

Liberal Democrats

Agenda

Autumn Conference 2022



Conference App

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Welcome to the Liberal Democrat Autumn 2022 *Conference Agenda*.

If you have any questions whilst at conference please ask a conference steward or go to the Information Desk on the ground floor of the Brighton Centre.

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

Conference venue

Brighton Centre, Kings Road, Brighton BN1 2GR

Please note that the Brighton Centre is within the secure zone and that access is only possible with a valid conference pass.

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

www.libdems.org.uk/conference



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*All conference sessions take place in the auditorium in the Brighton Centre except the consultative sessions, as stated in the body of the Agenda and in the index as follows:
* will take place in The Grand Hotel; and
will take place in Meeting Room 1D in the Brighton Centre.*

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Auditorium information

This *Agenda* covers the auditorium sessions at autumn conference. The formal rules for conference are set out in standing orders on pages 85–96.

General conference information can be found in the conference *Directory*.

Conference Extra and *Conference Daily*

Conference Extra is published ahead of conference and *Conference Daily* each day at conference, containing updates to the agenda including changes to timings, amendments, topical issues, emergency motions and questions to reports, and will be available at:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers

and via the Conference App.

Limited hard copies of *Conference Daily* will be available each morning at conference – enquire at the Information Desk.

Venue

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

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

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

Accessibility

- There is access to the stage via a ramp at the back of 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.
- Sign language interpretation during all auditorium sessions; a number of seats are reserved for attendees using this service, at the front of the auditorium.

Auditorium information

- Reserved seats at the front of the auditorium for those who would benefit from being closer to the stage due to a visual impairment.
- A limited number of electric scooters will be available for use around the conference venue (they need to be returned each evening).

If you need assistance at the venue, please contact the Information Desk in the Brighton Centre.

If you need assistance or information in advance or to request the use of an electric scooter, please contact the Conference Team on

conferences@libdems.org.uk

Live Stream

The auditorium will be streamed live in case you miss any sessions or want to see them again! Watch at:

www.libdems.org.uk/live

Conference timetable 2023

17–19 March 2023, York

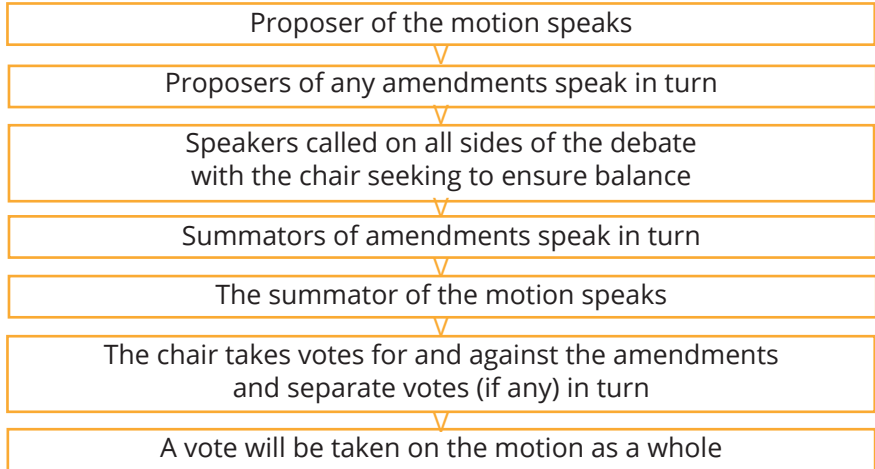
Drafting advice deadline (motions)	13.00	Friday, 16 December 2022
Motions deadline	13.00	Wednesday, 11 January 2023
Drafting advice deadline (amendments, emergency motions)	13.00	Monday, 20 February 2023
Deadline for amendments to motions, emergency motions, topical issues, questions to reports	13.00	Monday, 6 March 2023

Autumn conference deadlines are to be confirmed.

Debates and votes at conference

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

The structure of debate on policy and business motions:



Interventions: 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 published in *Conference Daily*.

Voting: decisions on most motions and all amendments and separate votes are by simple majority of those voting (2/3 majority for constitutional amendments). To vote, voting members must show their voting badge whilst seated on the ground floor of the auditorium.

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

A request for a separate vote should be submitted using the online form at:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers

Debates and votes at conference

or 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 member may request a count from the floor; if fifty voting members stand and show their voting cards, a count will be taken.

Communications with the chair and aide: the chair and aide team can be contacted at conference – solely for formal communication on procedural motions and points of order, via the Speakers Desk or via the link:

www.libdems.org.uk/procedural-motions

Speaking and voting at conference

Eligibility to speak and vote

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

Length of speeches

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

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

Applying to speak

To make a speech in a debate you must:

- complete a speaker's card, collected from and returned to the Speakers' Table at the front of the auditorium, an auditorium steward or the Information Desk; or
- submit an electronic speaker's card, from 10 September up to one hour before the start of the debate, online at

www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card

Speaking and voting at conference

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 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 and write legibly – 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, voting members 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.

Other conference sessions

Emergency motions

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

There is a slot for emergency motions at F42 on Tuesday 20 September.

Motions selected for debate, and/or for selection by ballot along with the ballot procedure, will be printed in Saturday's *Conference Daily*. The emergency ballot will be held in the auditorium between 09.00 and 13.00 on Saturday 17 September.

Topical issue discussions

The FCC may decide to use part of this slot for topical issue discussions. This will allow members and spokespeople to discuss and comment on a political issue live at the time of conference; they do not make party policy.

Other conference sessions

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

Question & answer sessions

Any voting member may submit a concise question (maximum 25 words) on any subject for the Leader's Q&A (F21). Questions will be selected by the chair and the questioner will be able to ask their question via the interventions microphone.

Questions may be submitted by 17.00 on the day before the session using the online form at:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions

Questions may also be submitted on a form collected from and returned to the Speakers' Table in the auditorium by 12.50 Sunday 18 September.

Reports

The reports of Federal Committees and Parliamentary Parties are printed in the separate reports document. Any voting member may submit concise questions on these reports. Questions may be submitted by 13.00 on 5 September using the online form at:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions

Questions received by the deadline above will be published in *Conference Extra* and are guaranteed a reply, in the session or in writing thereafter. Questions may also be submitted using the same online form until one hour before the start of the relevant session, but will only be called if time allows and at the discretion of the chair of the session.

Submitting amendments, emergency motions, topical issues and appeals

Amendments and emergency motions

Amendments and emergency motions must be:

- signed by 10 party members; **OR**
- submitted by one or more of: a local party, state party, regional party in England, Federal Specified Associated Organisation or Federal Party Committee.

Submitting amendments, emergency motions, topical issues and appeals

And must be submitted by 13.00 on 5 September online at:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions

Submitters should include:

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

Topical issues

Suggestions for topical issues may be submitted by any party member by 13.00 on 5 September online at:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions

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

Drafting advice

Submitters are encouraged to use our drafting advice service: draft amendments and emergency motions should be submitted by 13.00 on 22 August online at:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions

Appeals

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

The appeal should come from the email address of the original contact for the motion and should be no longer than one side of A4.

It should explain why you are appealing and any new information the FCC was unaware of when it made its decision.

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

Appeals should be emailed by 13.00 on 15 September to:

appeals@libdems.org.uk

Saturday 17 September

F1

09.00 Party business

Chair: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC). Aide: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Hall Aide: Jon Ball.

F1 Opening of Conference by Dr Mark Pack, President of the Liberal Democrats



@markpack, #LDConf

09.15 Party business

Chair: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Aide: Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC). Hall Aide: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC).

F2 Federal Conference Committee Report: questions and accountability

Mover: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, Federal Conference Committee).

See notes to F4 below.

F3 Federal Policy Committee Report: questions and accountability

Mover: Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee).

See notes to F4 below.

F4 Report of the Federal Appeals Panel: questions and accountability

Mover: David Graham (Chair, Federal Appeals Panel).

Conference will be asked to vote on the membership of the Federal Appeals Panel that will be set out in Conference Extra.

Notes to F2, F3 and F4: The deadline for questions for F2, F3 and F4 is 13.00 on Monday 5 September. Questions selected will be published in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily. These questions will be guaranteed an answer, either in the session or in writing thereafter. Questions may also be submitted up until 08.15 Saturday 17 September; such questions are only taken at the discretion of the chair. See page 10 for further information.

Saturday 17 September**F5**

09.40 Policy motion

Chair: Professor Belinda Brooks-Gordon. Aide: John Bridges. Hall Aide: Chris Maines.

F5 Taking a Stand for Mental Health*Young Liberals and 10 members*

Mover: Fergus Ustianowski.

Summation: Munira Wilson MP (Spokesperson for Education, Children and Young People).

- 1 Conference notes that:
- 2 A. According to the Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing in England,
- 3 one in six people aged 16+ experienced symptoms of a mental health
- 4 issue in the past week.
- 5 B. COVID-19 has severely impacted people's mental health, with the
- 6 number of children with probable mental health disorders rising from
- 7 one in nine in 2017, to one in six children in 2021.
- 8 C. Financial difficulties, which have been exacerbated by the cost of
- 9 living crisis and the Conservative Government's failure to effectively
- 10 respond to it, can have devastating impacts on people's mental
- 11 health.
- 12 D. In 2021, there were 4.3 million referrals to mental health services,
- 13 hitting record levels.
- 14 E. Data on children and young people's mental health is incredibly
- 15 unreliable, with statistics on waiting times and spend per person
- 16 being reported differently from Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- 17 to CCG, and no data published on mental health in schools
- 18 F. Young people, the LGBTQ+ community, ethnic minority communities,
- 19 disabled people, carers, and those who are unemployed or who live
- 20 alone have increased chances of long-term poor mental health.
- 21 G. Suicide rates are higher among men than women, and men face
- 22 additional stigma in speaking about their mental health.
- 23 H. Studies have demonstrated that children with mental health
- 24 difficulties are more likely to have lower attainment when it comes to
- 25 educational outcomes.
- 26 I. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health will last for
- 27 many years.

Saturday 17 September

F5

28 Conference believes that:

- 29 i) Mental health is as important as physical health.
- 30 ii) Mental health support should not be a postcode lottery, everyone
- 31 deserves access to help regardless of their background.
- 32 iii) It is important that the differing needs of minority groups and those
- 33 disproportionately affected by mental health issues are addressed in
- 34 a response to the mental health crisis.
- 35 iv) After the severe negative impacts of lockdowns and COVID-19
- 36 restrictions on people's mental health, we need a high-quality system
- 37 of care, with early interventions.

38 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitments to:

- 39 a) Make prescriptions for those with chronic mental health conditions
- 40 free on the NHS.
- 41 b) Improve integration between mental health trusts, Local Authorities,
- 42 and hospitals.
- 43 c) Develop a Student Mental Health Charter so that universities and
- 44 colleges provide sufficient mental health provision for their students.

45 Conference calls on the UK Government to:

- 46 1. Publish a strategy to tackle the mental health crisis, with increased
- 47 funding, specific mental health policies and consideration of the
- 48 impact of other areas of policy on mental health.
- 49 2. Introduce maximum waiting times for both referral and treatment
- 50 under mental health services for young people.
- 51 3. Reform Ofsted's Inspection Framework to ensure children's mental
- 52 health and wellbeing are at the heart of the way schools are graded.
- 53 4. Provide a dedicated, qualified mental health practitioner to every
- 54 school.
- 55 5. Publish a strategy for rolling out mental health support in the
- 56 workplace.
- 57 6. Work cross-departmentally to ensure that a holistic approach is taken
- 58 to mental health in government policy, with a full consultation to
- 59 develop policies to specifically address the mental health challenges
- 60 faced by different minority groups.

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

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F6

for speaking in this debate, see page 8.

The deadline for amendments to this motion, see pages 10–11, and for requests for separate votes, see pages 7–8, is 13.00 Monday 5 September. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily.

10.35 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC). Aide: Mary Regnier-Wilson. Hall Aide: Paul McGarry.

F6 UK-EU Cooperation on Foreign and Security Policy

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Layla Moran MP (Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs and International Development).

Summation: Baroness Smith of Newnham (Lords Spokesperson on Defence).

- 1 Conference believes:
 - 2 i) In the universal liberal values of internationalism, human rights,
3 democracy and the rule of law and in the duty of the government of
4 the UK to keep its people safe.
 - 5 ii) That the war in Ukraine has highlighted the importance of the UK
6 working cooperatively with the EU and its member states on foreign
7 and security policy, both by itself and through NATO.
 - 8 iii) That the UK's failure to take part in EU foreign and security policy
9 schemes, especially those which involve third countries such as
10 the USA, has been driven solely by the Conservative government's
11 ideological hostility to cooperation with the EU.
- 12 Conference reaffirms:
 - 13 a) The Liberal Democrats' rejection of the Conservative government's
14 antagonistic approach to relations between the UK and EU, which has
15 made the UK less safe and secure.
 - 16 b) The roadmap to re-establishing good relations and rebuilding the
17 associations between Britain and its European neighbours across a
18 wide range of policy areas, as set out in policy paper 144, *Rebuilding
19 Trade and Cooperation with Europe*.
 - 20 c) The Liberal Democrats' support for a longer-term objective of UK

Saturday 17 September

F6

- 21 membership of the EU, which will contribute to greater security and
22 safety for both the UK and its EU neighbours.
- 23 Consistent with this approach, conference therefore calls for a new
24 approach to UK–EU cooperation on foreign and security policy, including:
- 25 1. Making a clear declaration of a fundamental change in the UK's
26 approach, setting out the UK's intentions to act as a good neighbour
27 to the EU and to repair the damage caused by the Conservatives.
 - 28 2. Offering to establish formal cooperation mechanisms on foreign and
29 security policy issues, including regular ministerial meetings.
 - 30 3. Rebuilding relations with the European External Action Service and
31 the European Commission, and using bilateral relations with EU
32 member states further to cultivate good will.
 - 33 4. Taking advantage of unused provisions within the Trade and
34 Cooperation Agreement regarding cooperation on cyber defence and
35 security, including offering resumed exchanges of personnel with the
36 European External Action Service.
 - 37 5. Seeking association membership or cooperation arrangements with
38 relevant EU agencies and bodies such as the European Defence
39 Agency (EDA) and the Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA).
 - 40 6. Joining one or more of the EU's existing Common Security and
41 Defence Policy missions, such as the UN-mandated peacekeeping
42 mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR), and formalising UK
43 support and involvement through a framework participation
44 agreement.
 - 45 7. Engaging with PESCO (Permanent Structured Cooperation) projects
46 such as the EU Military Mobility Scheme (which includes the US and
47 Canada) to improve transfer of military equipment across Europe.
 - 48 8. Extending intelligence sharing with the EU and its member states.
 - 49 9. Deepening coordination of sanctions policy, in particular against
50 Russia.
 - 51 10. Improving cooperation over defence-industrial issues between the UK
52 and member states of the EU and NATO, including joining common
53 equipment procurement projects and supporting innovative defence
54 technologies.
 - 55 11. Extending the principle of close cooperation with the EU and its
56 member states to other policy areas, including international initiatives
57 in areas such as development cooperation, responsible business
58 conduct and supply chain security, and international negotiations on
59 topics such as climate change or biodiversity.

Saturday 17 September

F6

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 8.

The deadline for amendments to this motion, see pages 10–11, and for requests for separate votes, see pages 7–8, is 13.00 Monday 5 September. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily.

11:25 Party business

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC). Aide: Bex Scott. Hall Aide: John Bridges.

F7 Constitutional amendment: Party Committees

10 Members

Mover: Richard Gadsden.

Summation: to be announced.

