- (a) the selection of a prospective parliamentary candidate and the adoption of a parliamentary candidate shall be made:
 - (i) where for any constituency in a Local Party there are 30 or more members, by those members; and
 - (ii) where for any constituency within a Local Party there are less than 30 members, the Local Party Constitution shall specify whether all the members of the Local Party shall participate or only those from the constituency concerned.
- (b) the combined Local Party shall be entitled to send to the Federal Conference the higher of:
 - (i) the number of representatives which each component

- constituency with 30 members or more would be entitled to send if it formed a separate Local Party: and
- (ii) the number of representatives which that Local Party would be entitled to send if it comprised a single constituency.

...

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

...

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

...

- 6.1 The Conference shall consist of
- (a) representatives of Local Parties (and the Specified Associated Organisations representing youth and/or students as provided by Article 13.8);

- (b) the Parliamentary Parties as defined by Article 9;
- (c) Members of the Scottish Parliament and National Assembly for Wales in receipt of the party's whip;
- (d) the Officers specified in Article 12;
- (e) prospective parliamentary and European parliamentary candidates who shall continue as members of the Conference until the end of the calendar year in which they stood for election, unless a new prospective candidate is selected for the constituency;
- (f) Elected Mayors who are members of the Party;
- (g) Elected members of regional assemblies in receipt of the Party's whip; and
- (h) Leaders of council groups of the Part on principal councils.

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

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

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

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

- (a) a representative shall cease to hold office upon:
 - (i) resignation in writing;
 - (ii) cessation of membership of the Party; or
 - (iii) unless the Local Party concerned determines otherwise, on ceasing to be a member of that Local Party or on failing to attend any meeting of the Conference without giving notice (so far as practicable) of inability to attend or without reasonable cause;
- (b) if a vacancy shall arise (or a Local Party shall become entitled to additional representation between elections), the additional representative(s) shall be chosen by procedures determined and published by the Local Party Executive Committee.
- (c) if a representative shall indicate inability to attend a forthcoming meeting of the Conference, a substitute may be elected by the Executive Committee of the Local Party concerned; and
- (d) if a Local Party is entitled to at least three representatives, and subject to there being sufficient nominations, at least one shall be a man and one a woman.

6.4 For the purpose of such elections:

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

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

6.6 The Conference shall normally meet twice a year, for a week in the early autumn and a weekend in the early spring; additional meetings

may be summoned upon the requisition of the Federal Executive or the Federal Policy Committee or the Conference itself or 200 representatives entitled to attend the Conference. A meeting may be cancelled by the Federal Executive in exceptional circumstances.

...

7.2 The FPC shall consist of the following:

...

- (i) one more person than the total number elected or appointed under paragraphs (a) to (h) above elected by the Federal Conference (which shall be filled in accordance with electoral regulations) except that persons who, at the date of close of nominations for election under this paragraph, are MPs shall not be eligible to be candidates for election under this paragraph.

...

8.1 There shall be a Federal Executive, which shall be responsible for directing, co-ordinating and implementing the work of the Federal Party. It shall consist of the following:

...

- (i) one more person than the total number of voting members elected or appointed under paragraphs (a) to (h) above elected by the Federal Conference (casual vacancies shall be filled in accordance with the electoral regulations) except that persons who, at the date of close of nominations for election under this paragraph, are MPs shall not be eligible to be candidates for election under this paragraph.

...

12.1 The President shall be the principal public representative of the Party and shall chair the Federal Executive. The President shall be elected by the members of the Party for a term of two years starting from 1st January in the year immediately following the election and shall hold office until death, incapacity, resignation or the election of a successor;

the President shall be eligible for re-election once only. A candidate for the office of President shall require the nomination of not less than 200 representatives entitled to attend the Federal Conference in not less than 20 Local Parties (including, for this purpose, the Specified Associated Organisations representing youth and students as provided by Article 13.8). The President shall report to the annual meeting of the Conference and may make reports to any other meetings of Conference. The Federal Executive shall have the power, in the event of a casual vacancy, to elect an Acting President from any of the Vice-Presidents and to determine a convenient date for a ballot to elect a successor who shall serve for the remainder of the term, except that if the remainder of the term is less than twelve months, the successor shall serve for the remainder of the term plus a period of two years thereafter.

Standing order amendment

F8 Expanding the Democracy of our Party with 'One Member, One Vote'

Federal Executive and 30 conference representatives

Mover: Sue Doughty

Summation: To be announced

- 1 In the Glossary of Terms: delete the paragraph 'Elected representative'
- 2 and delete the paragraph 'Non-voting member'.

- 3 In the Glossary of Terms, under Special Conference: delete 'conference
- 4 representatives' and insert 'members'.

- 5 In the Glossary of Terms, under Voting Member: delete second sentence
- 6 (from 'This term' to 'conference').

- 7 In 1.3 (d): delete 'conference representatives' and insert 'members'.

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

11 In 11.1 (a): before 'member', delete 'voting'.

12 In 11.2: change title to 'Reference back (moved by a member)', and in (a),
13 before 'member', delete 'voting'.

14 In 11.5 and 11.6: before 'member', delete 'voting'.

15 In 12.5 and 12.5: before 'member', delete 'voting'.

16 Conference resolves these amendments will take effect from July 2015.

Applicability: Federal.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion - see page 10 - and for requests for separate votes - see page 6 - is 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September; amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The existing text of standing orders is given on pages 78-88 of this Agenda. A standing order amendment requires at least a two-thirds majority to pass.

16.20 Policy motion

Chair: Sandra Gidley

Aide: James Gurling

Hall Aide: Baroness Brinton (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F9 Towards Safer Sex Work

10 conference representatives

Mover: Dr Belinda Brooks-Gordon

Summation: Sarah Noble

- 1 Conference notes that:
 - 2 I. 'Sex work' encompasses a broad span of commercial activity that
3 includes phone-line operators, webcam broadcasters, actors in the
4 adult entertainment industry, escorts, and indoor as well as outdoor
5 sex workers.
 - 6 II. Prostitution in itself is legal but many of the related activities, such as
7 solicitation and brothel-keeping, are criminalised.
 - 8 III. The decriminalisation of sex work has been Liberal Democrat policy
9 since the 1994 publication of policy paper 3, Confronting Prostitution.
 - 10 IV. Sex workers are comprised of people in a variety of economic
11 situations or from marginalised groups, including single mothers,
12 students, men who have sex with men, and transgender people
13 saving so they can access adequate medical care.
 - 14 V. Many sex workers engage in the trade of their own volition without
15 economic coercion, often as a way to ensure financial stability and
16 even wealth completely on their own terms.
 - 17 VI. Peer-reviewed high quality academic research, along with senior
18 medical practitioners in the delivery of NHS sexual health services,
19 provide strong evidence for decriminalisation.
 - 20 VII. States such as New Zealand have moved to a policy of
21 decriminalisation of sex work with success in terms of the safety of sex
22 workers where it has reduced cases of violence against sex workers.
 - 23 VIII. Sex workers in New Zealand are allowed to work together and
24 organise themselves in the way they see fit, can protect their safety
25 much better, have more trust and a better relationship with the police
26 which is more conducive to detecting and punishing abuses.
 - 27 IX. In England, the 'Merseyside Model' which treats violence against sex

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28 workers as a hate crime, has been implemented in several major cities,
29 most notably Liverpool.

28 X. Amnesty International, from early 2014, engaged in a global
29 consultation on sex work with a draft policy recommending
30 decriminalisation, and at Amnesty's UK annual general meeting, a
31 motion in support of decriminalisation of sex work was 'comfortably'
32 carried.

33 Conference welcomes the work of Liberal Democrats, in particular:

34 1. The 2011 Home Office Review of Effective Practice in Responding
35 to Prostitution, signed by Lynne Featherstone MP as an Equalities
36 Minister, which argued for:

- 37 a) Safety to be made an overriding priority.
- 38 b) Translation services, ESL courses, and other language support for
39 migrant sex workers.
- 40 c) Violence against sex workers to be treated as a hate crime.
- 41 d) A focus of resources against the grooming of young women in
42 care homes.

43 2. The announcement in 2011 by Lynne Featherstone MP of a £100,000
44 grant towards piloting an 'Ugly Mugs' scheme aimed at protecting sex
45 workers, in conjunction with the UK Network of Sex Projects.

46 3. Prior to being a governing party, the opposition by Liberal Democrat
47 MPs to provisions in the Policing and Crime Act 2009 aimed towards
48 criminalising some aspects of sex work and working conditions
49 brought forward by a majority Labour government.

50 Conference expresses concern that:

- 51 i) Laws regarding solicitation and loitering force sex workers into isolated
52 areas where they are at more danger of sexual and physical violence.
- 53 ii) Laws prohibiting brothel-keeping prevent sex workers from working

- 54 out of the same premises to ensure their own safety.
- 55 iii) Raids of saunas in Edinburgh and London were orchestrated with
56 publicity in mind - including inviting the press to the raids in Soho
57 in December 2013 - rather than for the welfare and privacy of the
58 women in sex work.
- 59 iv) Studies promoting the criminalisation of clients or 'demand' often
60 conflate legal migrants of an ethnic minority background with trafficked
61 women in a way that is tantamount to racism.
- 62 v) Approaches which criminalise the purchase of sexual services but
63 not, overtly, the workers themselves, criminalise otherwise law abiding
64 people and divert criminal justice resources away from serious harms
65 in society, including young people in care homes at risk of grooming,
66 victims of trafficking, and migrant workers in domestic - and
67 sometimes sexual - servitude.
- 68 vi) The enforcement of the above approach in the 'Nordic' approach
69 in Scandinavian countries had no appreciable effect in preventing
70 violence against women or poverty, and has reduced negotiating
71 power that street workers previously had.
- 72 vii) Just as the criminalisation of homosexuality and abortion leads to
73 unsafe practices regarding LGBT and women's healthcare respectively,
74 criminalisation of sex work leads to unsafe sexual health practices.
- 75 viii) Immigration status, and not the welfare of women suspected of being
76 trafficked, is currently a priority within police forces.
- 77 ix) Sex workers invariably fear state violence and police brutality more
78 than they fear violence from people masquerading as clients, or from
79 members of the public.

80 Conference believes that:

- 81 A. Laws against rape and sexual violence need to be strongly enforced,
82 especially against people suspected of trafficking others.
- 83 B. There should be no bar towards consensual sexual activities between
84 any number of adults.
- 85 C. Every person has a right to bodily autonomy, and it is not for the State
86 to decide what a they can or cannot do with their body, including

87 engage in sex work if they so choose.

88 D. The abolition of sex work is not practically feasible without fully
89 eradicating circumstances related to economic hardship, and cannot
90 be sought through any prohibition on consensual sex work.

91 E. Decriminalisation of sex work would help engender better working
92 conditions and sexual health practices among workers.

93 F. Decriminalisation would also help foster a positive culture where the
94 importance of informed and enthusiastic consent is paramount.

95 G. It is our responsibility as liberals to ensure that the most disadvantaged
96 people in society are fought for just as hard as the least, and it is key
97 that we should sometimes just amplify their voices instead of offering
98 our own.

