

Scottish Liberal Democrats



Spring Conference

20-21 April 2018

Macdonald Aviemore Resort

Preliminary Agenda



HELPFUL INFORMATION

Venue

Macdonald Aviemore Resort, Aviemore, PH22 1PN

Please note: All bags will be subject to search.

Transport

By train: Aviemore Station is less than a 5 minute walk away from the venue. If you require a taxi from the station this can be booked with Weirs of Aviemore on 01479 810141.

By bus: Bus services which stop at the venue are the Stagecoach 31, 32, 34, 34X, and 35. Citylink coaches also stop at the venue. For more information see stagecoachbus.com and citylink.co.uk.

Parking

There is parking for 120+ cars at the Macdonald Aviemore Resort. There is further free parking at the surrounding Macdonald hotels.

Conference passes

These will be available for collection on arrival at the venue. They must be worn visibly at all times throughout conference.

Deadlines for submissions

Amendments to motions: midday, Tuesday 17th April

Emergency motions: 5pm, Thursday 19th April to be considered for debate on 20th April; or 5pm, Friday 20th April to be considered for debate on 21st April

Topical issue: 5pm, Friday 20th April to be considered for discussion on 21st April

Please email amendments and emergency motions/topical issue discussions to hq@scotlibdems.org.uk

Disabled access

The Macdonald Aviemore Resort is wheelchair accessible. An induction loop is available in the main auditorium. We want to make our events accessible to all. If you need any help to allow you to participate fully in conference, please call us on 0131 337 2314.

Refreshments

The food court will be open throughout the day. Lunchtime and evening fringes may also provide some complimentary refreshments. If you have any dietary requirements, it would be helpful if you let us know in advance, so we can accommodate you.

Accommodation

Information on our special room rates for those staying at the Macdonald hotels can be found at scotlibdems.org.uk/conference or call us on 0131 337 2314.

Registration

You can still register. Please complete and return the form on the last page of this agenda or call us on 0131 337 2314 and we can register you over the phone.

Further information

If you require any further information about any aspect of Conference, please contact 0131 337 2314 or hq@scotlibdems.org.uk

CONFERENCE AGENDA AT A GLANCE

Friday 20 April

10.00 – 12.30 Morning Session

Welcome address

SC1: Cervical Cancer Screening

SC2: Police Reform

Speech: Christine Jardine, Member of Parliament for Edinburgh West

EM1: Emergency Motion

SC3: Animal Welfare

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch

12.45 – 13.45 Fringe Meetings

14.00 – 17.00 Afternoon Session

SC4: The Benefits of Immigration

Speech: Willie Rennie MSP, Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats

SC5: Establishing Real Freedom of Choice

Constitutional Amendment Session

17.00 – 18.00 Fringe Meetings

Saturday 21 April

10.00 – 12.30 Morning Session

Party AGM and Business Motions

SC6: Support for Local Economies

SC7: Candidates at 16

EM2/TI1: Emergency Motion or Topical Issue

12.30 – 15.15 Lunch

12.45 – 15.00 Fringe Meetings

15.15 – 17.00 Afternoon Session

Consultation: Education Working Group

Speech: Vince Cable MP, Federal Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Party Awards

17.00 Close of Conference

OTHER EVENTS AT CONFERENCE

First time at conference?

If you've not been to conference before you will receive an invitation to our first timers' session. Come along and find out more about how conference works and meet other first time attendees.

09.30 – 10.00, Room TBC

Policy Pitch

09.00 – 10.00, Friday 20th April, invite only

Forum for Councillors and Parliamentarians

09.15 – 10.10, Saturday 21st April, invite only

Exhibitions and Fringes

- Action for Land Taxation and Economic Reform (ALTER)
- Educational Institute of Scotland
- Equal Representation Coalition
- Inverclyde Liberal Democrats
- Law Society of Scotland
- Marie Curie
- NFU Scotland
- RNIB Scotland
- Scotch Whisky Association
- Scottish Police Federation
- Shelter Scotland
- Unison

Lib Dem Friends of Whisky Tasting Session with Alistair Carmichael MP

Macdonald Aviemore Resort

Thursday 19th April from 8pm

Join Alistair Carmichael the night before Conference to experience one of his famous Whisky Tasting Events. Tickets £30, available from scotlibdems.org.uk or by calling 0131 337 2314.

30th Anniversary Conference Dinner

Peregrine Suite, MacDonald Aviemore Hotel

Friday 20th April from 7:30pm

Join us for a delicious three course meal, speeches and a raffle to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the formation of the Liberal Democrats. Tickets are priced at £40 or £35 for concessions, available from scotlibdems.org.uk or by calling 0131 337 2314.