- 1 **ARTICLE 9: The Federal Board - with effect from declaration of the**
- 2 **results in the committee elections in 2022**
- 3 *Delete Article 9.2 i. and insert:*
- 4 i. One person who, at the date of the close of nominations for election
- 5 under this paragraph, is a member of the Local Government
- 6 Group defined in Article 17.6, elected by all members of the Local
- 7 Government Group. Casual vacancies shall be filled in accordance
- 8 with election regulations;
- 9 *In Article 9.4, delete 'three years' and insert: 'one term of office for elected*
- 10 *members as defined in Article 8.5'.*
- 11 *Delete Article 9.12 c. and insert:*
- 12 c. Three persons who, at the date of the close of nominations for
- 13 election under this paragraph, are members of the Local Government
- 14 Group defined in Article 17.6, elected by all members of the Local
- 15 Government Group. Casual vacancies shall be filled in accordance
- 16 with election regulations;

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17 ARTICLE 10: The Federal Policy Committee

18 *In Article 10.2, move sub-paragraph D. from Article 10.2 I (voting members) to*
 19 *Article 10.2 II (non-voting members).*

20 *Delete Article 10.2 I B. and insert:*

21 B. three persons who, at the date of the close of nominations for
 22 election under this paragraph, are members of the Parliamentary
 23 Group defined in Article 17.1, elected by all members of the party.
 24 Casual vacancies amongst this group shall be filled by a by-election in
 25 which only members of the Parliamentary Group may vote;

26 *Delete Article 10.2 I E. and insert:*

27 E. three persons who, at the date of the close of nominations for
 28 election under this paragraph, are members of the Local Government
 29 Group defined in Article 17.6, elected by all members of the party.
 30 Casual vacancies amongst this group shall be filled in accordance with
 31 election regulations;

32 *Subject to ratification by all State Parties under the terms of Article 2.10 C.,*
 33 *delete Article 10.2 I F. and insert:*

34 F. one member elected by all members of each State Party, according to
 35 their own procedures;

36 *Delete Article 10.2 I G. and insert:*

37 G. twenty persons, who shall be party members elected by all members
 38 of the Party except that persons who, at the date of close of
 39 nominations for election under this paragraph, are members of the
 40 Parliamentary Group defined in Article 17.1 shall not be eligible to
 41 be candidates for election under this paragraph. Casual vacancies
 42 amongst this group shall be filled in accordance with the election
 43 regulations;

44 *In Article 10.2, final paragraph, delete 'three years' and insert: 'one term of*
 45 *office for elected members as defined in Article 8.5'.*

46 ARTICLE 11: The Federal Conference Committee

47 *In Article 11.2, move sub-paragraphs B., D., E., F. and G. of Article 11.2 I (voting*
 48 *members) to 11.2 II (non-voting members).*

49 *Subject to ratification by all State Parties under the terms of Article 2.10 C.,*

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50 *delete Article 11.2 I C. and insert:*

51 C. one member elected by all members of each State Party, according to
52 their own procedures;

53 *Delete Article 11.2 I H. and insert:*

54 H. twenty persons, who shall be party members elected by all members
55 of the Party except that persons who, at the date of the close of
56 nominations for election under this paragraph, are members of
57 Parliamentary Group defined in Article 17.1 shall not be eligible to
58 be candidates for election under this paragraph. Casual vacancies
59 amongst this group shall be filled in accordance with the election
60 regulations;

61 *In Article 11.2 I, insert new sub-paragraph:*

62 I. three persons who, at the date of the close of nominations for
63 election under this paragraph, are members of the Parliamentary
64 Group defined in Article 17.1, elected by all members of the Party.
65 Casual vacancies amongst this group shall be filled by a by-election in
66 which only members of the Parliamentary Group may vote;

67 *In Article 11.2, final paragraph, delete 'three years' and insert: 'one term of*
68 *office for elected members as defined in Article 8.5'.*

69 **ARTICLE 12: The Federal Finance and Resources Committee**

70 *Delete Article 12.2 H. and insert:*

71 H. five persons, who shall be party members elected by all members
72 of the Party except that persons who, at the date of close of
73 nominations for election under this paragraph, are members of the
74 Parliamentary Group defined in Article 17.5 shall not be eligible to
75 be candidates for election under this paragraph. Casual vacancies
76 amongst this group shall be filled in accordance with the election
77 regulations;

78 *In Article 12.2, final paragraph, delete 'three years' and insert: 'one term of*
79 *office for elected members as defined in Article 8.5'.*

80 **ARTICLE 13: The Federal Communications and Elections Committee**

81 *Delete Article 13.2 H. and insert:*

82 H. three persons, who shall be party members elected by all members

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83 of the Party except that persons who, at the date of close of
 84 nominations for election under this paragraph, are members of the
 85 Parliamentary Group defined in Article 17.5 shall not be eligible to
 86 be candidates for election under this paragraph. Casual vacancies
 87 amongst this group shall be filled in accordance with the election
 88 regulations;

89 *In Article 13.2, final paragraph, delete 'three years' and insert: 'one term of*
 90 *office for elected members as defined in Article 8.5'.*

91 **ARTICLE 14: The Federal People Development Committee**

92 *In Article 14.3 D., delete 'six members elected by the Federal Board, one*
 93 *of whom shall be elected by members as Chair', and insert: 'six persons*
 94 *elected by the voting members of Federal Board by single transferable*
 95 *vote in a secret ballot, one of whom shall be elected by members of FPDC*
 96 *as Chair'.*

97 *In Article 14.3, final paragraph, delete 'three years' and insert: 'one term of*
 98 *office for elected members as defined in Article 8.5'.*

99 **Article 15: The Federal International Relations Committee**

100 *In Article 15.2, move sub-paragraphs A., B., D., E., and F. from Article 15.2 I*
 101 *(voting members) to 15.2 II (non-voting members).*

102 *Subject to ratification by all State Parties under the terms of Article 2.10 C.,*
 103 *delete Article 15.2 I C. and insert:*

104 C. one member elected by all members of each State Party, according to
 105 their own procedures;

106 *Delete Article 15.2 I G. and insert:*

107 G. ten persons, who shall be party members elected by all members
 108 of the Party except that persons who, at the date of close of
 109 nominations for election under this paragraph, are members of the
 110 Parliamentary Group defined in Article 17.1 shall not be eligible to
 111 be candidates for election under this paragraph. Casual vacancies
 112 amongst this group shall be filled in accordance with the election
 113 regulations;

114 *In Article 15.2 I, insert new sub-paragraph:*

115 H. two persons who, at the date of the close of nominations for election

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116 under this paragraph, are members of the Parliamentary Group
 117 defined in Article 17.1, elected by all members of the party. Casual
 118 vacancies amongst this group shall be filled in accordance with
 119 election regulations;

120 *Delete 15.2 II D. and insert:*

121 D. one representative of any local party or parties established to
 122 represent members outside of Great Britain. If there is more than
 123 one such party, the representative shall represent all the local parties
 124 jointly.

125 *In Article 15.2, final paragraph, delete 'three years' and insert: 'one term of*
 126 *office for elected members as defined in Article 8.5'.*

127 **ARTICLE 17: The Parliamentary Parties**

128 *Delete Article 17.4.*

129 *In Article 17.5, delete 'The Chief Whips of each Parliamentary Party shall*
 130 *agree how many places each Parliamentary Party shall occupy on each*
 131 *Federal Committee, having due regard to the size of each Parliamentary*
 132 *Party.'*

133 *Renumber Article 17.5 as 17.1 and renumber accordingly.*

134 *After 17.4 insert new Articles:*

135 17.5 Any person in receipt of the Liberal Democrat Whip in any of the
 136 following bodies shall be treated as a member of the Parliamentary
 137 Group as defined in Article 17.1:

- 138 A The Scottish Parliament *[subject to ratification by the Scottish*
 139 *Liberal Democrats under the terms of Article 2.10 C].*
- 140 B The Welsh Parliament / Senedd Cymru *[subject to ratification by*
 141 *the Welsh Liberal Democrats / Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru*
 142 *under the terms of Article 2.10 C].*
- 143 C The Greater London Assembly *[subject to ratification by the English*
 144 *Liberal Democrats under the terms of Article 2.10 C].*
- 145 D The Northern Ireland Assembly (in the event that there is a
 146 Liberal Democrat Whip introduced in that Assembly).
- 147 E Any Assembly or Parliament for England or an English region
 148 *[subject to ratification by the English Liberal Democrats under the*
 149 *terms of Article 2.10 C].*
- 150 F The European Parliament (in the event that there is a Liberal

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- 151 Democrat Whip reintroduced to that Parliament).
- 152 17.6 Any party member in good standing holding any of the following
 153 directly-elected positions shall be treated as being a member of the
 154 Parliamentary Group as defined in Article 17.1:
 155 A An elected Mayor of a Combined Authority.
 156 B The Mayor of London.
 157 C A Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 158 17.7 Any person holding any of the following positions shall not be
 159 treated as being a member of the Parliamentary Group as defined in
 160 Article 17.1 by virtue of holding that position; these people shall be
 161 members of the Local Government Group:
 162 A A Councillor on a principal local authority.
 163 B An elected Mayor of a council (as distinct from the Mayor of
 164 London or a Mayor of a Combined Authority).
- 165 17.8 If any new post is created that is directly elected by a public
 166 election in which UK citizens vote, the Federal Board shall bring a
 167 constitutional amendment to the next available conference adding
 168 that post to one of Articles 17.5–17.7, or shall state in its report to
 169 that conference that it has chosen not to do so. If an election to the
 170 federal committees occurs before such an amendment shall have
 171 passed, the Federal Board shall designate by majority vote whether
 172 any Liberal Democrat elected to that new post is to be counted as a
 173 member of the Parliamentary Group or the Local Government Group
 174 or neither for the purposes of that election, casting transferable votes
 175 if necessary to choose between the three alternatives.
- 176 17.9 If any person who is a member of a federal committee elected by all
 177 members becomes or ceases to be a member of the Parliamentary
 178 Group or the Local Government Group, this does not affect their
 178 membership of that committee during an elected term.
- 179 **ARTICLE 20: Officers**
- 180 *In Articles 20.1, 20.3 D., 20.4 and 20.5, delete 'a term of three years' and*
 181 *insert: 'a term of office of the same length as that for Federal Committees*
 182 *as defined in Article 8.5'.*
- 183 *In Article 20.1, final sentence, delete 'a period of three years thereafter'*
 184 *and insert: 'a period of the same length as the term of office for Federal*
 185 *Committees as defined in Article 8.5 thereafter'.*

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The existing text of the relevant parts of the Federal Party Constitution are reproduced below. The current constitution can be found at www.libdems.org.uk/constitution.

ARTICLE 9: The Federal Board

9.2 It shall consist of the following voting members:

...

- i. A principal local authority councillor, elected Mayor or Police and Crime Commissioner, elected by the principal local authority councillors, elected Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners of the Party.

...

9.4 Following each election for the European Parliament and the House of Commons, the Federal Board shall commission a report on the Party's work in that election and shall report to the Party on the outcomes of that review. It shall report on its work, including the work of all committees and other bodies responsible to it, to each meeting of the Conference.

...

9.12 There shall be a Federal Council which shall consist of the following voting members:

...

- c. Three principal local authority councillors, elected Mayors or Police and Crime Commissioners, elected by the principal local authority councillors, elected Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners of the Party;

...

ARTICLE 10: The Federal Policy Committee

10.2 I voting members:

...

- B. six members of the Parliamentary Group as defined in Article 17.5, normally including at least one from each Parliamentary Party; C. the President;

...

- D. one person elected by the Federal Communications & Elections Committee from amongst its membership

...

- F. one representative of each State Party, elected by its internal procedures (State Parties may appoint a substitute member should the elected member be unable to attend a specific meeting of the FPC);

- G. one more person than the total number elected or appointed under paragraphs (a) to (f) above, who shall be party members elected by all members of the Party except that persons who, at the date of close of nominations for election under this paragraph, are members of any of

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the Parliamentary Parties listed in Article 17 shall not be eligible to be candidates for election under this paragraph. Casual vacancies amongst this group shall be filled in accordance with the election regulations.

10.2 final paragraph: The Federal Policy Committee thus constituted may co-opt such persons and for such periods not exceeding three years as it thinks fit who shall be entitled to attend and speak but not vote (but so that there shall not be more than three persons co-opted at any time).

ARTICLE 11: The Federal Conference Committee

11.2 I Voting members:

...

- B. the Chief Whip of the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons or their substitute from within the Parliamentary Group as defined in Article 17.5;
- C. one representative of each State Party, elected by its internal procedures (State Parties may appoint a substitute member should the elected member be unable to attend a specific meeting of the FCC);
- D. one person elected by the Federal Board from amongst its members;
- E. two persons elected by the Federal Policy Committee from amongst its members;
- F. one person elected by the Federal Communications & Elections Committee from amongst its members;
- G. one person elected by the Federal People Development Committee from amongst its members;
- H. 12 persons elected by party members. Casual vacancies amongst this group shall be filled in accordance with the election regulations.

11.2 II Non-voting members

...

- C. one representative of the staff employed by the Federal Party or by the Parliamentary Parties and elected by such staff.

...

11.2 final paragraph: The Conference Committee thus constituted may co-opt such persons and for such periods not exceeding three years as it thinks fit who shall be entitled to attend and speak but not vote (but so that there shall not be more than three persons co-opted at any time).

ARTICLE 12: The Federal Finance and Resource Committee

12.2 final paragraph: The FFRC thus constituted may co-opt such persons and for such periods not exceeding three years as it thinks fit who shall be entitled to attend and speak but not vote (but so that there shall not be more than three persons co-opted at any time).

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12.2 It shall consist of:

...

- H. five persons elected by the Federal Board. Casual vacancies amongst this group shall be filled in accordance with the election regulations.

ARTICLE 13: The Federal Communications and Elections Committee

13.2 The Committee shall consist of:

...

- H. two members elected by the Federal Board from among its members. Casual vacancies amongst this group shall be filled in accordance with the election regulations.

13.2 final paragraph: The FCEC thus constituted may co-opt such persons and for such periods not exceeding three years as it thinks fit who shall be entitled to attend and speak but not vote (but so that there shall not be more than three persons co-opted at any time).

ARTICLE 14: The Federal People Development Committee

14.3 The Committee shall comprise:

...

- D. six members elected by the Federal Board, one of whom shall be elected by members as Chair. Casual vacancies amongst this group shall be filled in accordance with the election regulations;

...

14.3 final paragraph: The FPDC thus constituted may co-opt such persons and for such periods not exceeding three years as it thinks fit who shall be entitled to attend and speak but not vote (but so that there shall not be more than three persons co-opted at any time).

ARTICLE 15: The Federal International Relations Committee

15.2 I Voting members:

- A. one person elected by the Federal Board from amongst its members;
- B. one person elected by the Federal Policy Committee from amongst its members;
- C. one person elected by each State Party according to its internal procedures;
- D. one person elected by the Affiliated Organisation representing youth and students;
- E. one person elected by Members of the European Parliament as set out in clause
- F. one person representing Foreign Affairs spokespeople in the Westminster Parliament

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- G. six members who shall be elected by all members of the Party. Casual vacancies amongst this group shall be filled in accordance with the election regulations.

15.2 II Non-voting members

...

- D. one representative of Liberal Democrats Abroad.

...

15.2 final paragraph: The FIRC thus constituted may co-opt such persons and for such periods not exceeding three years as it thinks fit who shall be entitled to attend and speak but not vote (but so that there shall not be more than three persons co-opted at any time).

ARTICLE 17: The Parliamentary Parties

- 17.4 The Parliamentary Party in the European Parliament shall consist of all members of the European Parliament elected from constituencies from within the United Kingdom and in receipt of the UK Liberal Democrat Whip. It shall be entitled to make such regulations (not being inconsistent with this Constitution) as it thinks fit for the conduct of its own proceedings.
- 17.5 For the purposes of representation on Federal Committees, the Parliamentary Parties listed in Article 17 shall form the Parliamentary Group. The Chief Whips of each Parliamentary Party shall agree how many places each Parliamentary Party shall occupy on each Federal Committee, having due regard to the size of each Parliamentary Party.

ARTICLE 20: Officers

- 20.1 The President shall be the principal public representative of the Party and shall chair the Federal Board. The President shall be elected by the members of the Party for a term of three 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 fewer than 200 members in not less than 20 Local Parties (including, for this purpose, the Affiliated Organisation representing youth and students). The President shall report to the annual meeting of the Conference and may make reports to any other meetings of Conference. The Federal Board 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 three years thereafter.

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- 20.2 The Federal Board shall have power to vote on a motion of no confidence in the party's President. Such a vote may only be taken with at least seven days notice to all Board members and shall require a two-thirds majority of voting Board members (with vacancies, abstentions or absences counted as votes against). If the vote passes, a casual vacancy shall be deemed to have occurred and the processes in Article 20.1 shall be followed. The President deemed to have vacated office in this way shall have the right to seek nomination in the subsequent election. If they win re-election, this shall not count as a re-election for the purposes of the term limit in Article 20.1, and they shall not be eligible to be subject to a further vote of no-confidence for the remainder of that term.
- 20.3 The Vice Presidents of the Party shall be:
- ...
- D. a Vice President responsible for working with ethnic minority communities, elected by the members of the Party for a term of three 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; this Vice President shall be eligible for re-election once only.
- 20.4 The Chair of the FFRC, who shall be responsible for the overall budget and finances of the Party, shall be its treasurer for the purposes of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 and shall be responsible for its compliance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 and as later amended, shall be elected for a term of three years by the Federal Board and shall, upon election, become a member of any fund-raising committee established by the Federal Board.
- 20.5 The Treasurer, who shall be responsible for fund-raising, shall be elected by the Federal Board at its first meeting in every term and shall serve for a term of three years and shall, upon election, become a member of the FFRC and chair of any fund-raising committee established by the Federal Board.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.

