



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Ed Davey MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

9 September 2021

Dear Ed,

I would like to draw your attention to a policy commitment, made by Sir Vince Cable in 2017, to the Women and Equalities Select Committee, relating to the Liberal Democrat's commitment to all women shortlists when selecting parliamentary candidates.

Specifically, Sir Vince Cable stated: "We trigger using them [all women shortlists] whenever a sitting MP steps down, whether that is a man or a woman. It is triggered automatically. We then have a system where we can calculate within particular regions whether there are more than, I think, two seats that have more than 25% of the vote. It is a criterion for identifying winnable seats. In those cases, there have to be all-women shortlists to help us achieve parity".

With the recent selection of Bobby Dean, as the candidate for the Carshalton and Wallington constituency, I would like to know when did the above policy expire or did Sir Vince Cable make this up for the benefit of the Select Committee?

Considering the Liberal Democrats won well over 25% of the vote, in Carshalton and Wallington, in the 2019 General Election it would seemingly qualify under Sir Vince Cable's policy.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Philip Davies'.

**Philip Davies MP**



**Ed Davey MP | Leader**  
Liberal Democrats  
1 Vincent Square  
London  
SW1P 2PN

Philip Davies MP  
House of Commons  
London, SW1A 0AA

22nd October 2021

Dear Philip,

I am delighted to see you taking an interest in how the Liberal Democrats are promoting women candidates. I particularly welcome the interest from someone such as yourself, who has actively campaigned against and blocked the promotion of women's rights.

I can only imagine your interest has been triggered by a 'Road to Damascus' moment and a realisation that we live in the year 2021 and not 1821. Making the transition from a sexist dinosaur to someone who champions the rights of women, will not be easy for you. The list of people you will need to apologise to is long.

I want to let you know that you will have my full support on your journey. You will of course need to publicly acknowledge your mistakes in opposing the Equality Act, International Women's Day, Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women, the Domestic Violence Act, and legislation to outlaw upskirting.

I am proud of the Liberal Democrats' record on diversity. In part, it is the Equality Act that has allowed us to elect the first majority-woman Parliamentary Party at Westminster. But this law only allows political parties to use all-women shortlists to select MP candidates when women are under-represented in that political party, not in our parliament as a whole. Given your newfound interest in promoting women candidates, perhaps you would join me in supporting a change to the law so we can achieve a truly equal parliament?

But, a thought strikes me that sadly this might not be your moment, that maybe you have more sinister political motives in mind.

I wonder what has sparked your interest in the Liberal Democrats' internal selection procedures?

Perhaps it is the threat of the Liberal Democrats to the Conservatives in Carshalton and Wallington, with only 629 votes between us? Maybe it is because of the energetic campaign being fought by our excellent Parliamentary Spokesperson, Bobby Dean, who is fighting the Conservative cuts to St. Helier Hospital? Or perhaps the vision of an orange hammer crashing through a blue wall at the next General Election is keeping you awake at night?

Whatever your motivation, I want to thank you for your interest in the Liberal Democrats, especially when you could have been using that time to serve **ALL** your constituents in Shipley.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ed Davey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ed Davey MP  
Leader of the Liberal Democrats