Friday 20 April

The morning session runs from 10.10 to 12.30.

10.10 Conference opens

Welcome address

SC1: Cervical Cancer Screening

Submitted by Policy Committee

Mover: Vita Zaporozcenko

Summator: Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP

1 Conference notes:

- 2 1. Cervical screening test is routinely available to every woman from the age of 25.
- 3 2. Every woman is invited for a screening every 3-5 years depending on their age.
- 4 3. Cervical screening detects changes in the make-up of the cervix before cancer
- 5 develops, therefore cervical cancer is only one of the few cancers which can be
- 6 detected and stopped before it begins.
- 7 4. If detected early, almost 100% of cervical abnormalities can be treated.
- 8 5. An estimated 4,500 lives are saved each year in the UK due to cervical screening.

9 Conference further notes:

- 10 1. The worrying reports that 1 in 4 women overall, rising to an average 1 in 3 aged 25-
- 11 29 do not take up the offer of cervical testing.
- 12 2. In some areas of the UK this rises to 1 in 2.
- 13 3. Women reference 'being embarrassed about their bodies' as one of the reason for
- 14 skipping their screening.

15 Conference believes:

- 16 1. That no one should die from a preventable disease.
- 17 2. That no one should be made to feel embarrassed by their bodies.

18 Conference calls for:

- 19 1. NHS Scotland to launch a renewed information campaign about the importance of
- 20 cervical screening.
- 21 2. The Scottish Government to reinvigorate its Detect Cancer Early programme to
- 22 include new ways to promote the importance of cervical screening and other cancer
- 23 screening programmes.

- 24 3. Educational and youth organisations to encourage young women to discuss any body
25 confidence issues with medical professionals.

The deadline for amendments is midday on Tuesday 17th April. Please send to hq@scotlibdems.org.uk.

SC2: Police Reform

Submitted by Policy Committee

Mover: Liam McArthur MSP

Summator: Carole Ford

1 Conference notes:

- 2 1. While the Scottish Liberal Democrats were the only major party to consistently
3 oppose police centralisation, there is growing support for reform of the defective
4 Police and Fire Reform Act (Scotland) 2012.
- 5 2. The lack of confidence in the structure of both Police Scotland and the Scottish Police
6 Authority to deliver resilient and accountable policing at a strategic level.
- 7 3. The "poor governance and poor use of public money" by the Scottish Police Authority
8 and Police Scotland identified by auditors.
- 9 4. The constructive calls by the Scottish parliamentary party for an independent expert
10 commission to be established to present proposals for change.
- 11 5. The finding of HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland that there still isn't "a
12 detailed and authoritative business case" setting out the benefits, drawbacks, risks
13 and costs associated with the transfer of railway policing in Scotland from the British
14 Transport Police (BTP) to Police Scotland, despite SNP ministers already forcing
15 through the legislation to do this.

16 Conference believes:

- 17 1. The structures that govern policing in Scotland are not accountable, transparent,
18 robust or local.
- 19 2. The structures are not well equipped to effectively make the best decisions for
20 policing in Scotland and that this will prove detrimental as they deal with issues of
21 strategy, ageing technology, persistent budget deficits and the BTP merger.
- 22 3. Problems are hardwired into the structure of Scottish policing and that they will
23 therefore persist irrespective of who is in the leading roles.
- 24 4. SNP ministers have presided over this mess and show no evidence of having learned
25 the lessons.
- 26 5. Police officers and staff work incredibly hard but that they have been let down by the
27 SNP Government's botched centralisation which has failed to deliver the benefits

28 promised.

29 6. The manner in which the Scottish Government is proceeding with its merger of the
30 British Transport Police in Scotland into the national force poses a serious risk to the
31 functions currently carried out by both organisations and shows no evidence of
32 having learned the lessons of the establishment of Police Scotland.

33 Conference calls for:

- 34 1. The Scottish Government to agree to an independent commission, appointed by the
35 Scottish Parliament not ministers, so that the damage done by the 2012 Act can be
36 repaired through new legislation, ensuring power is shared and that effective,
37 democratic governance arrangements exist.
- 38 2. The Scottish Liberal Democrats to continue to press for the principles and reforms
39 identified in the motion passed at its Scottish Conference in Autumn 2015 (Putting
40 democracy back into Scottish policing), and to submit these proposals to the
41 independent commission for its consideration.
- 42 3. The Scottish Government to halt the absorption of the British Transport Police into
43 Police Scotland.