99 Conference calls for:

- 100 1. Continued support the principles in policy paper 3 and the
101 establishment of a Working Group to prepare an updated version
102 of the policy paper that deals with the issue of sex work in the 21st
103 Century.
- 104 2. In the interim, opposition to any steps to implement the Nordic
105 model and reaffirmation of our support for decriminalisation of sex
106 work, protections for survivors of violence against women, and
107 the promotion of safer sexual health practices and better sex and
108 relationship ethics, including in all tiers of the education system.
- 109 3. The 'Merseyside model', in which crimes against sex workers are
110 treated as hate crimes, to be rolled out nationwide.
- 111 4. The promotion of solutions to the problem of international trafficking
112 and forced prostitution that do not endanger the lives of sex workers.
- 113 5. Work to be taken in conjunction with sex worker organisations to
114 ensure the safety of workers, including reintroducing the Ugly Mugs
115 scheme on a more permanent basis.
- 116 6. For our commitment for strong social and community safety nets to be
117 reaffirmed, so that no person should be pressured to enter or be afraid
118 to exit sex work at any time.

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Applicability: England and Wales, except educational aspects of 'Conference calls for' 2 (lines 104-108) which are England only.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion - see page 10 - and for requests for separate votes - see page 6 - is 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September; amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

17.20 Close of session

Sunday 5th October

09.00 Policy motion

Chair: Qassim Afzal

Aide: Justine McGuinness

Hall Aide: Sandra Gidley

F10 First Aid in Schools

Liberal Youth

Mover: Chris Whitwood

Summation: Lee Dargue

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 i) Nearly 60% of adults do not feel confident enough to try to save a life,
3 according to ICM Research.
- 4 ii) Nearly 9 out of 10 11-16 year olds have been confronted with a
5 medical emergency, according to the British Red Cross.
- 6 iii) In Norway and Seattle, where emergency life-saving skills are taught
7 as part of the school curriculum, those who suffer a cardiac arrest
8 away from a hospital have a 52% chance of survival, compared to
9 18% in the UK.

10 Conference believes that:

- 11 a) First aid and life-saving skills are valuable both to individuals and to
12 society.
- 13 b) First aid and life-saving skills training should provide all pupils with
14 the opportunity of hands on and kinaesthetic learning, in addition to
15 theoretical knowledge.
- 16 c) First aid and life-saving skills training can help to increase pupil
17 engagement and attainment across the curriculum.
- 18 d) The addition of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) to schools

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19 could be of benefit in case of cardiac arrest and that Local Authorities
20 should work with schools to support them in providing AEDs if they
21 deem it beneficial.

22 Conference calls for:

- 23 1. The Department for Education to include first aid emergency life-skills
24 in the national curriculum in primary and secondary schools through
25 PSHE provision.
- 26 2. The Government to support schools in selecting first aid and
27 emergency life-saving skills training providers and teaching resources
28 according to their own curriculum.

Applicability: England only.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September; see page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 13.20, Saturday 4th October; see page 6 for further information.

09.25 Policy motion

Chair: James Gurling

Aide: Pauline Pearce

Hall Aide: Chris Maines

F11 Reforming the Welfare System

16 conference representatives

Mover: Kelly-Marie Blundell

Summation: James Sandbach

1 Conference believes that the test of a civilised society is the way in which
2 it cares for those unable to care for themselves and how it helps those in
3 need to fulfil their potential; the guiding principle of the UK welfare system
4 must be to ensure that none are left unable to meet their basic needs for
5 survival and participation in society.

6 Conference notes that:

7 A. The welfare system had been allowed to become overly complex and
8 unruly and that whilst Universal Credit is the biggest and most positive
9 development in the welfare system for years, it has suffered serious
10 implementation problems.

11 B. Benefit sanctions are hitting those in most need of support, with the
12 14 day rule leaving people penniless and having to visit food banks.

13 C. There is a growing backlog of assessments for Employment Support
14 Allowance claims and migrations from previous disability benefits,
15 alongside long-standing concerns identified in previous conference
16 motions over the quality of such assessments, notwithstanding the
17 annual reviews which have called for improvements.

18 D. Some system of discretionary hardship payments is required to assist
19 those most in crisis to prevent them from falling into abject poverty.

20 E. The rapidly expanding benefits bill must be tackled through alternative
21 approaches to reducing poverty such as increased employment, living
22 wage incomes and affordable housing.

23 Conference therefore calls for:

24 1. A review of Universal Credit implementation to address poor
25 administration, information management and data quality issues as
26 well cliff edges within Universal Credit that may disincentivise increased
27 working hours, or leave insufficient childcare or other basic needs
28 support.

29 2. Reform of the Hardship Fund to provide immediate loans to people
28 who have benefit sanctions, which will be repaid, and administered
29 through local government.

30 3. A different approach towards conditions and sanctions so that they
31 are only used as a last resort in a small number of cases where all
32 other approaches to engagement have failed; as a starting point the
33 Department of Work and Pensions should immediately implement the
34 recommendations of the Oakley Review.

35 4. Introduction of a single assessment process across different disability
36 benefits, based on real world tests of capability and functionality, with
37 better allocation into different groups and greater onus and incentives
38 on assessment contractors to collect relevant evidence from health
39 professionals working with those claimants, so that assessment
40 decisions can be right first time and avoid reconsideration and appeal
41 costs.

42 5. Improvements to the Work Programme; the programme should:

43 a) Have a stronger role for local authority commissioning to suit
44 local needs and requirements allowing charities to deliver to
45 the best of their abilities at a local level whilst preventing silos of
46 subcontracting.

47 b) Introduce a more specialist support pathway for ESA claimants
48 with more complex needs tailored services for enhanced
49 support to assist those with long term conditions and disabilities,

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50 supported by incentives for business to provide employment on
51 flexible and accessible basis.

Applicability: Federal.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September; see page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 13.20, Saturday 4th October; see page 6 for further information.

10.20 Presentation

Chair: David Rendel

Aide: Liz Lynne

Hall Aide: Justine McGuinness

F12 Scotland Presentation

The presentation will include contributions from:

- Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP, Secretary of State for Scotland.
- Willie Rennie MSP, Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats.

10.50 Policy motion

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

Aide: Paul Tilsley

Hall Aide: James Gurling

F13 Doing What Works to Cut Crime (Crime and Criminal Justice Policy Paper)

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Geoff Payne (Chair of the Policy Working Group)

Summation: Julian Huppert MP (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

1 Conference welcomes the fall in crime that has occurred under the Coalition
2 Government and the work done by Liberal Democrats to achieve it.

3 Conference rejects the approach of the Conservative and Labour
4 Parties, which has too often ignored evidence of what works, needlessly
5 compromised our civil liberties and freedoms, and wasted money.

6 Conference believes that:

7 i) Crime policy must be based on the evidence of what works.

8 ii) More preventative work is required, particularly through joined-up
9 working with other public services.

10 iii) Too many victims of crime still have a negative experience in the
11 system.

12 iv) Too many criminals are not required to confront their behaviour.

13 v) More action is required to tackle violence against women and girls.

14 vi) Too few prisoners receive effective pre-release support and re-
15 offending rates remain unacceptably high.

16 vii) A new preventative, health-based approach is required to tackle drug
17 and alcohol misuse.

18 viii) Stop and Search remains a source of deep mistrust between the
19 police and the public, and requires reform.

20 Conference therefore endorses policy paper 118, Doing What Works to
21 Cut Crime, particularly its proposals:

22 1. To prevent crime by:

23 a) Promoting community restorative justice to target those at risk of

- 24 offending.
- 25 b) 'Designing it out' of products and new developments through
- 26 changes to Building Regulations, making the police statutory
- 27 planning consultees and raising awareness about anti-theft
- 28 measures in electronic devices.
- 29 c) Expanding the use of peer group influence on those at risk of
- 28 offending.
- 29 d) Utilising the experience, knowledge and innovation of the third
- 30 sector and creating a more joined-up, innovative approach
- 31 towards service delivery.
- 32 e) Working closely with our European partners and the wider world to
- 33 prevent serious and organised crime.
- 34 2. To adopt a new evidence-based approach towards drug and alcohol-
- 35 related crime that recognises that its causes are primarily health issues
- 36 by:
- 37 a) Passing the lead in those areas to the Department of Health,
- 38 keeping law enforcement in the Home Office.
- 39 b) Making decisions on drug classifications from the Advisory Council
- 40 on the Misuse of Drugs binding.
- 41 c) Subject to implementation work, adopting a model whereby
- 42 those arrested with drugs for personal use would be diverted to
- 43 treatment for problematic users and education or Fixed Penalty
- 44 Notices for those who are not.
- 45 d) Subject to a review finding that there is good evidence of
- 46 effectiveness (in relation to public health and reduced criminal
- 47 activity) from international contexts, we would invite that review
- 48 to consider potential frameworks for a strictly regulated cannabis
- 49 market with tight controls on quality and strength to curb
- 50 organised crime.
- 51 e) Imposing severe penalties on those who manufacture, import
- 52 and/or deal in illegal drugs - the dealing of illegal drugs underpins
- 53 organised crime and is rightly a serious offence.

- 54 3. To improve support for victims of crime by:
- 55 a) Creating a national helpline for the victims of sexual offences.
- 56 b) Implementing a single point of contact for victims who want to
- 57 complain.
- 58 c) Ensuring that all hate crimes are aggravated offences and more
- 59 harshly sentenced.
- 60 d) Promoting Restorative Justice which places the victim at the heart
- 61 of rehabilitation.
- 62 e) Working with the Department for Education to ensure that Female
- 63 Genital Mutilation, domestic violence and other violence against
- 64 women and girls properly features on the curriculum.
- 65 f) Ensuring those suffering from domestic violence, who have
- 66 retracted their evidence against their partner because of fear and
- 67 intimidation, are not prosecuted for making false allegations.
- 68 4. For more effective policing in which the community can have
- 69 confidence, including:
- 70 a) Building an assessment of harm into the crime figures.
- 71 b) The wider use of crime maps and GPS data so that resources can
- 72 more effectively deployed.
- 73 c) Widening the use of body-worn cameras to make sure that Stop
- 74 and Search is conducted properly and to secure better evidence.
- 75 d) Tightening up Stop and Search with new Codes of Practice and,
- 76 for Section 60 areas, a requirement for judicial authorisation.
- 77 e) A presumption in favour of asset and back office sharing
- 78 between forces and mergers where the local community want
- 79 it; subject always to retaining a link between the police and local
- 80 communities.
- 81 f) Replacing Police and Crime Commissioners with democratic
- 82 Police Boards.
- 83 g) Expanding the current pilots of mental health related liaison and
- 84 diversion and street triage models.
- 85 h) Tackling corruption.

- 86 i) Safeguarding civil liberties by limiting kettling and the use of
87 undercover officers.
- 88 5. To focus the Criminal Justice System on what works by:
- 89 a) Gathering outcomes data court by court and creating a single
90 body to spread best practice throughout the system.
- 91 b) Improving the diversity of the Magistracy.
- 92 c) Safeguarding jury trials in the Crown Court and streamlining court
93 procedure.
- 94 d) Injecting alternative sources of funding for criminal legal aid
95 through the use of restrained assets and company directors
96 insurance so as to guarantee a diverse market of providers.
- 97 6. To end the cycle of reoffending by:
- 98 a) Embedding ‘through the gate’ support for those approaching
99 release.
- 100 b) Ending the imprisonment of women who do not need to be
101 incarcerated through a Women’s Justice Board along the lines of
102 the successful Youth Justice Board and by taking the interests of
103 children into account when sentencing.
- 104 c) Piloting intermittent custody models including weekend or evening
105 custody, curfews and GPS tagging to limit the liberty of offenders
106 whilst allowing them to carry on working.
- 107 d) Devolving the custody budget for young offenders to local
108 authorities.
- 109 e) Seeking to reduce the number of young people from BAME
110 backgrounds in custody.
- 111 7. To tackle cybercrime by:
- 112 a) Directing police resources towards preventative and awareness-
113 raising work and making it easier to report it.
- 114 b) Aligning the basis of criminal liability for comments made on social

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- 115 media, on the telephone and between people physically present.
116 c) Making 'revenge porn' a criminal offence.
117 d) Increasing penalties for Data Protection Act breaches.
118 e) Ensuring that there is a named person in every school to help the
119 victims of cyber-bullying.