The deadline for amendments to this motion, see pages 10–11, and for requests for separate votes, see pages 7–8, is 13.00 Monday 5 September. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily.

Constitutional amendments require a two-thirds majority to pass.

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12.15 Party business

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC). Aide: Bex Scott. Hall Aide: John Bridges.

F8 Constitutional amendment: Making Diversity More Intersectional

10 members

Mover: Richard Gadsden.

Summation: to be announced.

- 1 *In Article 2.5, at end, insert: ', except that if 40% is less than one, but it is*
- 2 *possible for there to be both one man or non-binary person and one*
- 3 *woman or non-binary person, then there must be at least one of each'.*
- 4 *In Article 2.6, insert new paragraph D.:*
- 5 D. not less than 10% or, if 10% is not a whole number, the whole
- 6 number nearest to but not exceeding 10% shall be people who
- 7 are eligible on the grounds of age for membership of the Affiliated
- 8 Organisation (or of any of the Affiliated Organisations if there is more
- 9 than one) representing youth.
- 10 *Insert new Article 2.7:*
- 11 2.7 Whenever this Constitution provides for the election by party
- 12 members of twenty or more persons to any Federal Committee or
- 13 other Federal body, and thus the numbers of reserved places under
- 14 each paragraph of Article 2.6 are two or more persons, the provisions
- 15 of Article 2.5 shall be applied to the persons elected under each
- 16 paragraph of Article 2.6 as if they were an elected body.

The existing text of the relevant parts of the Federal Party Constitution are reproduced below. The current constitution can be found at www.libdems.org.uk/constitution.

ARTICLE 2: Provisions Relating To The Constitution

- 2.5 Whenever this Constitution provides for the election by party members to a Federal Committee, not less than 40% or, if 40% is not a whole number, the whole number nearest to but not exceeding 40% of those elected shall self-identify as men or non-binary people, and self-identify as women or non-binary people respectively.

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- 2.6 Whenever this Constitution provides for the election by party members of ten or more persons to any Federal Committee or other Federal body:
- A. not less than 10% or, if 10% is not a whole number, the whole number nearest to but not exceeding 10% shall be from underrepresented ethnic backgrounds;
 - B. (not less than 10% or, if 10% is not a whole number, the whole number nearest to but not exceeding 10% shall be disabled people; and
 - C. not less than 10% or, if 10% is not a whole number, the whole number nearest to but not exceeding 10% shall be people from under-represented sexual orientations and gender identities, including trans and non-binary identities.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.

The deadline for amendments to this motion, see pages 10–11, and for requests for separate votes, see pages 7–8, is 13.00 Monday 5 September. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily.

Constitutional amendments require a two-thirds majority to pass.

12.35 Speech

Chair: Layla Moran MP. Aide: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC).

F9 Kira Rudik (Member of the Ukrainian Parliament, Leader of Holos and Vice President of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe)



@kiraincongress, #LDConf

12.50 Lunch break and fringe

Please see the Conference Directory for our fringe and exhibition programme.

13.00–14.30 Consultative sessions

General Election Manifesto Group

The Grand Hotel, Empress Room.

Chair: Lord Newby.

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Early Years Education and Childcare Policy Working Group

The Grand Hotel, Alexandra Room. Chair: Cllr Dine Romero.

Consultative sessions provide a less formal mechanism than the full-scale conference debates for conference representatives and other Party members to participate in the Party's policy- and decision-making process. Each session examines a particular topic and hears contributions from Party members and in some cases outside speakers. The session will be organised by the relevant Working Group. The conclusions of the session will be taken into account by the group when drawing up their final recommendations.

14.40 Policy motion

Chair: Duncan Brack. Aide: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC). Hall Aide: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC).

F10 The UK's Nuclear Deterrent

12 members

Mover: Jamie Stone MP (Spokesperson for Defence).

Summation: Richard Foord MP.

- 1 Conference reaffirms:
 - 2 1. The universal liberal values of internationalism, human rights, the
 - 3 pursuit of peace, and the rule of law.
 - 4 2. The duty of the United Kingdom to keep its people safe.
 - 5 3. Our long-held desire to negotiate towards a world where nuclear
 - 6 weapons are put beyond use.
 - 7 4. Our belief that the United Kingdom is safer and more prosperous
 - 8 when working with multilateral institutions, including NATO.
 - 9 5. The United Kingdom's long-standing legal and moral obligations to
 - 10 pursue global disarmament.
- 11 Conference notes:
 - 12 1. Our 2017 policy paper on nuclear weapons, *Towards a World Free of*
 - 13 *Nuclear Weapons*, which recommended a change in the UK's nuclear
 - 14 posture from Continuous At-Sea Deterrent (CASD) to a medium-
 - 15 responsiveness posture with no continuous deployment.

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- 16 II. That the global security environment is characterised by increasing
17 instability, including the fragmentation of nuclear arms control
18 agreements, and has deteriorated following Russia's full-scale
19 invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.
- 20 III. Russia's veiled threats as to its readiness to use nuclear weapons, on
21 the battlefield or elsewhere.
- 22 IV. That the UK's nuclear weapons are declared for the defence of NATO
23 and so play a key protective role for our allies.
- 24 Conference believes that:
- 25 A. Vladimir Putin's Russia poses a clear threat to our national security
26 and that of our NATO allies.
- 27 B. We have no wish to see the current conflict in Ukraine escalate, yet in
28 these circumstances NATO must retain all the necessary elements of
29 a credible nuclear deterrent.
- 30 C. Abandoning the current posture of continuous at-sea deterrence
31 (CASD) would send the wrong signal to Vladimir Putin and our
32 European allies about our willingness to come to their defence, and
33 weaken the credibility of the UK's nuclear deterrent.
- 34 D. Taking a step down the nuclear ladder at a moment when it is so
35 unlikely to be reciprocated will sadly do nothing to further our
36 ambition of global disarmament.
- 37 E. The challenging security environment and rising nuclear risks should
38 embolden the UK to make a renewed push for global disarmament,
39 and while the strategic context is challenging, opportunities which
40 arise in the future must not be squandered.
- 41 F. The UK Government's approach to global disarmament has been at
42 best counter-productive and at worst in breach of legal and moral
43 obligations.
- 44 Conference therefore calls on the UK Government to:
- 45 i) Maintain a minimum, credible nuclear deterrent.
- 46 ii) Maintain the current posture of continuous at-sea deterrence.
- 47 iii) Retain the option of a future move down from continuous at-sea
48 deterrence to a medium-responsiveness posture as a credible step
49 to demonstrate leadership on nuclear disarmament, if and when the
50 strategic environment is more conducive to progress.
- 51 iv) Take a decision on whether the UK requires a fourth Dreadnought-
52 class submarine on the basis of a full assessment of the strategic
53 environment at the time, before major fabrication begins.

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- 54 Conference urges the UK Government to pursue global disarmament,
55 including by:
- 56 a) Reversing plans to increase the cap on the stockpile of nuclear
57 weapons; and associated reductions in transparency commitments.
 - 58 b) Publicly recommitting to the UK's obligations under the Non-
59 Proliferation Treaty.
 - 60 c) Making global disarmament a diplomatic priority for the Foreign,
61 Commonwealth and Development Office.
 - 62 d) Looking to engage further with non-Nuclear Weapon States on
63 disarmament initiatives, including the Stockholm Initiative and the
64 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (while acknowledging
65 that the UK cannot sign that Treaty).
- 66 Given the unlikelihood of disarmament developments with Russia under
67 the present Russian Government, Conference believes that the UK
68 Government should also explore opportunities to pursue disarmament
69 initiatives with other Nuclear Weapon States, including:
- 70 1. Engaging with other Nuclear Weapon States regarding bilateral
71 adoption of transparency measures.
 - 72 2. Continuing engagement with Nuclear Weapon States which are yet
73 to sign the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty, which Russia has already
74 signed.
 - 75 3. Encouraging remaining countries which have not ratified the
76 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty, which Russia has already
77 ratified, to do so.

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 8.

The deadline for amendments to this motion, see pages 10–11, and for requests for separate votes, see pages 7–8, is 13.00 Monday 5 September. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily.

In addition to speeches from the platform, voting members will be able to make concise (maximum one minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See pages 7 and 9 for further information.

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16.10 Speech

Chair: Kevin Lang. Aide: Professor Belinda Brooks-Gordon.

F11 Wendy Chamberlain MP (Chief Whip in the Commons and Spokesperson for Work and Pensions)



@wendychambLD, #LDConf

16.25 Policy motion

Chair: Baroness Doocey. Aide: Chris Maines. Hall Aide: Professor Belinda Brooks-Gordon.

F12 Supporting the Creative Industries and Protecting Channel 4

11 members

Mover: Charles Brand.

Summation: Lord Clement-Jones (Lords Spokesperson for Digital).

- 1 Conference believes that:
 - 2 A. The UK's thriving cultural sector is a national treasure and the creative
 - 3 industries are a crucial part of our economy that are neglected and
 - 4 threatened by this Conservative Government.
 - 5 B. Art subjects help children and young people to develop crucial
 - 6 creative and emotional skills, as well as preparing them for jobs in the
 - 7 creative industries.
 - 8 C. As public service broadcasters, both the BBC and Channel 4 have
 - 9 distinctive and vibrant roles to play in the UK's cultural and media
 - 10 landscape, including driving growth, innovation and job creation in
 - 11 our creative industries.
- 12 Conference notes that:
 - 13 i) The UK's world-leading creative industries contribute more than
 - 14 £100 billion a year to our economy and employ more than 2.3 million
 - 15 people across all regions and nations.
 - 16 ii) The Conservative Government is planning to sell off Channel 4
 - 17 despite it being successful and receiving no taxpayer funding – a

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- 18 move that would hit the UK's independent TV and film production
19 sector by an estimated £3.7 billion over a decade.
- 20 iii) The number of students taking arts and creative subjects at GCSE and
21 A-Level has fallen by a third in the last decade.
- 22 iv) The Government is damaging the UK's creative industries further by:
23 a) Failing to include arts subjects in the English Baccalaureate.
24 b) Halving the funding for creative arts subjects at university.
25 c) Erecting new barriers to British musicians and actors performing
26 elsewhere in Europe, and to European artists performing in the
27 UK.
- 28 v) Creators and artists are too often presented with take-it-or-leave-it
29 contracts which, where there are no collective agreements, offer little
30 scope for negotiation and demand full assignment of their rights or
31 unnecessarily wide licences; the UK is one of the few countries where
32 moral rights and authorship can be waived entirely.
- 33 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitment to:
- 34 A. Protect the BBC as an independent, universally available, properly
35 resourced public service broadcaster, including by ensuring future
36 decisions about the licence fee are made transparently by an
37 independent body.
- 38 B. Negotiate free and simple short-term travel for UK artists to perform
39 in the EU, and EU artists to perform in the UK, including the transport
40 of sets and equipment.
- 41 Conference calls on the Government to:
- 42 1. Abandon its plans to sell off Channel 4.
- 43 2. Promote creative subjects in schools, further education and
44 universities, including by:
- 45 a) Giving power to Ofsted to monitor the curriculum so that schools
46 continue to provide a rich curriculum including subjects like art,
47 music or drama.
- 48 b) Including arts subjects in the English Baccalaureate.
- 49 c) Properly funding creative arts degrees.
- 50 d) Ensuring that high-quality apprenticeships are available in the
51 creative and digital industries.

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- 52 3. Implement the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances to grant
53 the extension of moral rights to performers and creative workers
54 and empower performers to combat the misappropriation of their
55 images, likenesses and performances.
- 56 4. Establish an independent review to explore the merits of introducing
57 image and publicity rights and to ensure that the purpose of
58 copyright in stimulating and sustaining creativity is met, so that:
- 59 a) Creators and artists receive:
- 60 i) A fair share of the money consumers pay for copyright
61 content, and where their rights are transferred, broadcast or
62 sold.
- 63 ii) Appropriate and proportionate remuneration through
64 collective agreements when they licence or transfer their
65 rights.
- 66 iii) Up-to-date and comprehensive information from assignees
67 and/or licensees about how their works are being exploited,
68 including transparent calculations of contractual entitlements
69 and relevant revenue and remuneration data.
- 70 iv) Additional, appropriate and fair remuneration where the
71 remuneration originally agreed is disproportionately low
72 compared to the revenues generated from exploiting the
73 works or performances.
- 74 b) Creators and artists derive the full benefit of technology such as
75 AI-made performance synthetisation and streaming.
- 76 c) Rights are returned to creators if they are no longer being
77 exploited.
- 78 d) Creators retain the rights to be named when their work is used
79 and to complain of derogatory uses.
- 80 e) Independent and SME designers are better protected from
81 design right infringement and counterfeit products.
- 82 f) Writers and publishers are protected from damaging changes in
83 copyright exhaustion rights.

Applicability: Federal; except 2. (lines 43–51), which is England only.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any

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amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.

The deadline for amendments to this motion, see pages 10–11, and for requests for separate votes, see pages 7–8, is 13.00 Monday 5 September. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily.

17.15 Policy motion

Chair: John Bridges. Aide: Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC). Hall Aide: Bex Scott.

F13 Reversing the Centralisation of Power in Whitehall

12 members

Mover: Christine Jardine MP (Spokesperson for the Cabinet Office and Scotland).
Summation: Wendy Chamberlain MP (Chief Whip in the Commons).

- 1 Conference believes that:
 - 2 A. This Government has devalued many of the democratic principles
 - 3 that underpin our constitution.
 - 4 B. Ensuring power is spread as widely as possible is a fundamental
 - 5 principle of liberalism.
 - 6 C. Power has been shifted away from devolved administrations and
 - 7 local communities, moving instead towards the Executive in the past
 - 8 few years faster than ever before.
 - 9 D. The union of the four nations of the United Kingdom should be a
 - 10 partnership of equals.
- 11 Conference notes that:
 - 12 i) This Government has a history of changing norms and unlawful
 - 13 behaviour, including the prorogation of Parliament in 2019 which was
 - 14 found to be unlawful by the Supreme Court.
 - 15 ii) The Queen's Speech introduced a Bill to use secondary legislation
 - 16 more liberally, taking power away from Parliament and putting it
 - 17 directly into the hands of Secretaries of State.
 - 18 iii) Multiple Bills introduced by the Conservatives, including the Internal
 - 19 Market Bill, Subsidy Control Bill and Procurement Bill, are overriding
 - 20 areas of devolved authority.

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- 21 iv) The Government's Elections Act 2022 has given the Executive power
22 over the previously independent Electoral Commission.
- 23 v) The Government has spent over £500 million in four years on lawyers
24 to block legitimate freedom of information requests in the past.
- 25 Conference calls on the UK Government to:
- 26 a) Introduce a duty on the Government to ensure Legislative Consent
27 Motions are passed by the Devolved Administration before
28 Parliament can legislate on a devolved issue.
- 29 b) Create a regular, transparent and statutory Ministerial group between
30 the leaders of Devolved Administrations and the UK Government to
31 ensure greater cohesion within the Union.
- 32 c) Remove the new powers for ministers to determine the remit of the
33 Electoral Commission.
- 34 Conference also renews its calls on the UK Government to:
- 35 1. Introduce a Devolution Enabling Bill to Parliament, permitting the
36 transfer of legislative powers from the UK Parliament to councils or
37 groups of councils working together in England.
- 38 2. Implement the recommendations of the Silk Commission for Wales.
- 39 3. Implement in full the delivery plan for further Scottish powers
40 promised by the three pro-Union party leaders during the
41 independence referendum campaign without any conditionality on
42 progress in other areas.

Applicability: Federal; except 1. (lines 35–37), which is England only; 2. (line 38), which is Wales only; and 3. (lines 39–42), which is Scotland 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 8.

The deadline for amendments to this motion, see pages 10–11, and for requests for separate votes, see pages 7–8, is 13.00 Monday 5 September. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily.