*The deadline for amendments is midday on Tuesday 17th April. Please send to
hq@scotlibdems.org.uk.*

Speech by Christine Jardine, Member of Parliament for Edinburgh West

EM1: Emergency Motion

*The deadline for this emergency motion is 5pm on Thursday 19th April. Please send to
hq@scotlibdems.org.uk.*

SC3: Animal Welfare

Submitted by Central Scotland Liberal Democrats

Mover: Yvonne Finlayson

Summator: Colin Robb

1 Conference notes:

- 2 1. That the puppy market is extremely profitable, with nearly two million puppies sold
3 each year in the UK in a market worth between £100million and £300million.
- 4 2. That demand for puppies means that unlicensed breeders and sellers are able to
5 dominate the market.
- 6 3. That the maximum penalty for animal cruelty in Scotland is 12 months in jail.
- 7 4. That puppies can be sold at less than 8 weeks old to a licensed pet shop or a licensed
8 Scottish rearing establishment.

9 Conference believes:

- 10 1. That “hobby breeders” breeding two or more litters per year should be licensed, and
11 that dogs should only be available from licensed sellers, regulated breeders or
12 approved rehoming organisations.
- 13 2. That raising the maximum jail penalty for animal cruelty would serve as a deterrent.
- 14 3. That in order for a dog to achieve the best outcome in life, it should not be separated
15 from its mother at less than 8 weeks.
- 16 4. That the laws which currently exist fail to provide protection for buyers for the
17 increasing trend of buying dogs online, as dogs bought online cannot be adequately
18 traced back to the breeder, and the buyer has no recourse when the dog proves to
19 be sick.

20 Conference calls for:

- 21 1. The Scottish Government to:
 - 22 a. Introduce a ban on third party sales of dogs.
 - 23 b. Introduce a ban on dogs being sold when they are under 8 weeks old.
 - 24 c. Increase the maximum penalty for animal cruelty from 12 months to five
25 years.
 - 26 d. Introduce a new license covering the sale of pets.
- 27 2. The UK Government to:
 - 28 a. Reduce maximum number of litters from “hobby breeders” before a licence is
29 required to 2.
 - 30 b. Ban the online sale of dogs from unlicensed breeders.
 - 31 c. Regulate Internet advertising and social media platforms to require that the
32 breeder’s registration or licence number is always included.

The deadline for amendments is midday on Tuesday 17th April. Please send to hq@scotlibdems.org.uk.

12.30 – 14.00 LUNCH

12.45 – 13.45 FRINGE MEETINGS

The afternoon session runs from 14.00 to 17.00.

SC4: The Benefits of Immigration

Submitted by Policy Committee

Mover: Ewan McRobert

Summator: Vita Zaporozcenko

1 Conference notes:

- 2 1. The analysis produced by the Scottish Government's chief economist in January 2018
3 which spelt out the benefits to the Scottish economy of EU migration.
- 4 2. That each additional EU citizen working in Scotland pays on average £10,400 in taxes
5 and contribute £34,400 to GDP every year.

6 Conference believes that:

- 7 1. Immigration has a positive benefit to communities in the UK.
- 8 2. Immigration and freedom of movement within the EU enriches life in our country,
9 beyond any economic benefit.
- 10 3. Workers from overseas pay more in tax than they receive in benefits and fill important
11 gaps in the workforce.
- 12 4. The ageing population in the UK makes it essential for a fresh welcome to be given to
13 citizens from the rest of the EU, and from outside the EU, to settle here and be part
14 of a positive and long-term future.

15 Conference calls for:

- 16 1. The UK Government to prepare a full and accessible statement on the benefits of
17 workers from overseas in terms of tax revenues, their contribution to economic
18 growth, and the number of highly qualified posts in the NHS and other essential
19 services that they fill.
- 20 2. The UK Government to abandon its arbitrary immigration cap, in line with the
21 recommendation of the Home Affairs Committee, given it has undermined
22 confidence in the immigration system, and made it hard for students and skilled
23 workers to come to the UK.
- 24 3. The UK Government to change its visa requirements to make it easier for qualified
25 staff from overseas to take up hard-to-fill vacancies in the NHS across the UK,
26 including making sure potential NHS workers are not shut out by excessive minimum
27 salary requirements or additional charges for accessing the NHS.
- 28 4. The Scottish Government to continue to give a welcome to overseas workers by
29 continuing to allow EU citizens to vote in elections in Scotland.