Applicability: England and Wales, except 1 e) (lines 32-33), 2 b)-e) (lines 39-53), and 7 d) (line 117) which are Federal, and 1 b) (lines 25-28), 2 a) (lines 37-38), 3 e) (lines 62-64) and 7 e) (lines 118-119) which are England only.

Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate see page 7.

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion; see page 6.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September; see page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 13.20, Saturday 4th October; see page 6 for further information.

12.30 Speech

Chair: Chris Maines

Aide: Sandra Gidley

Hall Aide: Pauline Pearce

F14 Steve Webb MP, Minister of State for Pensions

@stevewebb1 #LDconf

12.50 Lunch break

14.10 Speech

Chair: Liz Lynne

Aide: Chris Maines

Hall Aide: Paul Tilsley

F15 Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury

@dannyaalexander #LDconf

14.40 Policy motion

Chair: Duncan Brack

Aide: Justine McGuinness

Hall Aide: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F16 Protecting Public Services and Making them Work for You (Public Services Policy Paper)

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Julia Goldsworthy

Summation: Jeremy Hargreaves (Chair of the Policy Working Group)

- 1 Conference believes that good quality, accessible public services play
- 2 a vital role in helping us all to live fulfilling lives and supporting the most
- 3 vulnerable, wherever we live.

- 4 Conference affirms Liberal Democrats' commitment to protecting public
- 5 services, improving them, and ensuring they work more effectively for
- 6 every user.

- 7 Conference believes that public services:
 - 8 a) Should always aim to be high-quality, accessible, equally accessible to
 - 9 all, joined-up, empowering for their users, and locally accountable and
 - 10 transparent.

- 11 b) Cover an enormously diverse range of services, and that no one fixed
12 model can suit them all.
- 13 c) Have their greatest asset in the staff who in difficult circumstances
14 deliver good quality services to the public day in, day out, and that
15 they work best when they are freed up to focus on providing a good
16 service to their users.
- 17 d) Are most effective when they work with users as partners in their
18 delivery, rather than simply as passive recipients.
- 19 e) Should be pro-active in seeking to prevent problems, as well as
20 tackling them when they arise.

21 Conference therefore endorses policy paper 119, Protecting Public
22 Services and Making Them Work for You, as a statement of Liberal
23 Democrat policy on public services generally and especially schools,
24 health and transport, and particularly welcomes its proposals to:

- 25 1. Realise the huge potential for services to work together more
26 effectively for the benefit of users, not distracted by formal structural
27 changes, through:
 - 28 a) Enabling public authorities responsible for different public services
29 in a local area, led by a democratically-accountable tier, to come
30 together to form a local Better Outcomes Board, supported by
31 financial incentives from central government, to share budgets and
32 explore ways of working together to better meet the combined
33 needs of local people.
 - 34 b) Employing modern uses of information which have significant
35 power to create innovative and improved services, but with the
36 user controlling their own data and always having the opportunity
37 to opt out of data-sharing; access to personal data must be strictly
38 controlled; and where data is used for research purposes, it must
39 be anonymized.
 - 40 c) Applying Freedom of Information obligations to private providers
 of public services as well as to the public sector, and making
 contractual arrangements more transparent, including a

- 41 presumption in favour of 'open book accounting' in contracts.
- 42 d) Investing in leadership, which is crucial to developing and
- 43 improving public services, and helping services and users to
- 44 benefit from a range of steps to promote movement over careers
- 45 across different parts of public services, including combined cross-
- 46 service leadership development.
- 47 e) Recognising that inspection regimes play an important part in
- 48 ensuring accountability, but cannot themselves ensure good
- 49 quality services, and must not be excessively burdensome.
- 50 2. Make services flexible enough to meet the specific needs of their
- 51 individual users, through:
- 52 a) Giving individual users a formal right to request a specific flexibility
- 53 in the service they receive, backed by mediation.
- 54 b) Where a sizeable proportion of users or the public for a private or
- 55 other provider of a public service believe that the service
- 56 is inadequate, providing for a 'community trigger for change',
- 57 through which they could require the responsible authority to
- 58 conduct a full review of who provides the service, and how.
- 59 c) All providers of public services, whether public, private or
- 60 voluntary:
- 61 i) Being genuinely accountable to their users and the wider
- 62 public.
- 63 ii) Meeting common standards in employment standards, data-
- 64 sharing and equity of government funding.
- 65 iii) Respecting the values of public services.
- 66 iv) Being transparent and operating in good faith.
- 67 And that where they meet this test, they should achieve the status
- 68 of 'Accredited Public Service'.

- 69 d) Using measures or targets with extreme caution, in a way that
70 is very limited and focussed on helping the public understand
71 whether a good service is being delivered, rather than burdensome,
72 excessively numerous and focussed on internal processes.
- 73 3. Encourage public services to become increasingly pro-active in
74 helping improve lives, for example in preventing illness, as well as of
75 course meeting existing current needs, by:
- 76 a) Fully involving staff in designing services, and having a strategy for
77 involving users as partners in delivery of services.
- 78 b) Supporting users in mutual support arrangements, including
79 through allowing them to share 'personal budgets'.
- 80 4. Apply these approaches to achieve improvements in schools,
81 especially:
- 82 a) Recognizing the crucial importance of good quality teaching
83 to educational attainment, by creating an Investing in Teaching
84 package, including:
- 85 i) Supporting the creation of a Royal College of Teachers.
86 ii) Creating a Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
87 entitlement for all teachers of 50 hours per year, as part of a
88 robust CPD framework.
89 iii) Spreading established good models for leadership
90 development and school-to-school improvement.
- 91 b) Ensuring every child is taught by a qualified teacher.
- 92 c) Continuing to ensure that there is no return to a split between
93 academic and vocational qualifications at age 16.
- 94 d) Continuing the pupil premium which successfully targets £2.5

- 95 billion a year on the most disadvantaged children, and extending
96 the early years premium.
- 97 e) Continuing to slim down the national curriculum, putting it under
98 the responsibility of an independent Educational Standards
99 Authority (ESA) and requiring all state-funded schools to teach the
100 same core curriculum, a slimmed-down national curriculum.
- 101 f) Clarifying responsibility for improving poorly performing schools,
102 including academies and free schools, with schools themselves,
103 any academy chains or dioceses they are part of, and their local
104 authorities, all responsible for improvement, and all inspected for
105 this work by Ofsted.
- 106 g) Repealing the rule that all new schools must be free schools or
107 academies.
- 108 h) Being clear that responsibility for planning schools places
109 locally, and decisions about any new schools required and their
110 organizational status, must lie with the democratically-accountable
111 local authority.
- 112 i) Abolishing the new regional tier for oversight of schools, and
113 ensuring local Headteacher Boards of successful local heads,
114 accountable to their peers, provide assistance to schools in need.
- 115 j) Allowing local people, when they believe a school is consistently
116 inadequate, to require the local authority to carry out a review of
117 the school's management.
- 118 k) Schools continuing to set their admissions policy, and to ensure
119 that every child has a fair chance and be treated equally, the local
120 authority being responsible for admissions to all publicly-funded
121 schools in their area.

- 122 5. Apply these approaches to improve the NHS, which must remain free
123 at the point of delivery, by:
- 124 a) Making the aspiration of ‘parity of esteem’ between mental and
125 physical health a reality, through spreading good practice access
126 standards for mental health services, supporting greater integration
127 between mental and physical health, and moving towards equality
128 of funding to reflect the respective health need.
- 129 b) Delivering better care by continuing to expand approaches to
130 integrated care, building on the Pioneers scheme.
- 131 c) Reforming ‘tariffs’, to promote better care, particularly for people
132 with long term conditions.
- 133 d) Ensuring easier access to GPs, through:
- 134 i) Expanding evening and weekend opening.
135 ii) More use of communication by modern technology when a
136 face to face appointment is not necessary.
137 iii) Greater use of ‘federations’ of GP practices to provide better
138 access to care, closer to home, including out of hours.
139 iv) Making full use of the potential of pharmacists.
140 v) Allowing you, if you wish to, to register with a GP near your
141 work, instead of near your home.
- 142 e) Ending the role of the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) in
143 health, making the rules clear that the needs of patients will always
144 come ahead of competition, and that services need not be put out
145 to tender if local people are happy with them.
- 146 f) While recognizing the value of increasing choice and enabling
147 innovation in services, ensuring that duties on commissioners
148 of health care give a higher priority to reducing inequality, and
149 integration of services, than to promoting competition.

- 150 g) Continuing to develop Health and Wellbeing Boards, to comprise
151 more elected councillors on a politically proportional basis and from
152 all relevant tiers, and increasingly take on more responsibilities,
153 including if they wish to for commissioning local GP services, and to
154 be able to amend the commissioning plan of local commissioners.
- 155 6. Apply these approaches to achieve improvements in sustainable local
156 public transport, which has a crucial role to play, especially in rural
157 areas, in maintaining communities where people want to live and
158 work, and in ensuring fair access to other public services and other
159 opportunities, through:
- 160 a) Creating minimum standards for frequency and access for local
161 public transport.
- 162 b) Giving public authorities greater influence over transport in their
163 area, especially by supporting them to create 'Quality Contracts'
164 which could help to achieve good services to meet the needs of
165 local people.
- 166 c) Supporting small-scale voluntary or other organisations to be able
167 to provide flexible, local transport services.
- 168 d) Ensuring all new significant infrastructure or vehicles meet
169 standards for disability access, including audiovisual information.
- 170 e) Allowing public bodies to bid for rail franchises.
- 171 f) Getting refunds for delays or difficulties paid automatically
172 for longer rail journeys, and providing better services and
173 compensation when 'rail replacement' arrangements are required.
- 174 g) Extending 'smart ticketing', to give greater convenience for
175 passengers, automatic lowest fares, and greater linkages across
176 transport modes and with other public services.
- 177 h) Ensuring providers make realtime information on their services
178 available electronically, as Transport for London does.
- 179 i) Giving a discount of two-thirds of the cost of buses to 16-21 year
180 olds.

Applicability: England only, except 1 b) (lines 32-37), 1 d) and e) (lines 42-49),

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2 (lines 50-72) and 3 a) (lines 76-77) which are Federal, and 3 b) (lines 78-79), 6 a) (lines 160-161) and 6 e) (line 170) which are England and Wales.

Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate see page 7.

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion; see page 6.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September; see page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 13.20, Saturday 4th October; see page 6 for further information.

17.00 Party business

Chair: David Rendel

Aide: Justine McGuinness

Hall Aide: Chris Maines

F17 Report of the Federal Policy Committee

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

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September; questions selected will be printed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 16.00 on Sunday 5th October. See page 8 for further information.