18.00 Close of session

Please see the Conference Directory for our fringe and exhibition programme.

Sunday 18 September

F14

09.00 Party business

Chair: Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC). Aide: Cllr Simon McGrath. Hall Aide: Bex Scott.

F14 Reports of the Parliamentary Parties

Movers: Wendy Chamberlain MP (Chief Whip of the Commons Parliamentary Party) and Lord Newby (Leader of the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords).

The deadline for questions for F14 is 13.00 on Monday 5 September. Questions selected will be published in Conference Extra and Sunday's Conference Daily. These questions will be guaranteed an answer, either in the session or in writing thereafter.

Questions may also be submitted up until 08.00 on Sunday 18 September; such questions are only taken at the discretion of the chair.

See page 10 for further information.

09.25 Policy motion

Chair: Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, FPC). Aides: Paul McGarry. Hall Aide: Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC).

F15 Cutting VAT to Ease the Cost-of-Living Crisis

10 members

Mover: Christine Jardine MP (Spokesperson for the Cabinet Office, Women & Equalities and Scotland).

Summation: Sarah Olney MP (Spokesperson for the Treasury and Business and Industrial Strategy).

- 1 Conference believes that:
- 2 I. All UK households, and particularly the least well-off, deserve timely,
- 3 robust and fair support with the cost-of-living crisis.
- 4 II. The Conservative Government is failing British households and
- 5 businesses in these unprecedented circumstances.
- 6 III. The UK is in need of effective economic measures that will support

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- 7 families with the cost of living, facilitate economic growth, and help
8 keep inflation in check.
- 9 Conference notes with concern that:
- 10 A. According to the latest OBR forecast, households are experiencing the
11 largest fall in living standards in a single year since 1956 due to rising
12 inflation, low earnings, and tax rises.
- 13 B. Inflation currently sits at 9.1% – a forty-year high – and is expected to
14 reach 11% this year.
- 15 C. Salaries aren't keeping up with inflation, with average pay excluding
16 bonuses falling by 2.2% in real terms in the year to May.
- 17 D. Food prices are rapidly rising, with the cost of essentials such as
18 meat, vegetables, pasta and milk up by 15% to 50% in the year to
19 April.
- 20 E. The typical household energy bill went up by nearly £700 in April and
21 will rise by another £830 in October.
- 22 F. Filling up a typical car with petrol now costs more than £100, which
23 disproportionately hurts rural areas with fewer public transport
24 options.
- 25 G. A household on average earnings will pay an additional £210 in
26 national insurance and income tax this year, and £630 next year.
- 27 H. Tens of thousands of struggling households are set to miss out on the
28 Government's £150 Council Tax rebate due to not being registered
29 for direct debit.
- 30 I. Small businesses, who are not protected by the energy price cap,
31 have seen their energy bills soar, and are grappling with a 22%
32 increase in input costs – yet they have received no support from the
33 Government.
- 34 J. The Bank of England has warned that the UK will slide into recession
35 this year, whilst the OECD expects Britain's growth in 2023 to be the
36 worst in the developed world, except for Russia.
- 37 K. The support payments announced by the Government fail to match
38 the cost-of-living hit caused by Conservative tax rises; real-terms cuts
39 to benefits and pensions; the scrapping of the £20 per week Universal
40 Credit uplift; spiralling energy bills; rising fuel prices; and increasing
41 shopping costs.
- 42 L. The Government was too late in introducing a windfall tax on the
43 super-profits of oil and gas producers; it has failed to tax super-
44 profits accrued before May 26th 2022; it has added carve-outs
45 allowing oil and gas giants to save billions in tax; and it will raise less

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46 than £5 billion for cost-of-living support, when a similar tax in Italy will
47 raise nearly £9 billion.

48 Conference further notes that:

- 49 i) Due to inflation, the Treasury is expected to raise an additional £40
50 billion in VAT receipts over the next four years, according to official
51 OBR figures.
- 52 ii) VAT is a regressive tax, with lower-income households spending a
53 larger proportion of their incomes on VAT than higher-income ones.
- 54 iii) Cutting the main rate of VAT to 17.5% for one year would benefit
55 every household in the UK, by putting an average of £600 back into
56 their pockets.
- 57 iv) When a 2.5% cut to VAT was last implemented, in December 2008,
58 inflation fell by 1% within a month, and average inflation for the
59 duration of the measure remained 1.4% lower than the year before.
- 60 v) Cutting VAT would boost high streets and facilitate economic growth,
61 as retail sales rose by about 1% and aggregate expenditure by 0.4%
62 when a similar VAT cut was last implemented in 2008.

63 Conference reaffirms Liberal Democrat calls to:

- 64 a) Scrap the unfair National Insurance hike which disproportionately
65 impacts low earners.
- 66 b) End the unfair freeze of the Income Tax personal allowance, which is
67 a stealth tax falling disproportionately on low earners.
- 68 c) Protect pensioners from rising prices, including the 1.5 million low-
69 income people on pension credit, by uprating pensions in line with
70 the latest inflation forecast for this year.
- 71 d) Reinstate the £1,000 boost to Universal Credit, to ensure that the
72 most vulnerable households get proper support.

73 Conference further calls on the Government to:

- 74 1. Cut the main rate of VAT from 20% to 17.5% for one year, to support
75 every family and business in the UK with the spiralling cost of living,
76 help keep inflation in check, and boost the UK's economic growth.
- 77 2. Commit to providing families with additional cost-of-living support in
78 the autumn, when household energy prices will increase by £830.
- 79 3. Urgently support small businesses with their energy bills – especially
80 in energy-intensive sectors such as manufacturing and hospitality – to
81 prevent closures and help avoid further price rises.
- 82 4. Support households in rural communities which face even higher

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- 83 fuel costs, by increasing Rural Fuel Duty Relief from 5p to 10p and
 84 expanding it to more rural areas.
- 85 5. Provide local councils with all necessary funding and support to
 86 ensure that no household misses out on the £150 Council Tax rebate
 87 – including by undertaking information campaigns and mailing
 88 cheques directly to beneficiaries; and extend support to low-income
 89 households in Council Tax bands E and F, who are currently excluded.
- 90 6. Close the loopholes in the current windfall tax by ensuring it applies
 91 to super-profits accrued since October 2021; scrapping carve-outs
 92 that allow oil and gas giants to offset their tax liabilities against
 93 investments they were going to make anyway; and setting a target of
 94 raising no less than £10 billion over one year, in line with similar taxes
 95 implemented in other European countries.

Applicability: Federal; except 2. and 3. (lines 77–81) and 5. (lines 85–89), 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 8.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00 on Monday 5 September; see pages 10–11. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 on Saturday 17 September; see pages 7–8.

10:25 Policy motion

Chair: Mary Regnier-Wilson. Aide: Chris Maines. Hall Aide: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC).

F16 Connecting Communities: Improving Bus Services

10 members

Mover: Wera Hobhouse MP (Spokesperson for Transport).

Summation: Baroness Randerson (Lords Spokesperson for Transport).

- 1 Conference notes with concern that:
- 2 A. Bus fares across England have risen by 80% since 2005.

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- 3 B. More than a quarter of bus routes have been cut in the last ten years.
- 4 C. London buses are facing cuts across 80 routes by the end of 2023.
- 5 D. Road transport contributes the greatest proportion of UK emissions
- 6 (25%).
- 7 E. The Government's Bus Back Better scheme has already seen funding
- 8 more than halved.

9 Conference believes that:

- 10 i) Buses are one of the most accessible and affordable modes of public
- 11 transport.
- 12 ii) Buses are often relied upon by the very poorest as well as the old
- 13 and the young to get to school or work, and to widen opportunities
- 14 for sporting, social and cultural participation in both rural and urban
- 15 areas.
- 16 iii) Providing bus links boosts local economies and enables people to
- 17 access a wider range of local services.
- 18 iv) Buses are often forgotten in debates about public transport, despite
- 19 buses being used much more widely than the railways.
- 20 v) Buses are the easiest form of public transport to introduce, improve
- 21 and expand because they require minimal infrastructure investment,
- 22 especially when compared to trains or trams.
- 23 vi) Improving bus services is essential if the UK is to reduce CO₂
- 24 emissions and cut air pollution.
- 25 vii) Decarbonising the UK's bus network is far easier than decarbonising
- 26 all privately-owned cars, the railways and aviation.

27 Conference reaffirms pledges in the Liberal Democrat 2019 manifesto to:

- 28 a) Give new powers to local authorities and communities to improve
- 29 transport in their areas, including the ability to introduce network-
- 30 wide ticketing, like in London.
- 31 b) Ensure that all new buses licensed to operate in urban areas are
- 32 ultra-low-emission or zero-emission vehicles by 2025.
- 33 c) Support rural bus services and encourage alternatives to
- 34 conventional bus services where they are not viable.

35 Conference calls on the Government to:

- 36 1. Provide funding to restore cut bus routes and create new ones.
- 37 2. Give all local authorities greater powers to franchise bus services and
- 38 simplify the franchise application system.
- 39 3. Reverse the ban on local authorities setting up their own bus

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- 40 companies.
- 41 4. Extend half-fares on buses to 18 year-olds, allowing them to continue
- 42 receiving half-fares while still in full time education.
- 43 5. Introduce a 'Young Person's Buscard', similar to the Young Person's
- 44 Railcard, for 19 to 25 year olds giving them a third off bus fares.
- 45 6. Support local authorities in switching from petrol and diesel buses to
- 46 low-emission alternatives such as electric or hydrogen.
- 47 7. Support the development of innovative rural schemes, including on
- 48 demand services.

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 8.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00 on Monday 5 September; see pages 10–11. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 on Saturday 17 September; see pages 7–8.

11.05 Policy motion

Chair: James Gurling. Aide: Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC). Hall Aide: Cllr Joe Otten.

F17 Towards A Fairer Society (Fairer Society Policy Paper)

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Wendy Chamberlain MP (Spokesperson for Work and Pensions).

Summation: Julia Goldsworthy (Chair of the Policy Working Group).

- 1 Conference believes that every individual should have a fair chance and
- 2 level-playing field to make their aspirations a reality.
- 3 Conference embraces a Liberal Democrat concept of fairness including:
- 4 a) Access to opportunities for every individual across society regardless
- 5 of their background, inherent characteristics, or where they live.
- 6 b) Access to the social and economic support each individual and
- 7 community needs to maximise their own ability to make decisions

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- 8 and make use of opportunity.
- 9 c) Consistent and fair processes that enhance trust in employers,
10 the government, and other actors across the economy, and that
11 encourage such actors to place trust in people.
- 12 d) A fair playing field throughout the economy where large and
13 established players can't shut out innovators and challengers.
- 14 e) Encouragement of vitality and non-conformity that honours people's
15 own ambitions whatever they are, rather than a narrowly economic
16 test of 'success'.
- 17 Conference regrets the many ways in which British society is unfair and
18 holds back many people from achieving their full potential, in particular:
- 19 A. Low and unstable incomes, along with poor working conditions,
20 which have put many people under immense financial and emotional
21 stress while those in power party behind closed doors.
- 22 B. The current cost of living crisis, which is showing once again the lack
23 of effective support for those who need it most across Britain.
- 24 C. A regionally unbalanced economy, with poor skills and infrastructure
25 investment, that freezes innovation and means that people's
26 opportunities are often driven by where they grow up, not what they
27 are capable of.
- 28 D. The failure of successive Governments to treat people with dignity
29 and respect – with benefits claimants demonised and working rights
30 not enforced.
- 31 E. The loss of trust in our national institutions by the self-serving and
32 unprincipled actions of the Conservative Government.
- 33 F. The unfairness in the ways that public services and contracts are
34 allocated, leading to cronyism and queue-jumping.
- 35 Conference therefore endorses Policy Paper 146, *Towards A Fairer Society*,
36 as a range of policies to engage with the big economic challenges facing
37 our country and move towards our ultimate aim of a fairer society. In
38 particular, conference welcomes its proposals to:
- 39 1. End Deep Poverty, including a radical overhaul of the welfare system
40 so no family ever has to use a food bank in Britain, by:
- 41 a) Taking immediate steps to repair the safety net, including
42 restoring the £20 uplift to Universal Credit, introducing
43 emergency grants (not loans) and stopping deducting debt
44 repayments at unaffordable rates.

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- 45 b) Following this up in the longer term with fundamental reforms to
46 the welfare system by:

OPTION 1:

- 47 replacing tax and national insurance allowances with a Universal
48 Basic Income for working age adults, set at a level which would
49 compensate for the loss of allowances (while retaining most of
50 the existing benefits structure including universal credit).

OPTION 2:

- 51 introducing a Guaranteed Basic Income by increasing Universal
52 Credit to the level required to end deep poverty within the
53 decade and removing sanctions.

OPTION 3:

- 54 conducting large scale trials of UBI and GBI, keeping our strategic
55 options open until the outcome of such trials is known.

- 56 2. Create real community control, giving money and power to local
57 communities in England to lead their own way to growth in ways that
58 best address their distinctive needs and opportunities, including by:
- 59 a) Shifting 50% of all public spending to regional and local
60 government.
- 61 b) Abolishing all departmentally-led regional funding pots as part
62 of creating a £50 billion capital investment fund; this will be
63 distributed as 'single pot' funds, on a needs-led basis to address
64 historic underinvestment in left behind communities and
65 regions.
- 66 c) Ensuring there is strengthened regional representation on key
67 national infrastructure bodies such as the National Infrastructure
68 Commission and the Major Projects Authority.
- 69 d) Allocating at least half of the absolute uplift in Research &
70 Development funding allocation to be spent through regions.
- 71 e) Supporting rural areas through these measures and beyond,
72 to ensure that often overlooked challenges for our rural
73 communities, such as high housing and transport costs, poor
74 quality jobs and lack of access to services can be tackled head on.
- 75 3. Improve access to skills, training and advice, including by:
- 76 a) Introducing a 'Universal Work Service' to replace the flawed
77 support service currently offered through JobCentres.

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- 78 b) Giving New Skills Wallets for every adult, giving them £10,000 to
79 spend on education and training throughout their lives; these
80 Skills Wallets will empower people to develop new skills so that
81 they can thrive in the technologies and industries that are key to
82 the UK's economic future.
- 83 c) Expanding the apprenticeship levy into a wider 'Skills and
84 Training Levy' to help prepare the UK's workforce for the
85 economic challenges ahead.
- 86 d) Introducing a Training Tax Credit to incentivise training in the
87 private sector.
- 88 4. Propose a new Workers Charter, with modern protections for a
89 modern workforce including fairer flexible working rights, including:
- 90 a) Establishing a new streamlined Worker Protection Enforcement
91 Authority which would both enforce rights more effectively and
92 give employers a simplified institutional contact.
- 93 b) Changing the law so that flexible working is open to all from
94 day one in the job, with employers required to advertise jobs
95 accordingly, unless there are significant business reasons why
96 that is not possible.
- 97 c) Ensuring that shared parental leave is offered on the same terms
98 as enhanced maternity leave, where this is in place.
- 99 d) Promoting alternative models of ownership like co-operatives,
100 mutuals and social enterprises.
- 101 e) Strengthening the ability of unions to represent workers
102 effectively by broadening the right to collective bargaining in
103 pay and conditions, including pay and pensions, working time
104 and holidays, equality issues, health and safety, training and
105 development, work organisation and the nature and level of
106 staffing.

Applicability: Federal; except 2. and 3. (lines 56–87), 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 8.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00 on Monday 5 September; see pages 10–11. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 on Saturday 17 September; see pages 7–8.

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In addition to speeches from the platform, voting members will be able to make concise (maximum one minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See pages 7 and 9.

The arrangements for taking votes between the three options in 1. b) (lines 47–55) will be set out in Sunday's Conference Daily.

12.35 Speech

Chair: Paul McGarry. Aide: Kevin Lang.

F18 Munira Wilson MP (Spokesperson for Education, Children and Young People)



@munirawilson, #LDConf

12.50 Lunch break and fringe

Please see the Conference Directory for our fringe and exhibition programme.

14.10 Policy Motion

Chair: Chris Maines. Aide: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair FCC). Hall Aide: John Bridges.

F19 Standing Up For Rural Communities

10 members

Mover: Helen Morgan MP (Spokesperson for Housing, Communities and Local Government).

Summation: Richard Foord MP.