The deadline for amendments is midday on Tuesday 17th April. Please send to hq@scotlibdems.org.uk.

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

SC5: Establishing Real Freedom of Choice

Submitted by 26 members and Scottish Young Liberals

Mover: TBC

Summator: Rebecca Bell

1 Conference believes that:

- 2 1. Women, trans men and non-binary people have a right to make independent
3 decisions over their reproductive health without interference by the state.
- 4 2. Access to reproductive healthcare is a human right.
- 5 3. Liberal Democrats champion the freedom, dignity and wellbeing of individuals,
6 acknowledging and respecting their right to freedom of conscience.
- 7 4. Our responsibility for justice and liberty cannot be confined by national boundaries.

8 Conference notes:

- 9 1. Abortion law was devolved to the Scottish Parliament by the Scotland Act 2016.
- 10 2. Induced abortion is currently a crime throughout the UK, although the Abortion Act
11 1967 provides exceptions to the crime of administering or procuring an abortion in
12 England, Wales and Scotland, and the common law allows some exceptions in
13 Northern Ireland.
- 14 3. In 2017, several professional medical organisations backed calls from the British
15 Pregnancy Advisory Service to remove abortion from criminal law:
 - 16 a. The Royal College of Midwives' position statement on abortion says: "Abortion
17 procedures should be regulated in the same way as all other procedures
18 relating to women's healthcare."
 - 19 b. The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists voted in favour of
20 updating their position, saying, "Abortion services should be regulated;
21 however, abortion – for women, doctors and other healthcare professionals -
22 should be treated as a medical, rather than a criminal issue."
 - 23 c. The British Medical Association's annual representative meeting voted that
24 regulation and limits on abortion should be subject to professional and
25 regulatory (rather than criminal) sanctions.
- 26 4. The Aston University study "A Hard Enough Decision to Make" identifies the presence
27 of anti-abortion protesters as a cause of stress, distress, anxiety, and intimidation to
28 those providing and seeking reproductive healthcare. Women and clinic staff across
29 the country report being followed, filmed, and harassed when trying to access or
30 provide services. It concludes that limiting the presence of anti-abortion activists
31 outside clinics would uphold the right of healthcare privacy.

32 Conference calls for the Scottish Government to:

- 33 1. remove all criminal sanctions for receiving an abortion.
- 34 2. remove all criminal sanctions for appropriately registered and regulated medical
35 professionals providing a safe abortion.

- 36 3. provide funding so that users of reproductive healthcare services are provided with
37 enough specialist advice to make fully informed decisions.
- 38 4. enforce safe zones around abortion service providers so that those visiting can travel
39 to them free of any harassment or pressure on their decision, and to make
40 intimidation or harassment of abortion service users outside clinics, or on common
41 transport routes to these services, illegal.
- 42 5. provide funding to enable abortion clinics to provide their services free of charge to
43 service users regardless of country of nationality or residency.

The deadline for amendments is midday on Tuesday 17th April. Please send to hq@scotlibdems.org.uk.

16.00 – 17:00 Constitutional Amendment Session

Copies of the Constitutional Amendments will be available at Conference, or can be made available to members on request by contacting the Chair of your Local Party.

17.00 – 18:00 FRINGES

Saturday 21 April

The morning session runs from 10.00 to 12.30.

10.00 – 10.50 Party AGM and Business Motions

The text of Business Motions will be circulated to members with the AGM papers.

SC6: Support for Local Economies

Submitted by Policy Committee

Mover: Isobel Davidson

Summator: Isobel Davidson

1 Conference notes:

- 2 1. The proposals to close 52 branches of the Royal Bank of Scotland and to consider
3 closure of a further 10 in December 2018.
- 4 2. The closure of 6,000 UK post offices under the Conservatives in the 1990s and the
5 plans for 2,500 closures under the 1997 Labour Government until the Coalition halted
6 the closure plan.
- 7 3. The closure of public counters in police stations and local courts in towns across
8 Scotland despite the Scottish Government's avowed "High Street first" policy.
- 9 4. The recommendations of the party's Campbell Commission on local power which
10 recommended giving a duty on national and local public authorities to respond to
11 requests from communities.

12 Conference believes that:

- 13 1. Closures of community facilities by private companies and state agencies has harmed
14 local economies.
- 15 2. Communities should be empowered to lead the retention and revival of community
16 facilities, especially when the last facility in an area is earmarked for closure.
- 17 3. The closure of community assets should be treated with the same seriousness and
18 rapid action as currently occurs when major employers close.