17.10 Policy motion

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Chair: Dr Evan Harris

Aide: Sandra Gidley

Hall Aide: James Gurling

F18 Tackling Child Abuse

10 conference representatives

Mover: Baroness Walmsley

Summation: Baroness Brinton

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 i) All forms of child abuse are abhorrent, and can cause lasting physical,
3 emotional and psychological damage to victims and their families;
4 most perpetrators of child abuse are a close family member or
5 friend of the child, contrary to public perception that child abuse is
6 committed by a stranger.
- 7 ii) Past cases, where adults in a position of trust in care homes,
8 hospitals, schools, clubs or societies where individuals have repeatedly
9 taken advantage of large numbers of children over a period of years,
10 have highlighted a need to protect children further from the risk of child
11 abuse.
- 12 iii) Inquiries into various child abuse and exploitation cases have
13 repeatedly found some professionals failing to report child protection
14 concerns (despite being aware of safeguarding issues), which have
15 resulted in further abuse and more children being abused.
- 16 iv) Peter Wanless, Chief Executive of the NSPCC, who is heading the
17 Government's review of historical child abuse allegations proposed in
18 July that Government should consider stronger corporate duties on
19 adults to protect children living away from home, in institutions like
20 care homes or boarding schools, known as mandatory reporting.

21 Conference believes that:

- 22 a) Peter Wanless's proposals do not go far enough, and millions of

- 23 children at non-boarding schools, sports clubs and other leisure clubs
24 would not be covered by them.
- 25 b) Legislation needs to empower and protect any whistleblower who
26 becomes aware of a child at risk of abuse.
- 27 c) Certain specific exclusions are necessary for confidential helplines
28 such as ChildLine, where children calling in believe that everything they
29 disclose is entirely confidential.

28 Conference calls for Liberal Democrat parliamentarians to press for:

- 29 1. A legal duty on all staff working in regulated activity to report to the
30 local authority known abuse or reasonable suspicion of abuse.
- 31 2. All staff working in contact with children who have to complete CRB
32 forms to have training in recognising the early signs of child abuse, and
33 the routes to reporting.
- 34 3. Government to sponsor a strong public campaign to make children
35 confident with reporting incidents that they feel uncomfortable about.
- 36 4. Legislation to protect whistleblowers who come in to contact with
37 children, to empower them to report incidents without fear of the
38 impact on their own position.

Applicability: England only.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September; see page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 13.20, Saturday 4th October; see page 6 for further information.

18.00 Close of session

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09.00 Policy motion

Chair: Justine McGuinness

Aide: Gareth Epps

Hall Aide: Chris Maines

F19 Adapting to Climate Change in the UK

13 conference representatives

Mover: Neil Stockley

Summation: Duncan Brack

- 1 Conference notes:
- 2 a) The fifth assessment report of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on
3 Climate Change, which described the impacts of global warming as
4 “severe, pervasive and irreversible”.
- 5 b) That the impacts of accelerating climate change in the UK include
6 an increase in extreme weather events such as severe winters,
7 heatwaves, flooding from rivers and the sea, and storms and gales,
8 with increased pressure on infrastructure, water supplies and
9 ecosystems.
- 10 c) That the 2013-14 winter in the UK saw record heavy rainfall and
11 frequent strong storms - both at least partly caused by climate change
12 - which led to widespread flooding (exacerbated by recent patterns
13 of building and farming) and accompanying disruption to individuals,
14 buildings and infrastructure.
- 15 d) That the independent Committee on Climate Change concluded in
16 July 2014 that at current rates of investment in flood defences, flood
17 risks in England will increase, that the risk of overheating in homes,
18 hospitals and care homes is being ignored and that intensive farming
19 is still being supported in areas where the ground needs natural
20 vegetation to soak up rainfall.

21 Conference believes that while action to reduce emissions of greenhouse
22 gases, both in the UK and globally, must remain the government's top
23 priority, urgent attention must also be paid to adapting to the current and
24 future impacts of climate change.

25 Conference therefore calls for government to:

- 26 1. Ensure flood defence spending is kept in line with that needed to
27 protect against climate change impacts; introduce high standards for
28 flood resilience for buildings and infrastructure in flood risk areas and
29 enforce these for new build and major renovations.
- 28 2. Implement programmes to help farmers and other land users adapt
29 to climate change impact, including protecting soil and forest carbon
30 sinks, encouraging planting in uplands, and restoring flood plains,
31 with adequate compensation for landowners to put into place 'soft'
32 prevention measures at source rather than relying on 'hard' flood
33 defences downstream.
- 34 3. Introduce long-term planning for droughts and floods, building natural
35 resilience to extreme weather, rather than waiting to clean up the
36 damage.
- 37 4. Update construction and planning standards to future-proof housing
38 and commercial buildings against higher summer temperatures
39 caused by climate change, protecting people from heat-related
40 deaths and reducing the need for air conditioning; this should include
41 protecting urban trees and green spaces, to mitigate the 'heat island'
42 effect.
- 43 5. Encourage local authorities to report annually to their residents on
44 actions taken to protect them from the impacts of climate change,
45 including flood risk management plans.
- 46 6. Extend the mandatory greenhouse gas emission reporting rules for
47 large companies to include actions taken on adaptation.
- 48 7. Prepare a national resilience plan to help the UK economy, national
49 infrastructure and natural resources adapt to the likely impacts
50 of a 3-4 degree global average temperature rise, building on the
51 work done through the current national adaptation programme;

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52 and increase government resources devoted to the research and
53 implementation of climate adaptation strategies.

Applicability: 6 and 7 (lines 46-53) are Federal; the remainder are England only.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September; see page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Sunday 5th October; see page 6 for further information.

10.00 Speech

Chair: Dr Evan Harris

Aide: Jenni Lang

Hall Aide: Paul Tilsley

F20 Kirsty Williams AM, Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats

@Kirsty_Williams #LDconf

10.20 Policy motion

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

Aide: Shas Sheehan

Hall Aide: David Rendel

F21 Building the Affordable Homes We Need

Westmorland & Lonsdale

Mover: Tim Farron MP

Summation: Rt Hon Vince Cable MP

1 Conference welcomes the measures in policy paper 104, Decent Homes
2 For All (2012), and conference motion Reform of the Planning System
3 (March 2014) to deliver up to 300,000 new homes a year, to give renters a
4 new deal, increase the resilience of the house-building industry, give local
5 authorities and social housing providers more powers to build, secure
6 land for development at lower prices and remove underlying barriers to
7 restoring house price stability.

8 Conference notes with concern:

- 9 i) The failure of the private sector, and of previous administrations, to
10 deliver the homes that Britain needs.
- 11 ii) The far reaching consequences of a shortage of decent housing on
12 economic growth, labour market mobility, education, social mobility,
13 health and the shape of economic growth in the UK.
- 14 iii) The barriers to sustainable housing delivery including: an opaque
15 land market, lack of both public and private finance, the capacity
16 and competitiveness of the house building industry, integration of
17 infrastructure provision, historical failures in design and planning, and
18 inconsistent political will.

19 Conference celebrates the Liberal Democrat commitment to:

- 20 a) Freeing local authorities to build for the first time in a generation,
21 bringing 102,000 empty homes back into use since 2010 and allowing
22 councils to charge full Council Tax on second homes and empty
23 homes.
- 24 b) Delivering long term strategic investment in infrastructure, to support
25 economic growth outside of London.
- 26 c) Empowering local authorities to create new garden cities, towns and
27 villages where there is local demand.

28 Conference therefore calls for:

- 29 1. Government investment to support a new generation of quality homes
28 which are affordable even for those on low and middle incomes,
29 including shared ownership, rent-to-buy and other intermediate
30 tenures, where every monthly payment goes towards owning the
31 house.
- 32 2. Creation of a new Housing Investment Bank to simplify the allocation
33 of public funds, create the scale needed to draw in private investment
34 and improve access to finance for social housing providers through
35 traditional capital grant, soft loans and equity investment, bond issues
36 and government guarantees; as part of this, including a 'challenge
37 fund' to promote innovative solutions to the housing crisis, imbed long
38 termism and ensure best value for the tax payer.
- 39 3. Local authorities being allowed to develop homes of a broad mix of
40 tenures through local housing companies, outside of the Housing
41 Revenue Account, retaining a local authority link.
- 42 4. Social landlords to be given more control over their businesses, to
43 develop more genuinely affordable homes and enable more efficient
44 use of their resources, by allowing greater rent flexibilities, lifting
45 restrictions on how they value their stock and allowing them to take
46 account of the whole cost of occupancy relating to heating costs to
47 encourage landlords to invest to reduce heating costs and cut fuel
48 poverty.
- 49 5. Urgent amendment of the New Towns Act to transfer its powers to
50 Local Authorities to acquire land at above existing use value for the
51 creation of new garden villages, towns and cities where appropriate
52 to meet identified housing need, using the land uplift to deliver the
53 highest quality, the infrastructure, and build thriving mixed communities
54 at affordable prices whilst protecting existing communities from
55 unnecessary, poorly-serviced and unpopular sequential development.
- 56 6. To increase capacity for house building to meet the 300,000 homes
57 a year target, encourage the development of the offsite construction
58 industry, continue and strengthen support for small and medium size
59 builders, new entrants and self-build, and unlock Housing Association

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- 60 capacity by freeing up opportunities to access land through the new
61 garden communities programme.
- 62 7. Planning authorities to be given the power to designate New Home
63 Zones on strategic sites to generate low cost development and
64 growth.
- 65 8. A large-scale apprenticeships and training programme to build skills
66 capacity over a long period.
- 67 9. Within the first year of the next Parliament, publication of a long-term
68 plan to set out how our house-building objectives will be met; to be
69 overseen by a ministerial taskforce on housing, hosted by the Cabinet
70 Office, ensuring that locally-led housing delivery is integrated into
71 infrastructure delivery, welfare reform, rent strategy, demographic and
72 environmental challenges and a wider growth agenda that spreads
73 economic growth across the country.

Applicability: England only, except 2 (lines 32-38) which is Federal.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September; see page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Sunday 5th October; see page 6 for further information.

11.20 Policy motion

Chair: Jeremy Hargreaves

Aide: Sandra Gidley

Hall Aide: Liz Lynne

F22 Flooding: A New High Water Mark

North Cornwall and Oxford West & Abingdon

Mover: Layla Moran

Summation: Dan Rogerson MP

1 Conference endorses the Liberal Democrat vision of a sustainable future
2 where we live within our environmental as well as financial means.

3 Conference notes that:

4 A. Flooding is an issue that affects the entire country, with 1 in 6
5 households at risk.

6 B. Climate change is a driver of more frequent extreme weather and so is
7 likely to be the biggest contributor to worse floods in the future.

8 C. The annual cost to the UK economy of flooding is estimated at £1.1
9 billion and could rise to over £27 billion per year by 2080.

10 D. Funding for flood defences has increased by £400million over this
11 Parliament compared to the last.

12 E. The Environment Agency estimates that an extra £20 million per year
13 above existing levels needs to be invested in flood defences between
14 2010 and 2035 to sustain current levels of protection.

15 F. The National Audit Office reported a saving of £8 for every £1 of capital
16 investment in flood defences.

17 Conference welcomes the £2billion committed by government to flood
18 defences during the 2011-15 spending period. However, we believe that
19 we also need to meet the long term investment required to maintain the
20 current level of protection.

21 Conference further welcomes:

22 i) The implementation of the majority of the recommendations of the
23 1998 Pitt Review and resulting 2010 Flooding and Water Management
24 Act by the Liberal Democrats in Coalition Government.

25 ii) The Water Act 2014 and in particular Flood Re which ensures
26 millions of household have access to affordable flood insurance in a
27 progressive and fair way.

28 Conference calls for:

29 a) Real terms investment in flood defences to increase in accordance
28 with Environment Agency recommendations.

29 b) Monitoring of the availability and affordability of insurance for houses
30 built after 2009 to make sure that affordable flood insurance remains
31 available to all.

32 c) The Government to work with small business organisations and the
33 insurance industry to make sure that small businesses have access to
34 affordable insurance to protect vibrant local economies in flood prone
35 areas.