- 1 Conference notes that:
- 2 A. According to recent polling, half of rural voters think the
- 3 Conservatives are taking them for granted.
- 4 B. Petrol and diesel across the country have risen significantly in the
- 5 past year, with many rural areas seeing significantly higher prices
- 6 than urban areas.
- 7 C. Heating oil, which many homes in rural areas use as their primary

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- 8 source of heating, has more than doubled in price and is not
9 protected by a price cap.
- 10 D. The APPG on Rural Health and Care has concluded that health
11 outcomes are worse for those in rural areas than they are in urban
12 areas.
- 13 E. The Government has made no assessment of the potential impact
14 that closures of community ambulance stations have in rural areas.
- 15 F. Government data has demonstrated that childcare providers in rural
16 areas are closing at a staggering rate compared with those in urban
17 areas.
- 18 G. Farmers' livelihoods are being placed at risk by the Conservatives,
19 who have demonstrated with the Australia trade deal that they are
20 happy to sign trade deals which undermine British standards.
- 21 H. Many people in rural areas see very little visible policing – they
22 experience long delays when they call 999 to report a crime, leaving
23 them feeling unsafe in their own communities.

24 Conference believes that:

- 25 i) Those in rural areas should no longer be taken for granted – the
26 Liberal Democrats are best placed to help them, as shown by our
27 victories in North Shropshire and Tiverton and Honiton and our
28 successes in taking control of Somerset and Westmorland & Furness
29 councils.
- 30 ii) Rural areas are often the last places to benefit from upgraded internet
31 or mobile phone infrastructure.
- 32 iii) People in rural areas should be able to easily access local health
33 services.
- 34 iv) Everyone should be confident that, no matter where they live, if they
35 ring 999 they will get the emergency treatment they need, when they
36 need it.
- 37 v) Farmers are at the very heart of many of our rural communities and
38 must be supported to protect and enhance our countryside.

39 Conference reaffirms pledges to:

- 40 a) Set up a £2 billion Rural Services Fund to enable the co-location of
41 services, such as doctors surgeries and schools, in local hubs around
42 existing local infrastructure.
- 43 b) Prioritise a programme of installing hyper-fast, fibre-optic broadband
44 across the UK – with a particular focus on connecting rural areas.

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- 45 c) Guarantee that all future trade deals will meet UK standards for
 46 animal welfare and ensure that Parliament signs off negotiating
 47 mandates and completed trade deals.
- 48 d) Support farmers properly in restoring our peat bogs, creating new
 49 natural flood protections and managing land to encourage species
 50 recovery, while producing the food for our tables.
- 51 e) Restore proper community policing, where officers are visible, trusted
 52 and focused on preventing and solving crimes.

53 Conference calls on the Government to:

- 54 1. Introduce a price cap on heating oil and other off-grid fuels, while
 55 ensuring that small suppliers are not left out of pocket to protect
 56 competition in the market.
- 57 2. Expand the rural fuel duty relief scheme to cover more areas and
 58 double the relief to 10p, while also expanding electric vehicle charging
 59 points in rural areas.
- 60 3. Protect the rural workforce by protecting rural childcare providers
 61 with a package of support.
- 62 4. Make emergency funding available to ambulance trusts to reverse or
 63 cancel closures of community ambulance stations, where desirable.
- 64 5. Prioritise the hard-to-reach areas when upgrading mobile phone or
 65 broadband infrastructure.

Applicability: England only; except 1. and 2. (lines 54–59) and 5. (lines 64–65), which are 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 8.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00 on Monday 5 September; see pages 10–11. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 on Saturday 17 September; see pages 7–8.

14.55 Speech

Chair: Kevin Lang. Aide: Paul McGarry.

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F20 Sarah Olney MP (Spokesperson for Treasury and Business and Industrial Strategy)



@sarahjolney1, #LDConf

15.10 Question and answer session

Chair: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Aide: Bex Scott. Hall Aide: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC).

F21 Sir Ed Davey MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Members may put questions on any topic to the Leader of the Liberal Democrats. Concise questions (maximum 25 words) may be submitted online until 17.00 on Saturday 17 September, or to the Speaker's Table by 12.50 on Sunday 18 September. See Page 10.

16.05 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC). Aide: Cllr Joe Otten. Hall Aide: Cllr Simon McGrath.

F22 *The Natural Environment* (Natural Environment Policy Paper)

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Tim Farron MP (Spokesperson for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs).
Summation: Richard Benwell (Chair of the Policy Working Group).

- 1 Conferences notes that:
- 2 A. Nature is in decline locally, nationally and internationally.
- 3 B. Continued government failure to reverse the decline of nature is
- 4 harming health and wellbeing, weakening our economy, and leaves
- 5 the future of many species and habitats in doubt. It is socially unjust,
- 6 economically foolhardy, and environmentally irresponsible.
- 7 C. It will be impossible to mitigate and adapt to climate change and go
- 8 to net zero and beyond without restoring our natural world.
- 9 D. Urgent action is needed across every area of Government policy

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- 10 to address the twin ecological and climate emergency and create a
11 nature-positive society.
- 12 Conference recognises that the ecological emergency is one of the
13 greatest threats to life on Earth, and to people's health, wellbeing and
14 prosperity, and without urgent and effective action domestically and
15 internationally nature and human life will be put in serious jeopardy.
- 16 Conference therefore endorses policy paper 147, *The Natural Environment*,
17 and its proposals to:
- 18 i) Introduce a statutory 'Right to Nature', establishing everyone's human
19 right to a healthy environment – healthy air, clean water and access
20 to nature.
- 21 ii) Stop the decline of nature by 2030 at the latest and 'double nature' in
22 England by 2050 by:
- 23 a) Doubling the area of the most important wildlife habitats across
24 England.
- 25 b) Doubling the area of land that is effectively protected and
26 managed for nature.
- 27 c) Doubling the abundance of species in the UK from the current
28 baseline.
- 29 iii) Reduce the UK's environmental impact globally by:
- 30 a) Mandating disclosure of impacts on nature in major financial and
31 business sectors.
- 32 b) Upholding the highest environmental standards in our trade
33 deals.
- 34 c) Aiming to reconnect with the European Union across a range
35 of programmes, including the REACH system of chemicals
36 management.
- 37 Conference resolves to make environmental improvement a guiding
38 principle across Government, and all major sectors, including with the
39 following measures laid out in the policy paper:
- 40 1. Manage our land for nature, with strong regulation and a long-term
41 funding guarantee of public money for public goods in agriculture,
42 based on environmental needs.
- 43 2. Manage our seas for nature by rewarding the most sustainable
44 fisheries and ensuring that 30% of our waters are fully or highly
45 protected by 2030.

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- 46 3. Manage rivers and streams for nature by:
- 47 a) Mandating major sewage infrastructure upgrades, implementing
- 48 catchment budgets, and reducing agricultural pollution
- 49 b) Setting new 'blue flag' standard for rivers, streams and lakes
- 50 to ensure clean, healthy water and introduce a 'blue corridor'
- 51 programme to make our rivers and streams accessible and
- 52 healthy for wildlife and people.
- 53 4. Manage markets for nature by establishing a new Office for
- 54 Environmental Integrity to set standards to ensure all markets work
- 55 for nature and climate, and eliminating greenwash.
- 56 5. Manage our planning system for nature by requiring plans and
- 57 decisions to be compatible with nature's recovery and climate change
- 58 mitigation, and designating more areas for wildlife.
- 59 6. Manage our economy for nature by delivering an Environment
- 60 and Wellbeing Budget alongside the traditional budget, focused on
- 61 ensuring we are a country that is rich in nature.
- 62 7. Tackle the Climate Emergency by:
- 63 a) Protecting the UK's most important carbon store with a complete
- 64 ban on horticultural peat use, ending damaging rotational
- 65 heather burning on peatlands, and restoring the peatlands that
- 66 have been damaged.
- 67 b) Doubling woodland cover by 2050.
- 68 c) Retrofitting inner city areas to ensure that canals and waterways
- 69 are up to scratch, urban green spaces are accessible and in good
- 70 condition, and that natural solutions to drainage and flooding are
- 71 in place across the country.
- 72 d) Ensuring that a portion of funds from offshore infrastructure
- 73 development is dedicated to the creation and restoration of
- 74 coastal and oceanic habitats.

Applicability: England only; except iii) (lines 29–36), 4. (lines 53–55) and 6. (lines 59–61), 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 8.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00 on Monday 5 September; see

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pages 10–11. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 on Saturday 17 September; see pages 7–8.

In addition to speeches from the platform, voting members will be able to make concise (maximum one minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See pages 7 and 9.

17.20 Policy motion

Chair: Jenni Lang. Aide: Duncan Brack. Hall Aide: Mary Regnier-Wilson.

F23 Child Maintenance

10 members

Mover: Wendy Chamberlain MP (Spokesperson for Work and Pensions).

Summation: Zöe Franklin.

- 1 Conference notes with concern that:
- 2 i) Around half of children in separated families – 1.8 million children –
- 3 continue to receive no support from their non-resident parent.
- 4 ii) The House of Commons Public Accounts Committee found that
- 5 unpaid maintenance owed to parents on Collect and Pay, the service
- 6 operated by the Child Maintenance Service (CMS) to distribute
- 7 payments, is set to rise to £1 billion by March 2031.
- 8 iii) The National Audit Office review into the CMS in March 2022 stated
- 9 that the work of the CMS has “not, so far, increased the number of
- 10 effective child maintenance arrangements across society”.
- 11 iv) The Department of Work and Pensions upholds more complaints for
- 12 every 1,000 customers on child maintenance than any other area.
- 13 v) Withholding or artificially reducing child maintenance payments is
- 14 being used as a form of economic abuse and that some survivors find
- 15 it especially difficult to obtain the evidence necessary to get the Child
- 16 Maintenance Service to increase the amount their abuser has to pay.
- 17 Conference believes that:
- 18 a) Every child has a legal right to be supported financially by both their
- 19 parents and that child maintenance payments are vital for the well-

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- 20 being of children from separated families, particularly single parent
 21 families.
- 22 b) For survivors of domestic abuse, using the statutory child
 23 maintenance system is not a matter of choice – it is a matter of safety.
- 24 c) Service charges for the Collect and Pay service are unfair and penalise
 25 the parent receiving funds for the unwillingness of the other parent
 26 to pay.
- 27 d) The Government has no strategy to improve the Child Maintenance
 28 Service and seems incapable of retrieving payments from parents
 29 that refuse to pay.
- 30 e) The formula used to determine maintenance payments does not
 31 accurately reflect the true cost of raising a child.

32 Conference calls for:

- 33 1. A full review and reform of the Child Maintenance Service to ensure it
 34 works for all children and parents.
- 35 2. The removal of the 4% charge for receiving parents using the Collect
 36 and Pay service as well as the initial £20 charge to be enrolled onto
 37 Collect and Pay.
- 38 3. Review the formula used to determine maintenance payments to
 39 better reflect parents' circumstances, such as the age of their children
 40 and their differing needs.
- 41 4. Guidance on child maintenance payments to survivors of domestic
 42 abuse to be written into law, including direction on extracting
 43 payment from those using payments as a form of ongoing coercive
 44 control.

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 8.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00 on Monday 5 September; see pages 10–11. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 on Saturday 17 September; see pages 7–8.

18.00 Close of session

Please see the Conference Directory for our fringe and exhibition programme.

SUNDAY

Monday 19 September

F24

09.00 Party business

Chair: Chris Maines. Aide: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC). Hall Aide: Cllr Joe Otten.

F24 Federal Board Report: questions and accountability

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

The Federal Board report is in the Reports to Conference booklet and includes a report to conference on the complaints process rules made under Article 23.3 of the Federal Constitution.

The Federal Board report is the chance for party members to hear how the party is being run and what is being done to implement the election review, and to put questions direct to the Party President. The Party Vice President responsible for ethnic minority communities will also report to Conference in this session.

See notes to F26 below.

F25 Federal International Relations Committee Report: questions and accountability

Mover: Phil Bennion (Chair, Federal International Relations Committee).

See notes to F26 below.

F26 Campaign for Gender Balance Report: questions and accountability

Mover: Julia Cambridge (Vice Chair, Campaign for Gender Balance).

Notes to F24, F25 and F26: The deadline for questions for F24, F25 and F26 is 13.00 on Monday 5 September. Questions selected will be published in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily. These questions will be guaranteed an answer, either in the session or in writing thereafter.

Questions may also be submitted up until 08.00 on Monday 19 September; such questions are only taken at the discretion of the chair.

See page 10 for further information.

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09.30 Policy motion

Chair: Baroness Featherstone. Aide: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC). Hall Aide: Bex Scott.

F27 Access to Dental Care

10 members

Mover: Daisy Cooper MP (Spokesperson for Health and Social Care).

Summation: Baroness Brinton (Lords Spokesperson for Health and Social Care).

- 1 Conference notes with concern that:
- 2 A. People are resorting to DIY dentistry because they cannot get a dental
- 3 appointment on the NHS and cannot afford to pay hundreds, if not
- 4 thousands for private dental care.
- 5 B. Healthwatch England found that 41% of people are struggling to get
- 6 an NHS dental appointment, with one in five unable to access all the
- 7 treatments they needed.
- 8 C. The British Dental Association (BDA) estimates that 3,000 dentists
- 9 in England have moved away from NHS work entirely since March
- 10 2020 with many more significantly reducing their NHS commitment,
- 11 and have warned of an “unprecedented” collapse, barring significant
- 12 government intervention.
- 13 D. One in six dentists are approaching retirement, the vast majority
- 14 of local practices have already started shutting their doors to new
- 15 NHS patients and some are preparing to stop taking NHS patients
- 16 altogether.
- 17 E. Emerging ‘dental deserts’ with the fewest dentists per person and
- 18 often in rural or deprived areas, has left people waiting for basic,
- 19 often urgent care and is leading to millions missing appointments, as
- 20 well as growing health inequalities.
- 21 F. Tooth decay is consistently the number one reason for hospital
- 22 admissions among young children and children from the most
- 23 deprived areas are already three times more likely to have hospital
- 24 extractions than their peers.
- 25 Conference believes that:
- 26 i) Everyone should be able to access an NHS dentist if they need one

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- 27 and no one should be forced to pay hundreds of pounds for private
 28 care.
- 29 ii) The Government's failure to address the shortage of NHS dental
 30 appointments and refusal to fund the system properly is leading to a
 31 two-tier system, with those that can afford dental care and those that
 32 cannot.
- 33 iii) The NHS dental contract is putting government targets ahead of
 34 needs of patients and sets perverse targets that are leading to poor
 35 outcomes.
- 36 iv) The number of NHS dentists is critical to tackling long waiting times
 37 and poor access to NHS dental appointments.
- 38 v) The Conservative Government's efforts to increase the number of
 39 NHS dental appointments has made no significant impact.
- 40 Conference calls for:
- 41 1. Reform of and increased funding for the NHS dental services
 42 contract, to ensure it:
- 43 a) Encourages and incentivises dentists to take on NHS patients.
 44 b) Meets patient need and demand rather than arbitrary targets.
 45 c) Puts an end to 'dental deserts'.
- 46 2. An increase to the number of dentist training places in the UK and
 47 continued recognition of EU trained dentists' qualifications.
- 48 3. Proper workforce planning for health and social care to be written
 49 into law, including projections for dentists and dental staff.
- 50 4. The launch of an emergency scheme to ensure children, pregnant
 51 women and young mothers have access to their free check ups on
 52 time.
- 53 5. Supervised tooth brushing training for children in early years settings,
 54 such as nurseries.
- 55 6. The removal of VAT on children's toothbrushes and children's
 56 toothpaste.

Applicability: England only; except 2. (lines 46–47) and 6. (lines 55–56), which are 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 8.

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The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00 on Monday 5 September; see pages 10–11. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Monday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 on Sunday 18 September; see pages 7–8.

10.10 Policy motion

Chair: Duncan Brack. Aide: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Hall Aide: Chris Maines.

F28 Against Alcohol Minimum Unit Pricing

10 members

Mover: Cllr Sophie Thornton.

Summation: Cllr Simon McGrath.