19 Conference calls for:

- 20 1. The UK Government to agree to use its major shareholding in Royal Bank of Scotland
21 to halt closures and bring a more community-oriented approach to the bank's work.
- 22 2. The UK Government to explore with all banks how they can co-operate in shared
23 banking hubs in smaller communities, to preserve face-to-face business and
24 community access to financial services.
- 25 3. The Scottish Government to establish a rapid-reaction service, similar to the
26 Partnership for Continuing Employment initiative that works when a large employer

- 27 closes, to bring together all public agencies to explore how community assets, such
28 as bank branches, post offices, police counters or pubs, can be maintained.
- 29 4. The Scottish Government to give a right for communities, through their local
30 authority, to trigger the government rapid reaction service, to explore how threatened
31 community facilities can be kept open, through different ownership, the use of shared
32 premises as hubs or support from enterprise agencies.
- 33 5. Community groups and organisations to register their interest in assets of community
34 value, which may currently be in the private sector, and for them to be given a fair
35 chance to complete the eventual purchase or transfer of these assets.

The deadline for amendments is midday on Tuesday 17th April. Please send to hq@scotlibdems.org.uk.

SC7: Candidates at 16

Submitted by Scottish Young Liberals

Mover: Christopher Wilson

Summator: Mariam Mahmood

- 1 Conference notes:
- 2 1. A quarter of 16-17 year olds joined political parties in the year following the 2014
3 Scottish independence referendum.
- 4 2. In 2015 the Scottish Parliament lowered the voting age for Scottish Parliament and
5 Scottish local elections to 16.
- 6 3. The Electoral Reform Society notes that where they are given the opportunity to vote,
7 16-18 year olds have higher turnout than the 18-25 demographic.
- 8 4. The minimum age for someone to be eligible to stand as a candidate in Scottish
9 elections is 18.
- 10 Conference welcomes the work of the Scottish Youth Parliament in encouraging democratic
11 engagement amongst young people, and preparing young people to join campaigns and
12 stand for election.
- 13 Conference believes that:
- 14 1. The arguments that have been successfully used to lower the voting age in Scottish
15 elections can equally be applied to lowering the candidacy age.
- 16 2. The inconsistency between the candidacy and voting age is therefore unnecessary
17 and needlessly confusing.
- 18 3. The expertise and experiences of young people in education could be critical in
19 reversing a decade of decline under the SNP.
- 20 Conference calls on:
- 21 1. The UK government to pass a Section 30 order allowing the Scottish Parliament to

- 22 lower the minimum age for candidacy in Scottish elections in line with the voting age.
- 23 2. The Scottish Parliament to lower the minimum age of candidacy in line with the voting
- 24 age once it has the power to do so.
- 25 3. Scottish political parties to create a cross-party campaign for lowering the minimum
- 26 age of candidacy in line with the voting age.
- 27 4. Scottish political parties to ensure that their internal candidate training programmes
- 28 are open and fully accessible to 16 and 17 year olds. This should include a year's
- 29 shadowing of a parliamentarian and/or experience of an election campaign assisting
- 30 a candidate.

The deadline for amendments is midday on Tuesday 17th April. Please send to hq@scotlibdems.org.uk.

EM2/TI1: Emergency Motion or Topical Issue

The deadline for this emergency motion or topical issue is 5pm on Friday 20th April. Please send to hq@scotlibdems.org.uk.

12.30 – 15.15 LUNCH

12.45 – 13.45 FRINGE MEETINGS

14.00 – 15.00 FRINGE MEETINGS

The afternoon session runs from 15.15 to 17.00.

Education Working Group Consultation Session

A chance for members to feed in to the Policy Committee's Education Working Group.

Speech by Vince Cable MP, Federal Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Party Awards

17.00 Close of Conference

Scottish Liberal Democrats - Standing Orders

1. The Conference Committee

- 1.1. The Conference Committee shall be constituted as specified in Section E10 of the Constitution. The annual election of members by the conference shall be by Single Transferable Vote in a ballot of all members of the Party registered to attend Conference ('Conference Representatives').
- 1.2. The Conference Convener shall be the Chair of the Conference Committee. At its first meeting after a new election under Section E10 of the Constitution, the Conference Committee may elect one or more Vice-Conveners.