36 Conference recognises that it is more cost effective and sustainable to
37 utilise natural flood defences, working with the environment rather than
38 working against it.

39 Conference therefore further calls on the Government to:

40 1. Encourage landowners and farmers to manage the countryside to
41 mitigate flooding to downstream communities.

42 2. Promote research into and implementation of natural flood defences,
43 such as the restoration of peatlands and woodlands, and the
44 development of coastal habitats.

45 3. Develop clear guidance for Lead Local Flood Authorities on how to take
46 flooding into account when planning development and extend the legal
47 requirement for 'betterment' so developers ensure that the flooding
48 situation downstream of any development leads to an improvement,
49 rather than just the maintenance of, flood protection levels.

50 4. Commission a study into how best to improve building regulations
51 so that building works, within the means of the householder and the
52 insurance company, improve the resilience of a building to flooding

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- 53 events.
- 54 5. Create a monitoring framework for measuring how effective Local
55 Flood Risk Management Strategies are in the medium and long term
56 and set clear targets by which to measure the effectiveness of the
57 National Flood Strategy.
- 58 6. Ensure that the uptake in Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems is
59 increased to maximise value for money for the taxpayer.

Applicability: England only.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September; see page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Sunday 5th October; see page 6 for further information.

12.20 Speech

Chair: Qassim Afzal

Aide: James Gurling

Hall Aide: David Rendel

F23 Rt Hon Vince Cable MP, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills

@vincecable #LDconf

12.40 Lunch break

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14.20 Presentation

Chair: Sandra Gidley

Aide: Dr Evan Harris

Hall Aide: Shas Sheehan

F24 Same Sex Marriage Presentation

A presentation by campaigners who worked to deliver same sex marriage legislation.

14.40 Speech

Chair James Gurling

Aide: Pauline Pearce

Hall Aide: Jenni Lang

F25 Jo Swinson MP, Parliamentary Undersecretary of State for Employment Relations and Consumer Affairs

@joswinson #LDconf

15.00 Question and answer session

Chair: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

Aide: Shas Sheehan

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

F26 Question and Answer Session with Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats and Deputy Prime Minister

Conference representatives may put questions, on any topic, to the leader of the Liberal Democrats in a 'Town Hall' style event. Concise questions (maximum 25 words) may be submitted via the website until 17.00 on Thursday 2nd October or to the Speakers' Table in the Auditorium by 12.40 on Monday 6th October. See page 9.

15.45 Policy motion

Chair: Baroness Doocey

Aide: Chris Maines

Hall Aide: Gareth Epps

F27 Expanding Opportunity, Unlocking Potential (Equalities Policy Paper)

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Baroness Northover

Summation: Belinda Brooks-Gordon (Chair of the Policy Working Group)

1 Conference notes that:

2 I. Liberal Democrats are rightly proud of a commitment to equality that
3 goes back decades, and the vision for a fair, free and open society is
4 enshrined in our constitution.

5 II. In government Liberal Democrats have championed equality, working
6 for a fairer society.

7 Conference believes that:

8 A. There is still much more to be done to reduce inequalities, poverty,
9 and disadvantage for those with protected characteristics under the
10 Equality Act 2010 - Liberal Democrats want to expand opportunity
11 and unlock potential by promoting equality in education and
12 employment, in health and wellbeing and in an inclusive society.

13 B. Liberal Democrats want Britain to take the lead in tackling inequalities
14 abroad.

15 C. At the heart of our approach is the promotion of human rights to
16 empower individuals to reach their full potential and have more control
17 over their own life, to live in the way that is right for them and free from
18 discrimination.

19 Conference therefore endorses policy paper 120, Expanding Opportunity,
20 Unlocking Potential, and particularly welcomes its proposals to:

21 1. Create opportunity in education and employment for all through:

- 22 a) Ensuring all young carers receive the pupil premium.
- 23 b) Extending the free early years childcare entitlement of 15 hours to
24 all 2 year olds.
- 25 c) Promoting apprenticeships for groups underrepresented in the
26 labour market.
- 27 d) Encouraging the private sector to promote diversity and requiring
28 private companies in receipt of public funds to monitor and publish
29 equality data.
- 28 e) Bringing into force the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 that
29 require private employers to publish data on gender pay gaps.
- 30 f) Piloting 'name-blank' application forms in the public sector.
- 31 g) Reviewing the level of employment tribunal fees to ensure they do
32 not deter genuine claims.
- 33 h) Establishing a statutory code of practice to support the
34 implementation of the Public Sector Equality Duty.
- 35 i) Addressing the management gender gap by recruiting diverse
36 talent.

37 2. Address inequalities in health and wellbeing through:

- 38 a) Extending disabled bus concessions to peak hours.
- 39 b) Bringing Equality Act provisions into force which ensure fair access
40 to taxis for people with disabilities.
- 41 c) Introducing better regulation for cosmetic surgery to ensure patient
42 safety and closure of fiscal loopholes for those providing purely
43 cosmetic procedures.
- 44 d) Introducing compulsory training for front line staff in FGM issues in
45 high risk areas.
- 46 e) Making legal provision for the full recognition of hate crimes

47 against LGBT+ people and people with disabilities as aggravated
48 offences allowing appropriate sentences for perpetrators.

49 3. Build an inclusive society that celebrates diversity through:

50 a) Accelerating the recognition of caste as an aspect of race under
51 the Equality Act.

52 b) Amending marriage certificate rules to allow both parents' name
53 and occupation to be listed.

54 c) Asking the Advisory Committee on Safety of Blood, Tissues
55 and Organs to review rules around men who have sex with men
56 donating blood.

57 d) Reviewing the Gender Recognition Act to allow married couples
58 consensually to reinstate their marriage when one party to the
59 marriage has reassigned their gender.

60 e) Allowing X gender markers on passports.

61 f) Including positive images of transgender individuals in central
62 government publications.

63 4. Work for our vision for equality of opportunity including the promotion
64 of fairness and equality between the citizen and the state, both at
65 home and abroad, through:

66 a) Making the Equality and Human Rights Commission directly
67 accountable to Parliament to strengthen its ability to hold the
68 government to account.

69 b) Moving the Government Equalities Office into Cabinet Office and
70 bring ministerial responsibilities for equalities into one place.

71 c) Developing an ambitious international gender equality strategy with
72 a clear aim to end female genital mutilation within a generation.

73 d) Ratifying the Istanbul Convention on violence against women in the
74 UK and EU and give effect to the United Nations Security Council
75 Resolution 2122, on health care for war rape victims.

76 e) Leading the way in forming a clear international strategy to
77 improve LGBT+ rights worldwide.

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- 78 f) Continuing to promote same-sex marriage abroad and encourage
79 British embassies overseas to offer same sex marriages.

Applicability: Federal, except 1 a), b) and c) (lines 22-26) which are England only.

Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate see page 7.

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion; see page 6.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September; see page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Sunday 5th October; see page 6 for further information.

17.15 Party business

Chair: Jenni Lang

Aide: Paul Tilsley

Hall Aide: Justine McGuinness

F28 Reports of the Parliamentary Parties of the Liberal Democrats

Commons: Don Foster MP (Chief Whip) and Annette Brooke MP (Chair of Parliamentary Party)

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

Europe: Catherine Bearder MEP (Leader)

Each of the reports will be moved briefly, and voted on at the end of the session, but the bulk of the session will be used to allow conference representatives to put

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questions on any aspect of Liberal Democrat activities in the Westminster and European Parliaments to the panel. Conference representatives may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on a form collected from and submitted to the Speakers' Table by 12.40 on Monday 6th October. Questions may also be sent via the website until 17.00 on Thursday 2nd October. The Chair will select which questions shall be asked during the session. See page 9.

18.00 Close of session

Tuesday 7th October

09.00 Policy motion

Chair Jon Ball

Aide: Shas Sheehan

Hall Aide: Sandra Gidley

F29 Reclaiming the People's Game

18 conference representatives

Mover: Steve Bradley

Summation: John Leech MP (Co-Chair, Parliamentary Party Committee on Culture, Media and Sport)

1 Conference notes that:

2 I. Football is the highest participation male and female team sport in
3 Britain, and a major social, cultural and economic force.

4 II. Football clubs provide an outlet for civic identity, play an important role
5 in national prestige, and raise the international profile of many regional
6 cities.

7 III. The English Premier League is a major UK export, and the world's
8 richest league.

9 IV. Football also assists in the delivery of many public sector and
10 community projects on health, education, community safety and social
11 cohesion.

12 Conference is concerned that:

13 A. Winning has become the primary motive in the sport - leading to
14 financial risk taking, high debt levels and almost a hundred instances
15 of club bankruptcy since 1992.

16 B. The 'Football Creditors Rule' dictates that when a football club enters
17 administration, any debts owed within football take precedence over

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- 18 all other creditors, including HMRC.
- 19 C. British football has experienced an influx of overseas investment
20 unjustified on purely financial grounds, and some of these owners have
21 shown a disregard for the heritage of the clubs they have bought.
- 22 D. A significant proportion of the population has been priced out of
23 regularly attending top-level football matches in England.
- 24 E. Power within British football has shifted from the national football
25 associations towards the biggest clubs under their jurisdiction.
- 26 F. The principle of elite clubs redistributing 5% of their income to lower
27 levels of the game as 'solidarity payments' was accepted when the
28 Premier League was established in 1992, but has become eroded
29 over time.
- 28 G. There have been few non-white football managers within professional
29 football, women are almost entirely absent from club boardrooms, and
30 homophobia remains a problem throughout the sport.

31 Conference further notes that:

- 32 i) Germany's football rules require all professional clubs to be majority
33 owned by supporters, and despite having low ticket prices, German
34 clubs are Europe's most profitable.
- 35 ii) Over twenty five football clubs in Britain have been rescued from
36 financial collapse by their supporters in the last decade, and converted
37 into sustainable, democratic cooperatives.
- 38 iii) The 2010 Coalition Agreement stated that "We will encourage the
39 reform of football governance rules to support the cooperative
40 ownership of football clubs by supporters".
- 41 iv) A CMS Select Committee into football governance was established in
42 2011, but its recommendations have yet to be implemented.

43 Conference believes that:

- 44 a) As the public purse provides significant direct and indirect subsidies
45 to football, there is a duty on government to ensure the game is well
46 administered.

- 47 b) Football needs to thrive at all levels.
48 c) Professional football clubs would not survive without their supporters,
49 and fans should therefore be entitled to input into major decisions
50 affecting their clubs.
51 d) A football club's name, location, badge and home colours are
52 important community and heritage assets, central to the club's history
53 and identity.

54 Conference therefore calls for:

- 55 1. Measures to strengthen democracy, equality and representation within
56 the governance of football including:
- 57 a) All league-level football clubs in Britain to have an independent and
58 formally recognised Supporters' Trust to represent the views of
59 their fans.
60 b) Football licensing rules to be reformed to protect the core identity
61 and heritage of football clubs from change without the backing of
62 supporters.
63 c) All four UK football associations to fully investigate mechanisms to
64 protect individual stadiums, including provisions under the 2011
65 Localism Act, and publish their findings.
66 d) All senior clubs to be required to achieve football's 'Equality
67 Standard'; the standard should be revised to ensure that racism,
68 sexism, homophobia and sectarianism are treated equally.
69 e) Secure, long-term funding to be provided for key stakeholder
70 groups that are promoting representation, democracy, equality and
71 diversity within football; in return, such groups should commit to
72 robust governance and performance agreements.
73 f) An equality and diversity programme for schools to be funded and
74 introduced by the sport, using the power of the game to promote
75 greater tolerance and respect.
76 g) A strong, mandatory commitment for all league-level clubs to play
77 an active role within their local communities, with funding available
78 to enable this.