- 1 Conference notes:
- 2 I. The policy passed in September 2019 as part of the motion *Stop Brexit*
- 3 *to Save the NHS and Social Care*, which said we supported: "Investing in
- 4 a more coherent and evidence-based strategy to reduce harm from
- 5 alcohol addiction by expanding public health services for addicts,
- 6 including introducing minimum unit pricing in England".
- 7 II. The commitment in the 2019 manifesto to: "Introduce minimum unit
- 8 pricing for alcohol, taking note of the impact of the policy in Scotland".
- 9 III. The cost of living crisis.
- 10 IV. The recent report by Public Health Scotland *Evaluating the impact of*
- 11 *Minimum Unit Pricing in Scotland on people who are drinking at harmful*
- 12 *levels*, which found that:
 - 13 a) Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) led to a marked increase in the
 - 14 prices paid for alcohol by people with alcohol dependence.
 - 15 b) There is some evidence that MUP led to people drinking at
 - 16 harmful levels switching from consuming stronger ciders
 - 17 to spirits, and particularly vodka, in response to these price
 - 18 increases.
 - 19 c) There is no clear evidence that MUP led to an overall reduction
 - 20 in alcohol consumption among people drinking at harmful levels

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- 21 or those with alcohol dependence, although some individuals did
22 report reducing their consumption.
- 23 d) There is also no clear evidence that MUP led to a change in
24 the severity of alcohol dependence symptoms among those
25 presenting for treatment.
- 26 e) MUP led to increased financial strain for a substantial minority
27 of those with alcohol dependence as they obtained extra money
28 via methods including reduced spending on food and utility
29 bills, increased borrowing from family, friends or pawnbrokers,
30 running down savings or other capital, and using foodbanks or
31 other forms of charity

32 Conference believes:

- 33 A. That the principles of evidence based decision making, including good
34 evaluation of policies implemented, will lead to more effective policy
35 choices.
- 36 B. In particular that policies intended to influence people's decisions
37 benefit from thorough evaluation because responses to such policies
38 can be contrary or difficult to predict.

39 Conference therefore resolves to:

- 40 1. Revoke support for Minimum Unit Pricing of alcohol in party policy.
41 2. Reaffirm our support for investing in a more coherent and evidence-
42 based strategy to reduce harm from alcohol addiction by expanding
43 public health services for addicts.
- 44 3. Support greater investment in local government community outreach
45 alcohol dependency units.

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 8.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00 on Monday 5 September; see pages 10–11. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Monday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 on Sunday 18 September; see pages 7–8.

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11.05 Speech

Chair: Wendy Chamberlain MP. Aide: Mary Regnier-Wilson.

F29 Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP (Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats)



@agcolehamilton, #LDConf

11.20 Lunch break and fringe

Please see the Conference Directory for our fringe and exhibition programme.

13.00–14.30 Consultative session

Defining Racism – creating a modern, winning party

Brighton Centre, Meeting Room 1D.

Chair: Amna Ahmad. (Vice President of the Liberal Democrats).

See notes to the consultative session on page 30.

14.10 Policy motion

Chair: Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC). Aide: Baroness Featherstone. Hall Aide: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair FCC).

F30 A More Caring Society (Social Care Policy Paper)

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Baroness Jolly (Chair of the Policy Working Group).

Summation: Daisy Cooper MP (Spokesperson for Health and Social Care).

- 1 Conference believes that:
 - 2 A. Social care is an essential service, comparable to healthcare or
 - 3 education.
 - 4 B. Everyone has a right to access high quality care, regardless of their
 - 5 ability to pay.
 - 6 C. Carers, paid and unpaid, deserve a fair deal.

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- 7 Conference condemns a string of broken Conservative promises on social
8 care, including:
- 9 i) Boris Johnson's 2019 promise that no one should have to sell their
10 home to pay for their care, when many people will have to do just
11 that.
 - 12 ii) Watering down their commitment to the cap on lifetime care costs
13 making it harder for poorer people to afford the cost of care.
 - 14 iii) Failing to implement the provisions of the Care Act since 2015.
 - 15 iv) In 2019 committing to a cross-party consensus on social care, and
16 refusing any meaningful engagement with other parties.
- 17 Conference therefore endorses policy paper 148, *A More Caring Society*, in
18 particular its proposals to:
- 19 1. Ensure everyone has access to social care, regardless of their ability
20 to pay by introducing Free Personal Care, based on the system
21 introduced in Scotland by the Liberal Democrat-Labour government.
 - 22 2. Build on the Liberal Democrat-led Care Act to move towards full
23 personalisation of social care services so people have choice and
24 control over the way their care is planned and delivered.
 - 25 3. Move towards a preventative approach to social care, so people can
26 stay in their own homes for longer.
 - 27 4. Introduce a National Care Agency, which will set national standards
28 and give the social care sector long term leadership.
 - 29 5. Deliver effective integration of health and social care services by:
30 a) Putting people first over institutional restructuring.
31 b) Empowering local government to integrate services from the
32 bottom up, rather than from the top down.
 - 33 6. Introduce a long-term plan for the social care workforce, including:
34 a) Introducing a real living wage for care workers.
35 b) Investing in skills, professionalisation and accreditation of the
36 workforce.
37 c) Replicating NHS pay bands with clear career progression for
38 social care workers.
39 d) Introducing a national register of care workers and the creation
40 of a college for social care comparable to the Royal Colleges for
41 nursing and midwives.

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- 42 7. Deliver a fair deal for unpaid carers by:
- 43 a) Adding being an unpaid carer to the list of protected
- 44 characteristics under the Equality Act.
- 45 b) Providing unpaid carers with greater rights in the workplace and
- 46 more broadly, for example, the right for employees to take one
- 47 week's unpaid carer's paid leave each year.
- 48 c) Introducing a range of financial benefits to those providing care.
- 49 d) Improve how government departments and public service
- 50 providers communicate and work together to support unpaid
- 51 carers.
- 52 e) Increasing the training and accreditation of skills available to
- 53 unpaid carers.
- 54 f) Giving all young carers a legally enforceable 'Education
- 55 Guarantee' and a right to a normal childhood.
- 56 Conference also reaffirms pledges in motion *Standing Up for Unpaid Carers*
- 57 (March 2021) to support unpaid carers.

Applicability: England only; except 7. (lines 42–55), which is 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 8.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00 on Monday 5 September; see pages 10–11. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Monday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 on Sunday 18 September; see pages 7–8.

In addition to speeches from the platform, voting members will be able to make concise (maximum one minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See pages 7 and 9.

15.20 Speech

Chair: Mary Regnier-Wilson. Aide: Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC).

F31 Cllr Mike Ross, Leader of Hull City Council



@cllrnikeross, #LDConf

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15.35 Party business

Chair: Bex Scott. Aide: John Bridges. Hall Aide: Paul McGarry.

F32 Standing orders amendment: Selection of Motions for Debate*Basingstoke and Deane*

Mover: to be announced.

Summation: to be announced.

- 1 Conference notes that:
- 2 A. The Conference standing orders do not set out the reasons why the
- 3 Federal Conference Committee may refuse to select motions, while
- 4 they do set out the reason why the FCC may refuse amendments to
- 5 the Constitution and the standing orders (SO 4.3) and emergency
- 6 motions (SO 4.4).
- 7 B. Standing order 6.1 states that proposers need to provide reasons
- 8 why the expressed reasons for rejection are not valid but as there is
- 9 no list of valid reasons this can be difficult.
- 10 C. At each conference many motions are not selected to be debated by
- 11 the Federal Conference Committee.
- 12 D. Voting members can vote to decide which emergency motions are
- 13 discussed at Conference but do not have a vote on determining if any
- 14 non-emergency motions are selected.
- 15 Conference resolves to amend the standing orders as follows:
- 16 *Add new standing order:*
- 17 4.2 Policy motions
- 18 The Committee may refuse to select a policy motion if, in their opinion:
- 19 a) It is similar in effect to another motion or motions which have been
- 20 selected for debate or ballot at the same meeting of conference, in
- 21 which case the Committee must consider whether it is appropriate
- 22 for it to be composited with that or those motions.
- 23 b) It encompasses a policy area covered by a policy motion and
- 24 accompanying policy paper that has been passed after the last
- 25 general election or by conference in the last two years.
- 26 c) It encompasses a major change to party policy in an area being

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- 27 considered by a policy working group which is scheduled to be
 28 discussed at either of the next two conferences.
- 29 d) It is similar in effect to a motion that has been discussed at either of
 30 the last two meetings of conference.
- 31 e) It does not include any new policy.
- 32 f) It is unclear as to its meaning or intent or is, in the opinion of the
 33 Committee, too poorly drafted to provide a sensible basis for debate.
- 34 g) It is ambiguous.

35 *Add new standing order:*

36 4.3 Ballots for policy motions

37 All policy motions, except those rejected under standing order 4.2, must
 38 be placed either on the agenda for debate or in a ballot for selection
 39 by members of the Party. The Committee may hold separate ballots to
 40 select which of a range of policy motions to debate. If one or more ballots
 41 are held the Committee shall circulate the text of all balloted motions in
 42 the Agenda and shall specify closing times for the ballots. Following the
 43 counting of any ballots the Committee shall decide how many motions
 44 shall be debated in the time available. Amendments can be proposed and
 45 taken to any motion in the ballot(s) under this standing order in the same
 46 way as other motion in the Agenda.

47 *Renumber accordingly, and in standing order 3.2 delete '4.3' and insert '4.5',*
 48 *and in standing order 4.5 delete '4.4' and insert '4.6'.*

The existing text of Conference standing orders is printed in this Agenda at pages 85–96.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00 on Monday 5 September; see pages 10–11. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Monday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 on Sunday 18 September; see pages 7–8.

Standing order amendments require a two-thirds majority to pass.

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16.10 Party business

Chair: Cllr Joe Otten. Aide: Professor Belinda Brooks-Gordon. Hall Aide: Baroness Featherstone.

F33 Standing orders amendment: Selection of Speakers

11 members

Mover: David Barnsdale.

Summation: Toby Keynes.

- 1 Conference believes that:
- 2 A. There can be no genuine and meaningful debate unless opposing
- 3 viewpoints are heard, even if one side may appear to be in a small
- 4 minority.
- 5 B. Genuine, balanced debate should bring forward ideas and arguments
- 6 that participants have not previously considered, may identify major
- 7 flaws in a motion and should result in better decision-making.
- 8 Conference resolves to amend standing order 8.7 as follows:
- 9 *Delete:* 'The Chair shall be responsible for the choice of the speakers
- 10 and shall attempt to provide a balanced debate between the different
- 11 viewpoints in the conference, but may announce a departure from this
- 12 rule if there is an overwhelming preponderance of members wishing to
- 13 speak on the same side'.
- 14 *and insert:* 'The Chair shall be responsible for the choice of the speakers
- 15 and shall attempt to provide a balanced debate between the different
- 16 viewpoints in the conference reflected in the number of speaker cards
- 17 submitted, but may, at their discretion, depart from strict proportionality
- 18 in favour of the minority if it seems that to do so would ensure that
- 19 conference is sufficiently informed about the issues involved to make a
- 20 decision. In assessing the number of speakers allocated to each side the
- 21 proposer and summation will count as part of the allocation for those
- 22 speaking for the motion or amendment. The Chair shall ensure that there
- 23 is at least one speaker for the motion and at least one speaker against the
- 24 motion and the same for each amendment, provided there are members
- 25 who are willing and able to speak. After the motion and all amendments
- 26 have been proposed, speakers against the motion and each amendment

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- 27 shall be called next unless there are no members wishing to speak in
 28 opposition. At the end of the debate, but before voting starts, the Chair
 29 shall announce the balance of cards submitted for and against the motion
 30 and each amendment’.

The existing text of Conference standing orders is printed in this Agenda at pages 85–96.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 5 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 3 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00 on Monday 5 September; see pages 10–11. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Monday’s Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 on Sunday 18 September; see pages 7–8.

Standing order amendments require a two-thirds majority to pass.

16.30 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Simon McGrath. Aide: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Hall Aide: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC).

F34 Making the Fight Against Climate Change Accessible to Everyone

12 members

Mover: Charley Hasted.

Summation: Wera Hobhouse MP (Spokesperson for Energy and Climate Change).

- 1 Conference notes that:
- 2 a) Single-use plastics used in Health and Social Care contexts create
- 3 millions of tonnes of plastic waste a year, much of which will go to
- 4 landfill or be incinerated.
- 5 b) While there are some alternatives to single-use plastics in equipment
- 6 used for medical, social care and accessibility equipment, many are

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- 7 unavailable, unaffordable or impractical for many people.
- 8 c) Many older and disabled people have experienced difficulties with
9 different climate change or pollution prevention strategies such as
10 the banning of plastic straws, pedestrianisation, cycle lanes and Low
11 Traffic Neighbourhoods, which often fail to take their needs into
12 account.
- 13 d) Many transport alternatives to private cars remain inaccessible or
14 unaffordable for disabled and older people, especially where they
15 require adaptive or alternate provision.

16 Conference believes that while there have been many progressive steps
17 in reducing climate change in recent years, efforts to consider the specific
18 needs of disabled and older people have often been missed, leading to
19 many disabled people experiencing significant difficulty in supporting the
20 fight against climate change, or feeling excluded from society by some
21 measures.

22 Conference further believes that disabled and older people deserve to
23 have access to options which allow them to take a full and equal part in
24 the fight against climate change and in society as a whole.

25 Conference therefore calls for:

- 26 1. The allocation of at least 3% of government research and
27 development funding on environmental and anti-climate change
28 to projects centred around bringing benefits and change to the
29 health and social care sectors and a further 2% to projects that will
30 support disabled people to live more environmentally friendly lives
31 while maintaining their health and independence (e.g. developing
32 affordable biodegradable or recyclable alternatives to commonly
33 used items such as gloves, packaging and incontinence pads).
- 34 2. Requirements on NHS trusts, care agencies, residential facilities
35 and local authorities to develop strategies to reduce plastic use and
36 increase the recycling of non-biohazardous plastic waste.
- 37 3. Schemes aimed at increasing the uptake of environmentally friendly
38 transport options to provide accessible and adaptable options (e.g.
39 hand cycles and tricycles in cycle salary sacrifice schemes).
- 40 4. Requirements on public transport and infrastructure companies to
41 make all their provision completely and independently accessible by
42 2026.
- 43 5. Requirements on central and local government initiatives focusing on

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- 44 reducing emissions and improving public transport and public spaces
 45 to work with disabled people in the planning and implementation
 46 stages of projects to mitigate any negative impact on disability
 47 communities.

Applicability: England only; except 1. (lines 26–33), 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 8.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00 on Monday 5 September; see pages 10–11. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Monday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 on Sunday 18 September; see pages 7–8.

17.10 Speech

F34W Jane Dodds, Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats

@DoddsJane, #LDConf



17.25 Party business

Chair: Paul McGarry. Aide: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC). Hall Aide: Cllr Simon McGrath.

F35 Constitutional amendment: FIRC Changes

14 members

Mover: Phil Bennion.

Summation: Hannah Bettsworth.

- 1 *Delete Article 15.2 I. E..*
- 2 *In Article 15.2 I. G., delete 'six' and insert 'eight'.*
- 3 *Delete Article 15.2 II. C..*

If constitutional amendment F7 is passed, lines 1 and 2 of this constitutional amendment will fall.

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The existing text of the relevant parts of the Federal Party Constitution are reproduced below. The current constitution can be found at www.libdems.org.uk/constitution.

ARTICLE 15: The Federal International Relations Committee

15.2 I. Voting members:

...

E. one person elected by Members of the European Parliament as set out in clause 17.4.

...

G. six members who shall be elected by all members of the Party. Casual vacancies amongst this group shall be filled in accordance with the election regulations.

15.2 II. Non-voting members:

...

C. one representative of the Committee of the Regions.

...

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00 on Monday 5 September; see pages 10–11. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Monday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 on Sunday 18 September; see pages 7–8.

Constitutional amendments require a two-thirds majority to pass.

F36 FIRC Representation

Chair: Paul McGarry. Aide: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC). Hall Aide: Cllr Simon McGrath.

14 members

Mover: Phil Bennion.

Summation: Hannah Bettsworth.

- 1 Conference agrees that the Liberal Democrats are committed to
- 2 continued membership of Liberal International and the Alliance of Liberals
- 3 and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) and their successor organisations.

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- 4 Conference further agrees that from 1 January 2023:
- 5 1. The Liberal Democrat delegation to the ALDE Council shall comprise:
- 6 a) The Chair of the Federal International Relations Committee
7 (FIRC), or a deputy drawn from and elected by the directly elected
8 members of FIRC.
- 9 b) Any Liberal Democrat members of the ALDE Bureau, unless they
10 already have their own place as Council members.
- 11 c) Additional delegates as required, elected by all party members
12 under the election regulations made under Article 9.6(c), with the
13 diversity requirements for those elections of a minimum of one
14 person from each state party and one person under the age of
15 26 at the time of the election. Runners up in the election to be
16 ordered as reserve delegates.
- 17 2. The Liberal Democrat delegation to the Liberal International
18 Executive Committee shall comprise:
- 19 a) The Chair of FIRC or a deputy drawn from and elected by the
20 directly elected members of FIRC.
- 21 b) Any Liberal Democrat members of the Liberal International
22 Bureau, unless they already have their own place as Executive
23 Committee members.
- 24 c) Additional delegates as required elected by the voting members
25 of FIRC.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00 on Monday 5 September; see pages 10–11. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Monday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 on Sunday 18 September; see pages 7–8.