2. The Timetable and Agenda - Normal Meetings

- 2.1. The Agenda for each ordinary meeting of Conference shall include time for:
 - 2.1.1. Motions;
 - 2.1.2. Emergency motions;
 - 2.1.3. Topical motions;
 - 2.1.4. A business session or sessions; and
 - 2.1.5. any other business deemed appropriate by the Conference Committee. The time to be allocated to each type of business and the order of business shall be decided by the Conference Committee.
- 2.2. The Conference Committee shall, before each meeting of the Conference, prepare a timetable which includes:
 - 2.2.1. The closing date for the receipt of motions (other than Emergency or Topical motions), which shall not normally be less than eight weeks before the start of the meeting;
 - 2.2.2. The due date for the publication of the Agenda, which shall not normally be less than six weeks before the start of the meeting;
 - 2.2.3. The closing date for the receipt of Topical Motions, which shall not normally be less than two weeks before the start of the meeting; and
 - 2.2.4. The closing date for receipt of amendments which shall not normally be less than two working days before the start of the meeting.
 - 2.2.5. The Conference Committee may, in special circumstances, specify dates later than the normal dates under this Standing Order. It shall report to the Conference its reasons for doing so.
- 2.3. Submitting organisations shall detail at the time of submission the name and contact details of a person authorised to agree any redrafting of a motion or amendment and the name of the mover and summator of the motion or amendment, should it be selected for debate at Conference.
- 2.4. The Conference Committee shall decide which of the motions duly submitted shall be included within the Agenda. The proposers of the motions selected for debate shall be informed of the Conference Committee's decision. The Agenda shall be circulated to Local Parties and other bodies entitled to submit motions and amendments under the provisions of Section E19 of the Constitution so that amendments can be tabled to these motions by such bodies. Copies of motions not selected for inclusion in the Agenda shall be available for inspection.
- 2.5. The Conference Committee shall meet the day after the deadline for submission of amendments to motions on the Agenda and shall decide which amendments should be accepted and those rejected. The proposers of the amendments selected for debate shall be informed of the Conference Committee's decision.
- 2.6. The Conference Committee shall also meet as soon as practicable after the closing date for the receipt of topical motions and shall decide which of the topical motions duly submitted shall be debated, and the proposers of topical motions selected shall be informed of the Conference

Committee's decision. The text of any topical motions selected for debate shall be circulated to Conference Representatives, Local Parties and bodies authorised to submit motions.

- 2.7. The Conference Committee shall also prepare an agenda for the business session of each meeting of Conference. The Committee shall circulate this, with the text of proposed amendments to the Constitution in accordance with Section L of the Constitution, amendments to Standing Orders, and other party business motions, with the Agenda as per Section 2.4
- 2.8. The Party's Principal Committees may submit holding motions, which shall identify the issues to be dealt with within the motion but which may be amended and expanded upon later. Standing Orders 2 and 3 shall apply to holding motions as they would apply to ordinary motions, except that:
 - 2.8.1. the final version of the motion shall be submitted not less than two weeks before the start of the meeting of Conference;
 - 2.8.2. The text of the final version shall be circulated to Conference Representatives, Local Parties and other bodies authorised to submit motions under the provisions of Section E19 of the Constitution, who may submit amendments no later than two working days before the start of the meeting of Conference; and
 - 2.8.3. The Committee shall make available to Conference Representatives the text of the final version and any amendments chosen for debate, either by their publication in the Conference Daily Bulletin or by any other means the Committee considers most appropriate
- 2.9. The Conference Committee may, if the circumstances require, propose to 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.

3. Submission of Motions and Amendments

- 3.1. The Conference Committee may refuse to select a motion for the amendment of the Constitution or Standing Orders if, in the opinion of the Committee, it is similar in effect to another motion which has been selected for debate at the same meeting of Conference. All other motions in these categories shall be circulated with the Agenda.
- 3.2. No amendment shall be selected if, in the opinion of the Conference Committee, it is insubstantial, outside the legitimate scope of the motion or tantamount to a direct negative of the motion.
- 3.3. The movers of any motion or amendment that has not been selected shall be notified as soon as is practicable and may appeal to the Conference Committee in accordance with directions given by the Committee. If an appeal is allowed, the motion or amendment shall be treated as an emergency motion or amendment notwithstanding that it does not comply with Standing Order 5.
- 3.4. This Standing Order and Standing Order 2 do not apply to procedural motions under Standing Order 8.
- 3.5. No Topical Motion may be selected for debate at Conference unless the Conference Committee is satisfied that the content of the motion is such that it could not have been submitted in time for the deadline as set out in Section 2.2 for ordinary motions. No Topical Motion can be a holding motion from a Party Committee.