- 79 h) Homophobic chanting to be made a criminal offence, on a par
80 with racist chanting.
- 81 2. Measures to improve football administration, including:
- 82 a) Greater clarity and robustness in the rules regarding what
83 constitutes a 'fit and proper person' to serve as a director or
84 owner of a football club.
- 85 b) All stewards working at football games in the UK to have full
86 Security Industry Accreditation, including training on equality and
87 diversity issues.
- 88 c) Training on diversity and equality issues to be mandatory for all
89 professional football players in Britain.
- 90 d) Clubs to face greater responsibility for the on-pitch behaviour of
91 their players.
- 92 3. Measures to reform football finances including:
- 93 a) Abolition of the Football Creditors' Rule.
- 94 b) All clubs to be required to provide complete transparency on their
95 ownership.
- 96 c) The introduction of 'Financial Fair Play' rules for all league clubs
97 across Britain, with suitable penalties.
- 98 d) Ten percent of all tickets for matches at English Premier League,
99 English Football League and Scottish Premier League level to be
100 made available at an 'affordable' price.
- 101 e) Annual publication by all professional clubs of how much they
102 spend on player agents.
- 103 f) Annual publication by every UK police of the amount it bills
104 individual football clubs for the policing of their games.
- 105 g. A five percent tithe on English and Scottish Premier League TV
106 revenues to fund the strengthening of the game's grass roots and
107 lower leagues, and to ensure greater democracy and equality
115 within the game.

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Applicability: Federal.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September; see page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Monday 6th; see page 6 for further information.

09.50 Policy motion

Chair: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

Aide: Jenni Lang

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

F30 A Stronger Economy and a Fairer Society (Pre-Manifesto Policy Paper)

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Rt Hon David Laws MP (Chair of the Manifesto Group)

Summation: To be announced

1 Conference believes that:

2 I. Since 2010, the Liberal Democrats have worked in government to
3 rescue and repair Britain's shattered economy.

4 II. In the next Parliament, we need to move from rescue to renewal, to
5 think boldly and restore a sense of national optimism.

6 III. The task of a liberal party is above all to empower every person to
7 realise their own potential, no matter what their background, race,
8 colour, sex or sexuality.

9 IV. The Liberal Democrat vision for the next five years must therefore be

10 to focus our efforts on removing the biggest barriers that are holding
11 people, and holding Britain, back.

12 Conference therefore endorses policy paper 121, A Stronger Economy
13 and A Fairer Society, as the basis for constructing the party's manifesto for
14 the next general election. Conference welcomes its key commitments to:

- 15 A. Finish the job on the deficit fairly and balance the books so the next
16 generation are not burdened by huge interest payments.
- 17 B. Rewire the economy to cut out carbon, rebuild our national
18 infrastructure, and embrace new technology, so the next
19 generation can enjoy long-term prosperity and be protected from the
20 threat of runaway climate change.
- 21 C. Rebalance the tax system away from work and towards unearned
22 wealth, so the next generation can keep more of the money they earn
23 and live in a more equal world.
- 24 D. Build the homes our country needs to stop prices spiralling out of
25 reach, so the next generation have the chance to bring up a family in a
26 home of their own.
- 27 E. Return power from the stifling grip of Whitehall to the citizens and
28 communities of our country, so the next generation have the power to
29 shape the society in which they live.
- 28 F. Restore confidence in Britain's immigration system with fair rules and
29 competent administration, so the next generation can continue to live
30 in an open, tolerant society that benefits from people and expertise
31 from around the world.
- 32 G. Invest every penny we can in education from cradle to college -
33 nursery, school, apprenticeships and college - so all our children get
34 the chance to live out their full potential.

35 Conference in particular welcomes its proposals to:

36 1. Finish the job on the deficit and balance the books by:

37 a) Aiming to balance the structural current budget by 2017/18.

- 38 b) Setting a course to reduce debt as a share of national income.
39 c) Making deficit reduction fair by ensuring high earners and the
40 wealthiest pay their share, including through the introduction of a
41 banded Mansion Tax.
42 d) Setting new fiscal rules to balance the budget while allowing
43 borrowing for productive investment.
44 e) Increasing public spending again in line with the growth of the
45 economy once the budget is balanced.
- 46 2. Build prosperity that lasts for everyone, founded on strong national
47 infrastructure, a stable, competitive business environment and
48 investment in skills, green technologies and innovation by:
- 49 a) Continuing the Regional Growth Fund to back growing
50 businesses, and enhancing the Green Investment Bank.
51 b) Continuing to invest in High Speed Rail, electrify main lines and re-
52 open local stations to support people back onto our railways.
53 c) Introducing a legally-binding decarbonisation target and an
54 indicative renewables target to green our electricity, and action to
55 boost renewable heating.
56 d) Investing to make the UK a world leader in low carbon cars,
57 energy efficiency and hi-tech manufacturing.
58 e) Developing a strategic airports policy in the light of the Davies
59 review, while remaining opposed to any expansion of Heathrow,
60 Stansted, Gatwick or any new airport in the Thames Estuary, and
61 ensuring no net increase in runways across the UK as a whole.
- 62 3. Put money into the pockets of those who need it most by:
- 63 a) Raising the personal allowance to at least £12,500, cutting your
64 taxes by an extra £400, paid for by measures to raise the tax
65 contribution of the wealthiest, including clamping down on tax
66 evasion and avoidance.
67 b) Legislating to make the triple lock permanent, guaranteeing decent
68 pension rises every year.

- 69 c) Providing more free childcare: moving to 20 hours a week for
70 working families from the end of paid maternity leave right through
71 to school.
- 72 d) Keeping house prices and rents affordable by aiming to boost
73 house building to 300,000 a year.
- 74 e) Cutting energy bills for everyone with more competition, easier
75 switching and a national programme to insulate homes, with a
76 Council Tax cut if you take part.
- 77 4. Create an opportunity society with world class education for all by:
- 78 a) Extending the protection to all education funding from early years
79 through school to college.
- 80 b) Bringing about a revolution in the quality of early years education
81 with qualified teachers in every nursery and an enhanced early
82 years pupil premium.
- 83 c) Delivering a Parents' Guarantee: a core curriculum in every school
84 and every child taught by qualified teachers.
- 85 d) Taking swift action to support and challenge weak schools and
86 colleges.
- 87 e) Introducing a discount bus pass for under-21s so they can afford
88 to get to college or work, partly funded by withdrawing eligibility for
89 the Winter Fuel Payment and free TV Licence from pensioners on
90 the higher rate of income tax.
- 91 5. Increase wellbeing and enable people to live fulfilled lives, by:
- 92 a) Guaranteeing the NHS budget will rise by at least inflation.
- 93 b) Giving equal rights for mental health patients to get treated just as
94 fast as people with physical health problems.
- 95 c) Introducing a new £250 'Carer's Bonus' so carers can take a
96 proper break every year.
- 97 d) Encouraging fathers to be more involved by expanding shared
98 parental leave with a 'use-it-or-lose-it' month for fathers.
- 99 e) Massively expanding accessible green space, completing the

- 100 coastal path and improving the Right to Roam.
- 101 f) Making more sustainable use of resources and reducing waste,
102 including through committing to ending the use of landfill in a
103 generation.
- 104 6. Build strong communities with opportunity for all, through ensuring our
105 laws are upheld firmly and fairly by:
- 106 a) Establishing a National Institute of Crime Prevention to cut crime
107 with better policing.
- 108 b) Cutting crime with specialist 'drug courts' that get addicts back on
109 the straight and narrow.
- 110 c) Reforming prisons to focus on turning offenders away from a life of
111 crime.
- 112 d) Bringing back full border checks so we know who's coming in and
113 leaving the UK.
- 114 e) Doubling enforcement of minimum wage laws to tackle illegal
115 working and human trafficking.
- 116 7. Transfer power away from Westminster and Whitehall and return it to
117 people, restraining the power of the state to snoop into everyday life
118 and build up citizens and communities to take control over their own
119 destinies by:
- 120 a) Protecting privacy through updating data laws for the internet age
121 with a Digital Bill of Rights.
- 122 b) Giving more powers to cities, counties and councils on the
123 economy and local services.
- 124 c) Getting big money out of politics with a £10,000 cap on donations
125 and reform of party political funding.
- 126 d) Promoting a new transfer of powers to Scotland, Wales and
127 Northern Ireland.
- 128 e) Retaining the Barnett Formula as the basis for future spending
129 allocations for Scotland and Northern Ireland, as the basis for
130 future spending allocations, while recognising the findings of the

- 131 Holtham Commission that the current formula underfunds Wales;
132 we will address the imbalance by immediately entrenching a
133 Barnett floor set at a level which reflects the need for Wales to be
134 funded fairly, and seek over a Parliament to increase the block
135 grant to an equitable level.
- 136 f) Delivering better democracy with votes at sixteen, electoral reform
137 and an elected House of Lords.
- 138 8. Meet the challenges of a globalised, interdependent world by:
- 139 a) Legislating to guarantee the UK continues to meet the 0.7% of
140 GNI target for development aid.
- 141 b) Extending the requirement for country-by-country reporting from
142 banks and extractive industries to all UK listed companies.
- 143 c) Working to ensure the UK plays a full part in Europe, and holding
144 an In/Out referendum when there is next any treaty change
145 involving a material transfer of sovereignty from the UK to the EU.
- 146 d) Working to secure binding global agreement on cutting
147 greenhouse gas emissions, and a commitment within the EU to a
148 50% reduction by 2030.
- 149 e) Leading global nuclear disarmament by reducing our stockpile of
150 nuclear missiles.

Applicability: Federal, except 3 c) (lines 69-71), 4 a)-d) (lines 78-86), 5 a) and b) (lines 92-94), 5 e)-f) (lines 99-103), 7 b) (lines 122-123) and aspects of 4 e) (lines 87-90) which are England only, and 6 a)-c) (lines 106-111) which are England and Wales.

Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate see page 7.

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion; see page 6.

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The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September; see page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Monday 6th October; see page 6 for further information.

12.20 Speech

Chair: Gareth Epps

Aide: Justine McGuinness

Hall Aide: Paul Tilsley

F31 Norman Lamb MP, Minister of State for Care and Support

@normanlamb #LDconf

12.50 Lunch break

14.20 Speech

Chair: Caroline Pidgeon AM

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

Hall Aide: David Rendel

F32 Rt Hon Edward Davey MP, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change

@EdwardDaveyMP #LDconf

14.40 Policy motion

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

Aide: Dr Evan Harris

Hall Aide: Justine McGuinness

F33 Age Ready Britain (Ageing Society Policy Paper)

16 conference representatives

Mover: Baroness Tyler

Summation: Paul Burstow MP (Chair of the Policy Working Group)

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 I. We are living longer, and how societies adapt to being ‘older’ is one of
3 the defining challenges of the 21st Century.
- 4 II. Globally societies are having to adapt to the longer lifespans human
5 ingenuity have made possible; by the end of the century practically
6 every nation on earth will have made the journey.
- 7 III. Liberal Democrats take an optimistic view of ageing and the
8 opportunities it presents.

9 Conference further notes that in government Liberal Democrats have
10 been responsible for:

- 11 A. Major reforms in adult social care and pensions.
- 12 B. Breaking the deadlock on care finances by implementing the Dilnot
13 Commission cap on catastrophic care costs.
- 14 C. Overhauling pensions to provide a flat-rate basic state pension, auto-
15 enrolment and fairer access to pension savings.