17.40 Party business

Chair: Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC) Aide: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC). Hall Aide: Baroness Featherstone.

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F37 Code of Conduct for Members and Registered Supporters

Federal Board

Mover: Gareth Lewis Shelton.

Summation: Mary Regnier-Wilson.

- 1 Conference agrees to ratify the following code of conduct, which
- 2 supersedes the previously used Member Code, Registered Supporters
- 3 Code and Online Code:

4 **Code of Conduct for Members and Registered Supporters**

5 *Our values*

6 The Preamble to Our Constitution contains these words:

- 7 'The Liberal Democrats exist to build and safeguard a fair, free and open
- 8 society, in which we seek to balance the fundamental values of liberty,
- 9 equality and community, and in which no-one shall be enslaved by
- 10 poverty, ignorance or conformity. ...

- 11 Upholding these values of individual and social justice, we reject all
- 12 prejudice and discrimination based upon race, ethnicity, caste, heritage,
- 13 class, religion or belief, age, disability, sex, gender identity or sexual
- 14 orientation and oppose all forms of entrenched privilege and inequality.'

- 15 This applies as much to the internal working of our party as to the type
- 16 of society we wish to build and should always influence how we conduct
- 17 ourselves in private, public and online.

- 18 We expect our members and registered supporters at all times to behave
- 19 lawfully, honestly and with integrity. They should always act with respect
- 20 towards each other and particularly towards staff, volunteers and people
- 21 who interact with the Party in their professional capacity.

- 22 As a member or registered supporter, you have the right to be treated
- 23 fairly, equally, and within the bounds of party rules. You also have a
- 24 responsibility to help ensure that these rules are upheld, and that the
- 25 party can abide by its external legal and regulatory obligations. We
- 26 provide a range of pastoral support services to help when things are not
- 27 going right (www.libdems.org.uk/getting-support-when-you-need-it).

- 28 The Party reserves the right to refer any breach of this code of conduct
- 29 which breaks the law to the police rather than/as well as dealing with it

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30 under this code of conduct.

31 *Valuing debate and democracy*

32 Liberal Democrats believe passionately in freedom of speech, diversity
33 of thought and freedom of conscience and will always defend these
34 principles in law. However, every political party must have some shared
35 values, and on joining the party our members and registered supporters
36 must acknowledge that they agree with the party's fundamental values
37 and objectives as expressed in the preamble to our constitution, though
38 this does not mean they must agree with every single party policy.

39 Within the bounds of these shared fundamental values and the desire for
40 our party to be successful, we encourage robust and passionate debate
41 on policy, strategy and the way in which the party functions. We also
42 encourage our members and registered supporters to play the ball, not
43 the person, and be measured in their criticism.

44 Whilst we should all treat each other with respect, nobody has the right
45 not to be offended.

46 One of our fundamental values is to reject all prejudice and discrimination
47 based upon race, ethnicity, caste, heritage, class, religion or belief,
48 age, disability, sex, gender identity or sexual orientation. The party has
49 adopted definitions of Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and transphobia in
50 order to help people understand how our values apply to our behaviour.

51 *Holding party office or public office*

52 Anyone running for or holding public office must be aware of how their
53 actions may be associated with the party and the greater responsibility
54 that comes with higher or more prominent office. Behaviour which may
55 be acceptable from a private individual may not be appropriate when
56 carried out by someone who, by virtue of the post they hold, is seen by
57 members of the public or those they interact with as representing the
58 party.

59 This also applies to those elected or appointed to party office, who should
60 strive within their leadership roles to proactively empower and support
61 others to contribute fully to our community. Those whose roles within the
62 party give them more power and influence should take particular care
63 to exercise this properly and not use it to intimidate, exclude, coerce or
64 otherwise bully other members.

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65 If you need help in carrying out your role, you have a right to appropriate
66 training, support and guidance. In turn, if a change in circumstances
67 means you are not able to carry out your duties properly, you have a
68 responsibility to notify colleagues so that suitable arrangements can be
69 made. We encourage all parts of the party to support volunteers through
70 the different chapters in their life, including making provision for informal
71 or formal temporary leave from party posts in cases of illness or when an
72 office holder faces parental or caring responsibilities.

73 Those who are elected as Liberal Democrats are expected to conform to
74 both the Liberal Democrat Code of Conduct and their own electing body's
75 Code of Conduct when acting as elected officials.

76 *Online conduct*

77 The standards in this code also apply to electronic communications,
78 online social media and written media, where members should strive to
79 ensure their comments cannot easily be misconstrued or their actions
80 misinterpreted. Where honest mistakes do happen, prompt apology and
81 clarification is important.

82 Online interactions are often carried out in public, and all members
83 should be aware of the extra risk of bringing the party into disrepute
84 during public online exchanges. Those who have large or influential social
85 media profiles should be especially wary of using these to encourage or
86 enable others to harass, bully or intimidate individuals.

87 Members will be expected to fully comply with the Member's Code of
88 Conduct in private online groups endorsed by the Liberal Democrats.
89 Some groups will also have their own rules regarding suitable subject
90 matter and repeated postings and members are also expected to comply
91 with these.

92 Where the party runs online events, forums or similar, the party may
93 actively moderate the online community so that people can come
94 together, debate big ideas, learn and engage with each other in a safe,
95 healthy and supportive way. Specific additional rules that comply with
96 this Code of Conduct and the Party's constitution may also be set by the
97 organiser, such as for hustings, and you will be expected to comply with
98 them as well.

99 If moderators believe you are not complying with either this code or such
100 additional rules, your contributions can be removed, you may be blocked

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101 from further participation in this event, or other events in future. Your
102 actions may also be reported to our disciplinary process and/or the police.

103 All moderation decisions are final, except in cases where there is a
104 published appeals process. In such cases, you must follow that process
105 rather than post further messages disputing a moderation decision.
106 Moderators for official party events and groups run by the party are
107 under a duty to behave fairly, objectively and impartially and must never
108 use their powers to favour one side of a debate or to silence views with
109 which they personally disagree.

110 *Annex: registered supporters*

111 For party members, details of our disciplinary process are set out on the
112 party website and in our constitution.

113 For registered supporters the Liberal Democrats reserve the right to
114 revoke your registration as a registered supporter at any time, without
115 notice, if we believe you have broken this code of conduct, or have acted
116 in any way that is in conflict with our values. There is no right of appeal
117 and you cannot reapply to become a registered supporter for four years

118 You have the right to resign from your registration as a supporter with
119 immediate effect at any time.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.

Conference has the power to ratify rules proposed by the Federal Board under Articles 9.7A and 9.7E of the Federal Constitution. This motion is therefore not open to amendment or separate votes.

18.00 Close of session

Please see the Conference Directory for our fringe and exhibition programme.

19.45–21.00 Consultative session

International Security Policy Working Group

The Grand Hotel, Empress Room. Chair: Dr Christine Cheng.

See notes to the consultative session on page 30.

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F38

09.00 Party business

Chair: John Bridges. Aide: Duncan Brack. Hall Aide: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC).

F38 Federal Communications and Elections Committee Report: questions and accountability

Mover: Cllr Lisa Smart (Chair, Federal Communications and Elections Committee).

The deadline for questions for F38 is 13.00 on Monday 5 September. Questions selected will be published in Conference Extra and Tuesday's Conference Daily. These questions will be guaranteed an answer, either in the session or in writing thereafter.

Questions may also be submitted up until 08.00 Tuesday 20 September; such questions are only taken at the discretion of the chair.

See page 10 for further information.

F39 Membership Subscription and Federal Levy

Federal Board

Mover: Mike Cox.

Summation: Richard Flowers.

- 1 Conference agrees the following for 2023:
- 2 1. To freeze the existing minimum membership rates (£15 for new
- 3 members, £12 for members from before 2022).
- 4 2. To freeze the £6 minimum for those in receipt of or entitled to
- 5 state benefits, and the £6 minimum for members paying via Young
- 6 Liberals.
- 7 3. To drop the recommended membership rate, as this is no longer
- 8 used in our membership work (for example, people are encouraged
- 9 to pay more by reference to the average membership subscription,
- 10 not the recommended rate).
- 11 4. That nothing in this motion shall prevent a State Party from setting
- 12 via their internal procedures higher recommended or minimum
- 13 subscription rates or from introducing additional concessionary rates.

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14 5. That the Federal Levy remains at 55 per cent.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 5 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 3 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00 on Monday 5 September; see pages 10–11. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Monday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 on Monday 19 September; see page 7–8.

09.20 Policy motion

Chair: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Aide: Chris Maines. Hall Aide: Mary Regnier-Wilson.

F40 China: A Strategy for the UK

10 members

Mover: George Cunningham.

Summation: Layla Moran MP (Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs and International Development).

- 1 Conference notes:
- 2 i) China's rise since the 1980s has been remarkable, raising millions of
- 3 its citizens out of poverty, with the country expected to be the world's
- 4 largest economy in nominal GDP within the next decade.
- 5 ii) President Xi's decade-long leadership of the Chinese Communist
- 6 Party (CCP) has increasingly transformed China into a political and
- 7 economic systemic rival to the current world order, including by:
- 8 a) Its challenges to the international liberal order, such as at the UN
- 9 Human Rights Council.
- 10 b) Its human rights abuses, as noted in Conference motions Hong
- 11 Kong's Future and The Uyghur Genocide.
- 12 c) Its aggressive posturing towards Taiwan.
- 13 d) Its friendship 'without limits' with Russia.

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- 14 e) Its military and nuclear weapons build-up, including in the South
15 China Sea where it is in breach of international law.
- 16 f) Its surveillance technology, which is used for suppression in
17 China and is exported to prop up other regimes.
- 18 g) Its concerted campaign to interfere in civic debate in western
19 countries.
- 20 iii) In 2021, the UK's trade deficit with China more than tripled to £40.5
21 billion, creating a trade over-dependency on China.
- 22 Conference believes that:
- 23 I. The UK must always stand on the side of democracy, human rights,
24 international law and multilateralism.
- 25 II. The UK needs to reduce its economic dependency on China, given the
26 CCP's increasingly arbitrary decisions, coercion tactics, and human
27 rights abuses.
- 28 III. However, China's significance on the world stage means that the UK
29 must continue to engage with China especially on global issues such
30 as climate change, biodiversity, health and nuclear non-proliferation,
31 while pushing back wherever our values and the security of our
32 citizens are threatened.
- 33 Conference calls on the UK Government to:
- 34 A. Issue a comprehensive China Strategy, which places human rights,
35 effective rules-based multilateralism, and working with our European
36 partners, centre stage.
- 37 B. Develop an Industrial Strategy, enabling UK companies to be more
38 competitive and self-reliant.
- 39 C. Make the UK economy more resilient by:
- 40 i) Reviewing preferential UK market access agreements with China.
- 41 ii) Strengthening foreign direct investment screening and cyber
42 defences, including increased data transparency requirements.
- 43 iii) Encouraging greater diversification of UK trade, investment and
44 supply chains, in particular with other democracies.
- 45 iv) Ceasing research cooperation on technology with China,
46 its companies and researchers if adequate reciprocity and
47 transparency cannot be achieved.
- 48 v) Using sanctions when considered necessary.

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- 49 D. Strengthen the UK's National Security Bill, by making the protection of
50 our open society a priority.
- 51 E. Work, especially within the Commonwealth and Africa, to partner in
52 development needs more effectively, flexibly and competitively than
53 China, including restoring the UK's international development budget.
- 54 F. Take further action on Hong Kong by:
- 55 i) Auditing UK-based assets owned by the CCP, state-owned
56 enterprises and Hong Kong officials.
- 57 ii) Assessing whether Hong Kong's autonomous status should be
58 revoked.
- 59 iii) Reviewing bilateral Foreign Direct Investment with Hong Kong;
- 60 iv) Using Magnitsky sanctions against those responsible for the
61 erosion of Hong Kong's freedoms.
- 62 Conference further calls on Liberal Democrats to stand in solidarity with
63 Hong Kong, Taiwan, Uyghurs, Tibetans and all others who are being
64 oppressed, discriminated against or undermined by the CCP, and to also:
- 65 1. Continue to fight for BN(O) passport holders' rights, welcoming Hong
66 Kongers to the UK.
- 67 2. Stand against rising anti-Asian hate crimes in the UK, including by:
- 68 a) Campaigning for further provision of resources and training to
69 allow law enforcement to identify and prevent them.
- 70 b) Condemning inflammatory rhetoric by those with public
71 platforms.
- 72 3. Develop even stronger links with our sister party in Taiwan, the DPP.

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 8.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00 on Monday 5 September; see pages 10–11. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Monday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 on Monday 19 September; see page 7–8.

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10.05 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC). Aide: Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC). Hall
Aide: Professor Belinda Brooks-Gordon.

F41 For a Fair Deal (Pre-manifesto Paper)

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Cllr Lisa Smart (Chair, Federal Campaigns and Communications
Committee).

Summation: Lord Newby (Chair, Manifesto Group).

- 1 Conference applauds the outstanding courage, strength and ingenuity of
- 2 people across the United Kingdom, working hard for their families often
- 3 in very difficult circumstances, from skyrocketing prices to under-funded
- 4 public services.
- 5 Conference condemns the shameful betrayal of Britain's hardworking and
- 6 law-abiding citizens by the Conservative government which:
 - 7 A. Now presides over some of the highest inflation and lowest economic
 - 8 growth prospects of any developed country, with no coherent policy
 - 9 for the economy in response.
 - 10 B. Has permitted a sustained rise in child poverty, with 31% now living in
 - 11 poverty.
 - 12 C. Actively promotes a divided and profoundly unfair society, in which
 - 13 some rules seem not to apply to a wealthy and privileged few, and
 - 14 actively fostering cultural divisions between social groups.
 - 15 D. Has created the biggest crisis in the history of the NHS, with
 - 16 ambulance response times, waits to see a GP, and waiting lists all at
 - 17 sky-high, dangerous and rising levels.
 - 18 E. Allows water companies to pump filthy sewage into our rivers.
 - 19 F. Lacks all urgency and ambition in tackling the climate and nature
 - 20 emergency.
 - 21 G. Has institutionalised lying and corruption within government and is,
 - 22 unbelievably, willing to break international law – including their own
 - 23 recent treaties.
- 24 Conference confirms that the Liberal Democrats' purpose is to ensure
- 25 every individual has control of their own lives, and for society to enable

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26 them in that aim, balancing liberty, equality and community, and ensuring
27 no-one is enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity - we want to
28 see democratic and legal systems which are fair and effective, a strong
29 international order in which we work with our partners, and a long-term
30 relationship with the planet which is environmentally sustainable.

31 Conference affirms again the Liberal Democrats' existing support for
32 closer economic and cultural ties with our European neighbours, and a
33 longer-term objective of UK membership of the EU.

34 Conference reaffirms our commitment to a society which gives everyone
35 a fair deal and the opportunity to get on in life, wherever they start, where
36 everyone plays by the same rules, and which puts power in all our hands,
37 so we can all play our part for our children, our community, business and
38 the environment.