4. The Agenda - Special Conferences

- 4.1. Special Conferences shall deal only with the business stated in the notice of requisition, save that the Conference Committee may allow time for emergency motions and for business which is formal or, in the opinion of the Committee, uncontentious.
- 4.2. The Conference Committee shall draw up an Agenda and circulate in line with Section 2.4. If the Committee deems it necessary the Agenda can be circulated with amendments to be submitted

as Emergency Amendments.

- 4.3. The provisions of Standing Orders 2 and 3 shall, so far as they are not inconsistent with Standing Orders 4.1 and 4.2, apply to special meetings of the Conference.

5. **Emergency Motions**

- 5.1. An emergency motion or amendment must relate to significant developments which have occurred since the relevant closing date or so shortly before that date as to make it impracticable to submit a motion, Topical Motion or amendment in due time. It must be brief and specific.
- 5.2. An emergency motion or amendment may be submitted by five Conference Representatives or by any persons or bodies authorised to submit motions under the provisions of Section E9 of the Constitution.
- 5.3. The Conference Committee may, for each day of the meeting of Conference, set aside time convenient for the debate of Emergency Motions. In such an event, proposed Emergency Motions must be submitted to the Conference Committee, duly signed, by 5pm the day before they are to be debated. Emergency Amendments to motions already on the Agenda for that meeting of Conference must be submitted by 5pm the day before the motion is to be debated.
- 5.4. The Conference Committee may refuse to select an emergency motion or amendment if, in the opinion of the Committee, it is similar in effect to another motion which has been selected for debate at the relevant meeting of Conference.
- 5.5. The Conference Committee will choose the emergency motions or amendments which, in the opinion of the Committee, are most relevant to the concerns of the Conference and can be debated within the time available. The Committee shall make available the text of all emergency motions and amendments chosen for debate either by publication in the Conference Daily Bulletin or any other means the Committee finds most appropriate.
- 5.6. Amendments shall not normally be taken to the text of an Emergency Motion. However Conference Committee may consider amendments duly signed by 5 Conference Representatives or by any body authorised to submit motions under the provisions of Section E9 of the Constitution. These amendments must be brief, suitable for debate and of a similar emergency nature. The deadline for submitting amendments to an Emergency Motion will be listed in the Conference Daily Bulletin alongside the text of the Emergency Motion. The movers of the Emergency Motion must be given the opportunity to agree that the text of the amendment be accepted without debate or vote, and the text must be circulated to voting representatives before the start of the debate.

6. **Conduct of Debate**

6.1. Length of Speeches

- 6.1.1. The Conference Committee shall decide the time to be allocated for each debate. The Conference Committee shall determine the times allocated to speakers in debates.
- 6.1.2. Movers of motions shall normally be allocated not more than 12 minutes to move and summate on a motion. Movers of amendments shall normally be allocated not more than 8 minutes to move and summate on a motion. Movers of emergency and topical motions shall normally be allocated 5 minutes to move the motion. Speakers from the floor shall normally be allocated 4 minutes but this may be varied at the discretion of the chair of the debate.
- 6.1.3. The allocation of the time between moving and summing shall be at the discretion of the mover subject only to notification of the Chair of the debate before the start of the debate. In the absence of such notification the Chair shall be entitled to limit speeches to three quarters of the time allocation for moving and one quarter for summation.

6.2. **Order of Debate**

- 6.2.1. The Conference Committee shall direct the order of debate. Generally, however, a motion will be

moved and immediately thereafter the amendments will be moved in the order directed by the Committee. There will then be a general debate. The movers of amendments (or their nominees) shall have the right to summate in the same order, after which the mover of the motion (or their nominee) shall have the right to summate.

- 6.2.2.** Votes will be taken on amendments in the order in which they have been moved and finally, a vote shall be taken on the substantive motion.
- 6.3.** The Conference Committee may direct that parts of any motion or amendment or group of amendments may be the subject of a separate debate the Conference Committee may also direct that a debate may comprise of more than one substantive motion. In this case it shall be up to the discretion of the Chair as to the allotment of speakers, save that the rights of movers of motions or amendments shall not be infringed.
- 6.4.** The Committee may authorise members of other State or Regional Parties to speak. The Committee may also, with the approval of conference, invite any person to address a Conference as a guest.
- 6.5.** On any topical motion, policy motion or emergency motion not moved on behalf of the Policy Committee, the Policy Committee shall have the right to nominate one of its members to report to the Conference its views on the motions and/or amendments under debate. Such persons shall be called to speak at any time up to the conclusion of the debate and before any replies and shall be entitled to speak for the same length of time as the mover of the motion. The Executive Committee shall have similar rights on business motions or motions to amend the constitution and the Conference Committee shall have similar rights in relation to motions to amend Standing Orders or motions otherwise relating to the proceedings of the Conference.
- 6.6.** Save as provided in Standing Orders, no person may speak more than once in any debate.
- 6.7.** All members wishing to speak in any debate, including the movers and summators of motions and amendments, must submit a speaker's card and indicate whether they wish to speak in favour or against a motion or amendment. The Chair of the session shall be responsible for providing a balanced debate between the different viewpoints in the Conference. In circumstances where there is a preponderance of members wishing to speak on the same side in any debate, the Chair may announce a departure from this rule.