16 Conference resolves to ensure that a holistic approach is taken that
17 recognises ageing is about all of us, our future selves and how we want
18 society to adapt to reflect the profound change that longer lives represent.

19 Conference therefore endorses policy paper 122, Age Ready Britain, and
20 its policy proposals based on the key principles set out below.

- 21 1. Promoting wellbeing is central to creating resilient, thriving and
22 sustainable communities and identifying and tackling the causes of

23 intra-generational inequalities; in particular conference welcomes
24 proposals for:

- 25 a) Making wellbeing a specific goal of government in general and the
26 NHS and education in particular.
- 27 b) Promoting age-friendly communities.
- 28 c) An evidence based national wellness programme with Health
29 and Wellbeing Boards leading local partnership work to develop
28 wellness services.
- 29 d) Local action to identify and address social isolation and loneliness.

30 2. The economics of ageing requires an understanding of the income,
31 wealth, health status, educational attainment, gender, ethnic and
32 geographical inequalities within each generation that are likely to
33 determine how well we age; in particular conference welcomes
34 proposals for:

- 35 a) Recognising care services as a key part of our economic
36 infrastructure.
- 37 b) Reinventing retirement as a 'process' not an 'event'.
- 38 c) The introduction of mid-life career reviews.
- 39 d) The Office for Budget Responsibility to report annually to
40 Parliament on intergenerational equity.
- 41 e) The Treasury to review the impact of longevity risk on the
42 functioning of financial markets including a cost-benefit analysis of
43 longevity bonds.

44 3. Valuing Carers. Liberal Democrats believe we need to see a
45 shift in how families are supported to balance growing eldercare
46 responsibilities with busy working lives; in particular conference
47 welcomes proposals for:

- 48 a) A £250 'Carers Bonus' paid annually towards extra costs such as
49 taking a break by arranging for respite care; we would set this at
50 £125, aiming to double it to £250 by 2020.

- 51 b) Carers who need additional flexibility to care for a close family
52 member to have up to 5 days of paid additional 'care leave' a year.
53 c) The NHS to have a legal duty to identify carers.
54 d) An NHS 'carers passport' scheme to inform carers of their rights in
55 the NHS.
56 e) A carer's return to work programme.
57 f) Every government department to model good practice in support
58 for carers.

59 4. Pensions reforms will boost savings and lift millions of people out of
60 inadequate retirement incomes; in particular conference welcomes
61 proposals for:

- 62 a) The 'triple lock' indexation of the state pension to be made law.
63 b) The principle of auto-enrolment to be extended by increasing the
64 contribution made towards a pension every time an employee
65 receives a pay rise.
66 c) A 'pot-follows-member' policy so that small pension pots are no
67 longer left 'stranded' when people change job.
68 d) People to have access to good quality independent face-to-face
69 guidance including a health and wealth 'resilience score'.
70 e) Withdrawal of Winter Fuel Payments and Free TV Licences for
71 higher rate taxpayers.

72 5. Housing and the environment. Accessible, warm, decent housing
73 enables people to remain living well and independently. The physical
74 and social environment around where we live impacts on how we live
75 and our sense of identity; in particular conference welcomes proposals
76 for:

- 77 a) Strengthening the Housing Strategy for England to meet the needs
78 of an ageing population.
79 b) Local authorities to pilot ways of delivery low or no cost help with
80 right-sizing moves.
81 c) Public health considerations to be integrated in planning policies to

- 82 ensure that the built environment supports the goals of making our
83 towns and cities age friendly.
- 84 d) National Planning Practice Guidance and Local Plan guidance to
85 make clear the benefits of safe and attractive streets and open
86 spaces.
- 87 6. Health and Care is co-ordinated around the individual to ensure that
88 people receive the right care at the right time in the right place; in
89 particular conference welcomes proposals for:
- 90 a) The NHS to match the best of Europe on dementia diagnosis rates
91 and care.
- 92 b) The UK to become the global leader in dementia research,
93 doubling the research spend to £132 million by 2020.
- 94 c) Free end of life social care for those placed on their local end of life
95 register.
- 96 d) All patients in receipt of NHS care to be issued with a 'care
97 footprint' to raise awareness of the cost of care and empower
98 people.
- 99 e) General Practice Federations and Networks to be supported to
100 scale up.
- 101 7. Making Britain Age Ready. There is no single action or policy that
102 will prepare the UK for an ageing society - it requires a co-ordinated
103 approach across many areas of public policy to create an age-friendly
104 nation; in particular conference welcomes proposals for:
- 105 a) A Cabinet Committee on wellbeing and ageing to be established
106 and chaired by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury.
- 107 b) A Minister for Ageing.
- 108 c) A statutory independent Older People's Commissioner.
- 109 d) Realising the potential of Health and Wellbeing Boards as the
110 engine of increased integration of public services by strengthening
111 their capabilities and capacity.

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Applicability: England only, except 2 d) and e) (lines 39-43), 3 a) and b) (lines 48-52), 4 (lines 59-71) and 7 a) and b) (lines 105-107) which are Federal.

Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate see page 7.

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion; see page 6.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September; see page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Monday 6th October; see page 6 for further information.

16.10 Speech

Chair: James Gurling

Aide: Jenni Lang

Hall Aide: Pauline Pearce

F34 Tim Farron MP, President of the Liberal Democrats

@timfarron #LDconf

16.30 Policy motions

Chair: Gareth Epps

Aide: Liz Lynne

Hall Aide: Qassim Afzal

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F35 Emergency motions and/or topical issue discussion

This slot has been reserved for an emergency motion or motions, or discussion of a topical issue. The deadline for emergency motions and for suggestions for topical issues is 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September; see page 8. Motions selected for debate and/or for the ballot will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

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

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

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7.

18.00 Close of session

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09.00 Party business

Chair Ruth Polling

Aide: David Rendel

Hall Aide: Qassim Afzal

F36 Report of the Diversity Engagement Group

Mover: Lord Dholakia (Chair, Diversity Engagement Group)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September; questions selected will be printed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 17.00 on Tuesday 7th October. See page 9 for further information.

F37 Report of the Campaign for Gender Balance

Mover: Ros Gordon (Chair of Liberal Democrat Women)

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September; questions selected will be printed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 17.00 on Tuesday 7th October. See page 9 for further information.

F38 Report of the Federal Executive

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

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September; questions selected will be printed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 17.00 on Tuesday 7th October. See page 9 for further information.

F39 Report of the Federal Finance and Administration Committee

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

The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September; questions selected will be printed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 17.00 on Tuesday 7th October. See page 9 for further information.

F40 Membership Subscription and Federal Levy

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

Summation: To be announced

- 1 Conference notes that:
 - 2 a) The Federal Executive is proposing that there be no change to the
3 Minimum, Concessionary, or Liberal Youth subscription rates, and no
4 change to the Federal Levy.
 - 5 b) The Federal Executive is proposing that the recommended rate should
6 rise from £67 to £70.
 - 7 c) The proposed minimum rate, together with our concessionary rate of
8 £6 for those receiving or entitled to receive state benefits, maintains
9 our position of offering access to the widest possible proportion of
10 society.
- 11 Conference resolves that for the year 2015:
 - 12 1. The recommended subscription rate shall be £70.
 - 13 2. The minimum subscription rate shall be £12.
 - 14 3. The concessionary subscription rate for those in receipt of, or entitled
15 to, state benefits other than child benefit or state pension shall be £6.
 - 16 4. Those paying their subscription through Liberal Youth shall pay a
17 minimum of £6 or, where a new member joins, a special introductory
18 rate of £1.

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19 5. Nothing in this motion prevents a State Party from setting a
20 recommended rate or rates of subscription by its internal procedures
21 which is higher than that agreed by the Federal Conference, or from
22 introducing additional concessionary rates.

23 Conference further resolves that for the year 2015 the Federal Levy on
24 membership subscriptions shall be 44%.

Applicability: Federal.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September; see page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Tuesday 7th October, see page 6 for further information.

09.45 Policy motion

Chair: Paul Tilsley

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

Hall Aide: Dr Evan Harris

F41 Emergency motions and/or topical issue discussion

This slot has been reserved for an emergency motion or motions, or discussion of a topical issue. The deadline for emergency motions and for suggestions for topical issues is 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September; see page 8. Motions selected for debate and/or for the ballot will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.

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

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

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7.

10.30 Policy motion

Chair: Liz Lynne

Aide: James Gurling

Hall Aide: Shas Sheehan

F42 Rebanking the UK

28 conference representatives

Mover: Ian Swales MP (Co-Chair, Parliamentary Party Committee on the Treasury)

Summation: David Boyle

- 1 Conference welcomes the progress made by the coalition to make the
- 2 big banks safer and to increase competition between them, including
- 3 measures to divide investment and domestic operations and to speed the
- 4 switching of accounts.

- 5 Conference notes that:
 - 6 a) The UK's competitors and trading partners have powerful and diverse
 - 7 local banking systems that support small-scale enterprise, which the
 - 8 UK still lacks.
 - 9 b) Research shows that co-operative and savings banks reduce the drain
 - 10 of capital from urban centres and foster regional equality because of
 - 11 their ability to lend to SMEs.
 - 12 c) The big banks no longer want to fulfil the role of lending to small
 - 13 business or manufacturing directly - and are less and less willing to
 - 14 provide them with banking services.
 - d) Increasing competition between the big banks, as proposed by Ed

15 Miliband, will not in itself increase the diversity of the UK banking
16 system.

17 Conference believes that the lack of this lending infrastructure puts
18 our economy at a disadvantage, and makes our cities and regions too
19 dependent on London.

20 Conference therefore calls for:

- 21 1. A duty on banking regulators to promote a diverse banking system
22 in the UK, and a new market in alternative sources of finance for
23 enterprise.
- 24 2. A new, diverse local banking system, including community banks
25 and community development finance institutions (CDFIs), funded by
26 the big banks - which will pay for the infrastructure to lend in places
27 and sectors where they are unable to lend themselves, using their
28 geographical lending data to calculate how much they pay each year.
- 29 3. A £100m community finance loan facility via the British Business Bank,
28 to be lent on at low cost by credit unions and CDFIs to SMEs, social
29 enterprises and individual consumers denied access to mainstream
30 credit and finance services.
- 31 4. An off-the-peg basic regulatory and IT package to encourage new
32 community banks, and a legal structure for co-operative banks, as
33 there are in most European countries (the UK's Co-operative Bank was
34 owned by a mutual but was not itself mutual).
- 35 5. A simple system of resolution to allow small banks to collapse safely if
36 they take wrong decisions, as they have in the USA.
- 37 6. An urgent national variation to the Basel lending regulations so that
38 SME lending need not cost banks more than other lending.

Applicability: Federal.

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

WEDNESDAY 8TH OCTOBER

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September; see page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Tuesday 7th October; see page 6 for further information.

11.30 Question and answer session

Chair: To be announced

Aide: Gareth Epps

Hall Aide: James Gurling

F43 Environment

Conference representatives may put questions on the subject of the environment to a panel including party spokespeople and outside experts. Concise questions (maximum 25 words) may be submitted via the website until 17.00 on Thursday 2nd October or to the Speakers' Table by 18.00 on Tuesday 7th October. The chair will select which questions shall be asked during the session. See page 9.

Panellists will include:

- Rt Hon Edward Davey MP, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change.
- Baroness Parminter, Lords Co-Chair of the Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Party on Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

12.15 Policy motion

Chair: Baroness Barker

Aide: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Conference Committee)

Hall Aide: David Rendel

F44 Protecting Private Tenants

18 conference representatives

Mover: Thomas Nicholls

Summation: Tessa Munt MP

1 Conference notes that:

2 A. 1.3 million households, with 9 million residents in total, rent their
3 homes from private landlords in the UK.

4 B. Section 21 of the Housing Act 1988 allows landlords to evict tenants
5 at two months' notice without having to give a reason, provided the
6 tenant is outside the initial secure period of the tenancy.

7 Conference regrets that:

8 i) One in three privately rented properties in the UK does not meet the
9 Government's Decent Homes Standard .

10 ii) Over 324,000 private tenants per year have been evicted in the last
11 five years after complaining to their landlord or local authority about a
12 problem in their homes.

13 iii) One in eight tenants has not asked for repairs to be carried out for fear
14 of retaliatory eviction.

15 iv) Current housing market conditions allow landlords to evict tenants
16 in the knowledge that they will generally be able to find a new tenant
17 quickly and easily, allowing some landlords to evict tenants rather than
18 carrying out necessary repairs.

19 Conference believes that:

20 a) Nobody should be forced to live in poor conditions due to their
21 landlord's failure to deal with problems in the property, nor should they
22 be reluctant to report problems due to the fear of being evicted.

23 b) There are many good landlords who respond appropriately when

24 problems are reported by tenants, and this motion does not seek to
25 infringe their rights in any way.

26 Conference welcomes the Tenancies (Reform) Bill tabled by Sarah Teather
27 MP in the House of Commons on 2nd July 2014 and co-sponsored by
28 Tessa Munt MP, Tim Farron MP and Andrew Stunell MP which aims to
29 give tenants legal protection against retaliatory evictions, and encourages
28 Liberal Democrats MPs to support it.

29 Conference further welcomes the excellent campaigning work carried out
30 by Shelter to bring this issue to national attention through its 'Nine Million
31 Renters' campaign.

32 Conference calls for the following legal protections for private tenants:

- 33 1. Tenants who report problems with their home to their landlord and
34 are subsequently served a Section 21 Notice should have the right to
35 appeal.
- 36 2. If an Improvement Notice is served or Emergency Remedial Action
37 taken by the local authority the landlord should not be able to serve a
38 Section 21 Notice for six months.
- 39 3. A landlord should not be able to serve a Section 21 Notice within
40 six months of a Hazard Awareness Notice being issued by the local
41 authority.
- 42 4. The use of Rent Repayment Orders should be extended to allow
43 tenants to get their rent refunded where a property is found to contain
44 serious risks to health and safety. This provision should apply to
45 current tenants and those who have left the property.

Applicability: England only.

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

WEDNESDAY 8TH OCTOBER

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Tuesday 23rd September; see page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Tuesday 7th October; see page 6 for further information.

12.45 Party business

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

Aide: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

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

F45 Party Awards

13.00 Speech

F46 Speech by the Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats and the Deputy Prime Minister

@Nick_Clegg #LDconf

14.00 Close of conference

Standing Orders For Federal Conference

Glossary of terms

Business motion

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

Business amendment

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

Committee

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

Constitutional amendment

A proposal to change the constitution of the Party.

Secondary constitutional amendment

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

Consultative session

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

Day visitor

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

Elected representative

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

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Emergency motion

A proposal which relates to a specific recent development which occurred after the deadline for submission of motions. Emergency motions must be brief.

Emergency amendment

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

Full session

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

Non-voting member

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

Point of order

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

Policy motion

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

Policy amendment

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

Policy paper

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

Procedural motion

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

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Procedural motions are:

Move to next business

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

Reference back

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

Request for a count

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

Separate vote

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

Suspension of standing orders

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

Special conference

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

Standing order amendment

A proposal to change these standing orders.

Secondary standing order amendment

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

Topical issue discussion

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

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Voting member

A person who is entitled to vote at conference. This term includes substitutes replacing conference representatives for a particular meeting of conference. It does not include conference representatives who have not paid any registration fee that may be in force nor does it include day visitors or observers who are not conference representatives.

Standing orders

1. The conference agenda

1.1 What is on the agenda

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

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

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

1.2 Conference or council of state parties

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

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1.3 Right to submit agenda items

- a) Reports to conference may be submitted only by the bodies listed in paragraph 1.1(b).
- b) Business motions (including amendments and emergency business motions and amendments), constitutional amendments and secondary constitutional amendments, standing order amendments and secondary standing order amendments may be submitted by the Federal Executive, Federal Policy Committee, state parties, regional parties in England, local parties, Specified Associated Organisations and 10 conference representatives. Business motions, standing order amendments and secondary standing order amendments may also be submitted by the Federal Conference Committee.
- c) Motions accompanying policy papers may only be submitted by the Federal Policy Committee.
- d) Policy motions (including amendments, emergency policy motions and amendments) may be submitted by the Federal Policy Committee, state parties, regional parties in England, local parties, Specified Associated Organisations and 10 conference representatives.
- e) Proposals for topical issue discussions may be submitted by any voting member.

1.4 How motions and amendments are submitted

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

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

The Committee shall specify:

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

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 notified to conference representatives and bodies entitled to submit motions. Publication in the party newspaper may be treated as notice for this purpose.

1.7 Later deadlines in special circumstances

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

2. Consultative sessions

2.1 The subjects for consultative sessions

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

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2.2 Speaking at consultative sessions

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

2.3 Voting at consultative sessions

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

3. The agenda

3.1 The shortlisting of motions

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

3.2 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders

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

3.3 Balance between State and Federal policy debates

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

4. Selection of motions and amendments

4.1 Compositing or otherwise altering motions

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

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

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

4.2 Selection of amendments

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

4.3 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders

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

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

4.4 Emergency motions

The Committee may reject an emergency motion if:

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

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

4.5 Ballots for emergency motions

All emergency motions, except those rejected under Standing Order 4.4, must be

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

4.6 Emergency amendments

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

4.7 Topical issue discussions

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

5. Special meetings

5.1 Timetabling of special meetings

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

5.2 Preferred timescales for special meetings

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

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6. Appeals

6.1 Appeals against rejection of motions

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

6.2 Appeals against exclusion from conference

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

7. The chair

7.1 Who chairs conference

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

7.2 The chair's aide

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

8. Conduct of debate

8.1 Variation in the order of business

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

8.2 Withdrawal of motions and amendments

Once the Committee has included a motion or amendment, or part of a motion or

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amendment, in the agenda, may not be withdrawn except by leave of conference.

8.3 The order of debate

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

8.4 Topical issue discussions

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

8.5 Who may speak

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

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

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

8.6 The special rights of the Federal Committees

Provided that the Federal Policy Committee is not proposing the motion or any of the

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amendments to be taken in a debate on a policy motion or on motions relating to the policy-making processes of the Party it shall have the right to nominate a person to report its views on the subject before the conference. The Federal Executive shall have similar rights on business motions or motions to amend the constitution, as shall the Federal Conference Committee on motions relating to the proceeding and procedures of the conference and to amend standing orders. Such a person shall be called to speak for the same length of time as the person replying on behalf of the mover of the motion.

8.7 The selection of speakers

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

8.8 The length of speeches

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

9. Voting at conference

9.1 The method of voting

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

9.2 Counting of votes

A vote by show of voting cards shall be counted:

- a) If the Committee has so directed.
- b) If the chair so directs.
- c) As the result of a procedural motion under Standing Order 11.5 below.

A recount will only be held if the chair is not satisfied that the first count was accurate.

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9.3 Separate votes

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

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

10 Points of order

10.1 Making a point of order

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

11 Procedural motions

11.1 Next business

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

11.2 Reference back (moved by a representative)

- a) A voting member, who has not already spoken in the debate, may, at any time

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before the chair has asked the first speaker in reply to stand by, submit, in writing, a request to refer back the motion under debate. The submission shall state to whom the motion is to be referred and shall include a statement of the reasons, including reasons why voting against the motion would not achieve a similar result, not exceeding 75 words.

b) The chair may take the request to refer back at whatever stage of the debate they consider appropriate. If more than one request is received, the chair shall decide which to take. No more than one request may be taken with respect to any motion.

c) When the request is to be taken, the chair shall read the statement of reasons and ask conference whether it wishes to consider the request to refer. If conference decides, by a simple majority of those voting, to do so, the person who made the request may speak and the mover of the substantive motion, or their nominee, may reply. The chair may allow other speakers. All speeches under this standing order shall be limited to two minutes. If conference decides not to debate the reference back, it falls.

d) The reference back shall require a simple majority of those voting to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.

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

11.3 Reference back (moved by the Federal Policy Committee)

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

b) The chair may take the request to refer back at whatever stage of the debate they consider appropriate. A nominee of the Federal Policy Committee will speak and the mover of the substantive motion, or their nominee, may reply. The chair shall have discretion whether to allow other speakers on the request.

c) The reference back shall require a simple majority of those voting to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or

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

d) If passed, the Federal Policy Committee shall, before the next meeting of the conference, circulate its reasons for acting under this section and its comments on the motion and any amendments thereto accepted for debate.

11.4 Separate vote

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

11.5 Counted vote

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

11.6 Suspension of standing orders

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

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d) The chair shall read the statement of purpose and, if the suspension is allowable in the terms of this standing order, ask the conference whether it wishes to debate the request for suspension. If the conference decides not to debate the request, it falls. If the conference decides, by a majority of those present and voting, to hear the request the mover may speak and a representative of the Committee may reply. The chair shall have the discretion to allow other speakers. All speeches on the motion to suspend standing orders will be limited to two minutes.

e) A motion to suspend standing orders shall only be carried if supported by at least two-thirds of the conference members voting. If the procedural motion is carried all standing orders shall remain in force except only for the purposes set out in the motion.

11.7 No procedural motions during votes

No procedural motion can be moved during a vote.

12 Reports

12.1 Which reports are tabled

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

12.2 Submission and selection of questions

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

12.3 Whether questions are in order or not

A question shall be ruled out of order if it asks the body submitting the report about issues which are outside its duties and responsibilities. If the question could be answered by another body reporting to 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

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

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

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

12.6 Receipt of reports from other bodies

Any report tabled by a body other than a Federal Party committee or sub-committee must be submitted for receipt by the conference and must be voted upon accordingly. A voting member may move not to receive the report, by submitting a speaker's card prior to the commencement of the consideration of the report. A move not to receive a report must be debated (except that the chair shall have discretion to choose between more than one move not to receive the same report), at the conclusion of the question session. The person who made the request shall speak and the mover of the report, or their nominee, shall reply. The chair may allow other speakers, and shall determine the time given to all speakers.

13 Amendment of standing orders

13.1 Amendment of standing orders

These standing orders may be amended by a two-thirds majority of members of

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conference voting on a motion duly submitted and selected in accordance with standing orders. Subject to any amendment they shall remain in force from meeting to meeting.

14 The Chair and Vice Chairs of the Committee

14.1 Chair and Vice Chairs

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

The Federal Party

Officers of the Federal Party

Leader - Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP

President - Tim Farron MP

Chair of FFAC - Peter Dunphy

Treasurer - Sir Ian Wrigglesworth

Vice President (England) - Peter Ellis

Vice President (Scotland) - Craig Harrow

Vice President (Wales) - John Last CBE

Chief Executive - Tim Gordon

Federal Executive

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

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

Federal Finance and Administration Committee

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

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

Federal Policy Committee

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

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

Federal Conference Committee

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

The FCC has 21 voting members: the Party President; the Chief Whip; three state party representatives; two representatives from the FE and two from the FPC; and twelve members directly elected by conference representatives. It elects its own chair (currently Andrew Wiseman), who must be one of the directly elected representatives - see page 3 for the members of the FCC.