7. Voting

- 7.1.** Voting cards shall be issued to all Conference Representatives and shall be shown in respect of all votes taken. A count of voting cards will be taken when either:
 - 7.1.1.** This is felt necessary by the Chair of the session to resolve uncertainty as to the outcome, or
 - 7.1.2.** A request for a count has been made by 12 Conference Representatives standing in their places and showing their voting cards.
- 7.2.** In the event of a count of voting cards being required, the Chair of the session shall appoint tellers for the purpose. A recount will be held only if the Chair of the session is not satisfied that the first count was accurate.

8. Points of Order and Procedural Motions

- 8.1.** Any voting member may rise on a point of order. A point of order shall be taken immediately, except that, during a vote no point of order shall be taken that does not refer to the vote itself. The decision of the Chair of the session on all points of order shall be final.
- 8.2.** References Back
 - 8.2.1.** A voting member may, at any time before the end of speeches in reply to the debate, submit in writing a motion to refer back the motion under debate. Such a submission shall state to whom the motion is to be referred and shall include a short statement of the reasons.
 - 8.2.2.** The Chair may decide either to take the motion to refer back immediately or defer it until the end

of debate. If more than one request for a reference back is received, the Chair shall have the discretion as to which to take but shall give consideration to the appropriateness of the bodies to which the motion is being referred, the degree to which the stated reasons for reference back reflect views expressed in the debate and the order in which the requests were submitted, before exercising the rights of discretion. No more than one reference back shall be taken to any motion.

8.2.3. The Chair shall, upon taking the motion to refer back, read it and the statement of reasons and ask conference whether it wishes to debate the motion. If the conference decides not to debate the reference back, the reference back automatically falls. If the conference decides, by a majority of those voting to debate the reference back the mover of that motion may 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 motion.

8.2.4. The reference back shall require a simple majority of those voting to be passed. If the substantive motion is referred to the Executive, Policy Committee or Conference Committee that body shall report to the next meeting of conference stating the action it has taken on the reference back.

8.3. Suspension of Standing Orders

8.3.1. A voting member may, during any session of a conference, move for the suspension of Standing Orders. The mover shall submit the motion together with a written statement of its purpose, not exceeding 100 words, to the Chair who shall read them to the Conference.

8.3.2. No motion to suspend Standing Orders may suspend any requirement of the Constitution, not Standing Orders 2 and 3.

8.3.3. No motion to suspend Standing Orders to introduce a motion or amendment onto the Agenda can be taken unless the motion or amendment has been submitted to the Conference Committee in accordance with the published timetable and any right of appeal has been exercised.

8.3.4. The Chair shall read the statement of purpose and if the suspension is allowable, ask Conference whether it wishes to debate the request to suspend Standing Orders. If the Conference decides not to debate the request, it falls. If the Conference decides to hear the request the mover may speak and a representative of the Conference may reply. The Chair has the discretion to call other speakers and all speeches will be limited to two minutes.

8.3.5. A motion to suspend Standing Orders shall only be carried if supported by at least two thirds of voting Representatives present and voting. If the procedural motion is carried all Standing Orders shall remain in force except only for the purposes set out in the motion.

8.4. Separate Votes

8.4.1. A Separate Vote shall be taken on a part of a motion or amendment.

8.4.2. At the direction of the Conference Committee; or

8.4.3. At the discretion of the Chair, when requested to do so by a voting representative. Any voting representative may submit a request for a separate vote to the Chair of a debate. Such a request must be in writing and received before the commencement of the speeches in reply to the debate. The Chair has complete discretion in such a case on whether to take a separate vote.

8.5. These Standing Orders may be amended by a two-thirds majority of Conference Representatives present and voting on a motion duly submitted under the terms of Standing Order 3. Subject to any amendment they shall remain in force from Conference to Conference.