39 To implement our vision for society, conference therefore endorses paper
40 149, *For a Fair Deal*, as a statement of current Liberal Democrat political
41 priorities, including:

- 42 1. Supporting individuals and businesses in difficult economic times
43 by reducing VAT to 17.5%, reducing business rates and employment
44 costs and instituting a revolutionary green investment programme.
- 45 2. Ensuring no-one fears for their future, struggles to put food on their
46 table or heat their home through a package of support measures
47 including reinstating the £20 uplift to Universal Credit, and extending
48 it to people on legacy benefits, most of whom are disabled, and
49 protecting the triple lock on pensions.
- 50 3. Ensuring that when people need medical help or care they can get it
51 in time, through training and recruiting more GPs so that everyone
52 can get an appointment when they need one, putting mental health
53 on the same footing as physical health, reforming the funding
54 formula for NHS Dentists so that no one is forced to pay hundreds of
55 pounds for private care, and increasing the Carer's Allowance so that
56 unpaid carers have the support they so desperately need.
- 57 4. Repairing the damage done to democracy by the Conservatives and
58 transfer power to the people through fair votes, scrapping voter ID
59 requirements, shifting powers away from Whitehall and Westminster
60 to the nations and regions of the UK, and introducing a codified
61 written constitution.
- 62 5. Building a free society where every person's rights and liberties are

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- 63 protected, through Championing the Human Rights Act and resisting
 64 any attempts to weaken or repeal it, giving police and prosecutors the
 65 resources and training they need to prevent and prosecute all hate
 66 crimes, and banning all forms of Conversion Therapy.
- 67 6. Delivering a good home for all through building at least 150,000 new
 68 council and social homes a year, while giving local authorities the
 69 powers to end the right to buy in their areas and requiring them to
 70 have a landlord licensing scheme.
- 71 7. Taking strong action to protect and enhance the natural environment,
 72 through setting targets to double the size of the Protected Area
 73 Network, the area of most important wildlife habitats, and the
 74 abundance of species by 2050, and ending sewage discharges by
 75 introducing a sewage tax to clean up our rivers.
- 76 8. Supporting British farmers, food production and food quality though
 77 keeping payments in full to family farming businesses until the
 78 better Environmental Land Management Scheme is rolled out, and
 79 guaranteeing that all future trade deals will maintain high health,
 80 environmental and animal welfare standards for food production, at
 81 least as good as EU standards.
- 82 9. Empowering local communities in England and allowing them to
 83 take the action they need to improve their areas, through allowing
 84 communities to limit the number of second homes and holiday lets
 85 and ending top-down reorganisation of councils and the imposition
 86 of elected mayors on communities who do not want them.
- 87 10. Tackling climate change through an emergency programme of
 88 action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from buildings and
 89 power generation to near-zero over ten years, including reaching
 90 80% renewable power by 2030, extending Britain’s rail network,
 91 strengthening the powers and resources of local authorities to cut
 92 carbon emissions in their area, and investing in more charging points
 93 for electric vehicles, especially in rural areas, and reduce VAT on
 94 electric vehicles to 5% to encourage uptake.
- 95 11. Prepare children and young people for a changing world through
 96 investing for our children to catch up on the vital learning they
 97 missed during the pandemic, reinstating maintenance grants for
 98 disadvantaged students immediately to make sure that living costs
 99 are not a barrier to studying at university, and creating new Skills
 100 Wallets for every adult, giving them £10,000 to spend on education
 101 and training throughout their lives.

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- 102 12. Restoring the UK's reputation as a country which acts for good in the
 103 world through reinstating the 0.7% of GNI aid target, re-establishing
 104 a Department for International Development, maintaining the UK's
 105 support for NATO, providing safe and legal routes to sanctuary
 106 for refugees, and putting a stop to oligarchs from corrupt regimes
 107 channelling their money through the UK.
- 108 13. Taking a pragmatic approach to building the UK's new relations with
 109 Europe by following our four-step roadmap (as set out in Spring
 110 Conference 2022), including agreeing partnerships or associations
 111 with EU agencies and programmes such as the European Aviation
 112 Safety Agency; once those trading relations are deepened and the
 113 ties of trust and friendship are renewed, we aim to place the UK-EU
 114 relationship on a more formal and stable footing by seeking to join
 115 the Single Market.
- 116 14. Protecting the BBC and Channel 4 as independent, publicly-owned,
 117 public service broadcasters, and supporting growth in the creative
 118 industries.
- 119 15. Restoring proper community policing, where officers are visible,
 120 trusted and focused on preventing and solving crimes, and investing
 121 in the criminal justice system to clear the backlog of court cases and
 122 ensure swift justice for victims and offenders.

Applicability: Federal; except 3. (lines 50–56), 6. (lines 67–70), 9. (lines 82–86), and 15. (lines 119–122), 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 8.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00 on Monday 5 September; see pages 10–11. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra and Monday's Conference Daily. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 on Monday 19 September; see page 7–8.

11.05 Emergency motions or topical issue discussions

F42 Emergency motions or topical issue discussions

Chair: Bex Scott. Aide: Cllr Joe Otten. Hall Aide: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC).

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This slot has been reserved for the debate of emergency motions and / or discussions of topical issues. The deadline for emergency motions and for suggestions for topical issues is 13.00 on Monday 5 September. The motions or topics selected for debate or proposed for the ballot will be printed in Conference Extra and Saturday's Conference Daily.

See pages 9 and 10–11.

12.35 Speech

Chair: Amna Ahmad (Vice President of the Liberal Democrats). Aide: Baroness Featherstone. Hall Aide: Cllr Joe Otten.

F43 Cllr Josh Babarinde OBE



@JoshBabarinde, #LDConf

12.50 Lunch break and fringe

Please see the Conference Directory for our fringe and exhibition programme.

14.10 Party business

Chair: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC). Aide: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Hall Aide: Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC).

F44 Party Awards

The Belinda Eyre-Brook Award:

Given to recognise and celebrate the efforts of people working for our elected representatives in their local areas.

The Dadabhai Naoroji Award:

Presented annually to the local Party that has done most to promote ethnic minority participants to elected office.

The Harriet Smith Liberal Democrat Distinguished Service Award:

Open to any Party Member never elected to public office recognised for outstanding commitment and service to the Party.

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The Patsy Calton Award:

An award for exceptional women ranging from Councillors, to members, to Parliamentarians.

The Penhaligon Award:

Presented to the local party anywhere in the world which demonstrates the most impressive increase in membership and exemplary activities to deliver and involve members and supporters.

The President's Award:

Open to any Party Member elected to public office and who has demonstrated excellence and commitment.

14.30 Speech

Chair: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC). Aide: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Hall Aide: Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC).

F45 Sir Ed Davey MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats

@EdwardJDavey, #LDConf



15.30 approx. Close of conference

Standing Orders

Glossary of terms

Business motion

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

Business amendment

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

Committee

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

Constitutional amendment

A proposal to change the constitution of the Party.

Secondary constitutional amendment

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

Consultative session

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

Day visitor

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

Emergency motion

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

Emergency amendment

An amendment to a motion which relates to a specific event which occurred

after the deadline for the submission of amendments. *It must be brief and uncontentious.*

Full session

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

Point of order

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

Policy motion

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

Policy amendment

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

Policy paper

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

Procedural motion

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

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.

Standing orders

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 Board, Federal Policy Committee, conference itself or 2% of party members, in not fewer than 10% of local parties under the provisions of

Article 6.3 of the Federal constitution.

Standing order amendment

A proposal to change these standing orders.

Secondary standing order amendment

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

Topical issue discussion

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

Voting member

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

Standing Orders for a conference held remotely

- A. In the event that the Federal Board determines it is impossible to hold a conference under the normal rules, and instead summons a special meeting of the conference to be held remotely, or the Committee otherwise directs that a conference shall be conducted remotely, these Standing Orders shall apply.
- B. A remote conference shall be conducted in accordance with the Standing Orders that apply to a conference not conducted remotely ('the original Standing Orders'), save that:
- i) All references in the original Standing Orders to votes, whether by ballot, show of hands or show of voting cards, shall instead be conducted via an online poll or alternative secure method of online voting, designated by the Committee; similarly all references to speakers' cards shall be taken to mean electronic speakers' cards.
 - ii) Any communications with the chair must be made via an online channel designated by the Committee for that purpose and advertised to voting members prior to the commencement of a debate.
 - iii) In original Standing Order 6.2, the reference to the Chief Steward shall also include lead moderators designated by the Chief Steward.
 - iv) Original Standing Order 8.7 shall apply save that the Committee may

Standing orders

set a deadline in respect of any given full session for the receipt of electronic speakers' cards; the chair shall have discretion to accept electronic speakers' cards after the deadline.

- v) Original Standing Orders 9.1, 9.2, 11.5 and Procedural motion 3 (Request for a Count) in the Glossary of Terms, shall not apply; instead, voting members shall, when appropriate, be directed by the chair to vote using the online voting tool made available to them. Standing

Order 2.3 shall not apply.

- vi) In original Standing Order 10.1, any voting member may signal to the chair via the designated online channel that they are moving a point of order, in lieu of rising in their place.
- vii) As, by necessity, all votes shall be counted votes, Standing Order 11.5 shall not apply; instead the chair shall ensure the result of the counted vote is publicised to members, via the appropriate online channel.

Standing Orders for the Federal Conference

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 Parties as listed in Article 6.5 of the Federal Party's Constitution, the Federal Board, the Federal Policy Committee, Federal Communications and Elections Committee, Federal International Relations Committee, Federal Council, and the Federal Conference Committee together with, when appropriate, reports from any other body the Committee considers appropriate, accounts, the annual report, a motion accompanying the proposed strategy of the party, business motions, constitutional amendments and standing order amendments;
- c) Policy motions (including motions

accompanying policy papers);

- d) Emergency motions;
- e) Topical issue discussions;
- f) Any other business which the Committee thinks appropriate.

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

1.2 Conference or council of state parties

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

1.3 Right to submit agenda items

- a) Reports to conference may be submitted only by the bodies listed in paragraph 1.1(b).
- b) Business motions (including amendments and emergency business motions and amendments), constitutional amendments and secondary constitutional amendments, standing order amendments and

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secondary standing order amendments may be submitted by the Federal Board, Federal Policy Committee, Federal Council, state parties, regional parties in England, local parties, Affiliated Organisations and 10 party members. Business motions, standing order amendments and secondary standing order amendments may also be submitted by the Federal Conference Committee.

- c) Motions accompanying policy papers may only be submitted by the Federal Policy Committee.
- d) Policy motions (including amendments, emergency policy motions and amendments) may be submitted by the Federal Policy Committee, state parties, regional parties in England, local parties, Affiliated Organisations and 10 party members.
- e) The Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons may submit a motion relating to supporting a government containing members of the other parties, in accordance with Article 24 of the constitution.
- f) Proposals for topical issue discussions may be submitted by any party member.

1.4 How motions and amendments are submitted

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

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

The Committee shall specify:

- a) The closing date for the receipt of policy motions (including motions accompanying policy papers), business

motions, constitutional amendments and amendments to standing orders, which shall be at least eight weeks before the start of conference.

- b) The closing date for the receipt of amendments to motions published in the Agenda and emergency motions, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference.
- 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 the same as the deadline for emergency motions. Questions submitted by this deadline are guaranteed to be asked.
- e) Notwithstanding 1.5 (d), questions may always be submitted to any of the reports listed in the Agenda, by the end of the preceding morning (for report sessions taking place in the afternoon) or afternoon (for report sessions taking place in the morning). Any questions submitted by this deadline will only be taken at the discretion of the chair.
- f) The closing date for proposals for topical issue discussions, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference.

1.6 Notification of deadlines

All dates specified under Standing Order 1.5 shall be publicised to party members and bodies entitled to submit motions. Publication in the party newspaper/ magazine and website may be treated as notice for this purpose.

1.7 Later deadlines in special circumstances

In special circumstances the Committee

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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 Board, and published in the Agenda. Two or more such sessions may be held simultaneously.

2.2 Speaking at consultative sessions

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

2.3 Voting at consultative sessions

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

3. The Agenda

3.1 The shortlisting of motions

The Committee shall draw up the Agenda and shall decide which of the motions duly submitted shall be included in it. The Committee may allocate time for one or more policy or business motions to be selected by ballot. Copies of motions not

selected shall be available for inspection and will be supplied to any party member on payment of a copying charge and postage.

3.2 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders

Save as detailed below in Standing Order 4.3, all proposed amendments to the constitution or standing orders must be selected for debate.

3.3 Balance between State and Federal policy debates

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

4. Selection of Motions and Amendments

4.1 Compositing or otherwise altering motions

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

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

4.2 Selection of amendments

The Committee shall decide which of the

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

4.3 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders

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

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

4.4 Emergency motions

The Committee may reject an emergency motion if:

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

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

4.5 Ballots for emergency motions

All emergency motions, except those rejected under Standing Order 4.4, must be placed either on the agenda for debate or in a ballot for selection by Conference. The Committee may hold separate ballots to select which of a range of emergency policy motions and which of a range of emergency business motions to debate. If one or more ballots is held the Committee shall circulate the text of all balloted motions to the voting members as soon as practicable and shall specify a closing time for the ballot. Following the counting of any ballots the Committee shall decide how many motions shall be debated in the time available.

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

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motions and for business which is formal or, in its opinion, uncontentious.

5.2 Preferred timescales for special meetings

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

6. Appeals

6.1 Appeals against rejection of motions

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

6.2 Appeals against exclusion from conference

Any person excluded from conference by a decision of the Chief Steward shall have the right of appeal to the Committee at the next of its regular meetings. The exclusion shall remain in force pending the appeal.

7. The Chair

7.1 Who chairs conference

The President, if present, shall normally take the chair at the formal opening and closing of conference and when the Party

Leader is making a formal speech from the platform. At all other sessions the chair shall be appointed by the Committee. Normally no person shall chair more than one session at any meeting.

7.2 The chair's aide

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

8. Conduct of Debate

8.1 Variation in the order of business

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

8.2 Withdrawal of motions and amendments

Once the Committee has included a motion or amendment, or part of a motion or amendment, in the Agenda, may not be withdrawn except by leave of conference.

8.3 The order of debate

The Committee shall direct the order of debate. Generally, however, a motion will be moved and immediately thereafter the amendments and options will be moved in the order directed by the Committee. There will then be a general debate. The movers of amendments and options (or their 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,

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on the substantive motion. The Committee may direct that part of any motion or amendment or groups or amendments may be the subject of a separate debate.

8.4 Topical issue discussions

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

8.5 Who may speak

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

8.6 The special rights of the Federal Committees

Provided that the Federal Policy Committee is not proposing the motion or any of the amendments to be taken in a debate on a policy motion or on motions relating to the policy-making processes of the Party it shall have the right to nominate a person to report its views on the subject before the conference. The Federal Board shall have similar rights on business motions or motions to amend the constitution, as shall the Federal Conference Committee on motions relating to the proceeding and procedures of the conference and to amend standing orders. Such a person shall be called to speak for the same length of time as the person replying on behalf of the mover of the motion.

8.7 The selection of speakers

Voting members wishing to speak in any debate shall submit a speaker's card, prior to the commencement of the debate in which they wish to speak, stating whether they wish to speak for or against an

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

8.8 The length of speeches

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

9. Voting at Conference

9.1 The method of voting

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

9.2 Counting of votes

A vote by show of voting cards shall be counted:

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

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

9.3 Separate votes

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

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

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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 voting member)

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

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be taken.

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

11.3 Reference back (moved by the Federal Policy Committee)

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

11.4 Separate vote

A voting member of conference may request that the chair take a separate

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

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on to the agenda can be taken unless the motion or amendment has been submitted to the Committee in accordance with the published timetable and, where a right of appeal against non-selection exists, the right has been exercised.

- d) The chair shall read the statement of purpose and, if the suspension is allowable in the terms of this standing order, ask the conference whether it wishes to debate the request for suspension. If the conference decides not to debate the request, it falls. If the conference decides, by a majority of those present and voting, to hear the request the mover may speak and a representative of the Committee may reply. The chair shall have the discretion to allow other speakers. All speeches on the motion to suspend standing orders will be limited to two minutes.
- e) A motion to suspend standing orders shall only be carried if supported by at least two-thirds of the conference members voting. If the procedural motion is carried all standing orders shall remain in force except only for the purposes set out in the motion.

11.7 No procedural motions during votes

No procedural motion can be moved during a vote.

12. Reports

12.1 Which reports are tabled

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

12.2 Submission and selection of questions

A voting member may submit questions

to any report tabled for consideration, by the deadlines set under Standing Orders 1.5 (d) and (e). The Committee shall publish in advance of the report session all the questions submitted under Standing Order 1.5 (d) which are in order, compositing similar questions where appropriate. Questions to the Federal Board report may include questions about the work of the Federal Audit and Scrutiny Committee and the work of the Federal People Development Committee

12.3 Whether questions are in order or not

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

12.4 How questions and supplementary questions are put and answered

After the report is moved, the mover, or their nominee, shall answer the questions in turn. After each question has been answered, the voting member who submitted the question will be given the opportunity to put a supplementary question, speaking for a maximum of two minutes, and the mover, or their nominee, will be given an opportunity to respond. The chair shall determine the time given to the mover in moving the report and replying to questions. The chair shall also determine how many of the published questions, and how many of the questions submitted under Standing Order 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.

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

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

12.6 Receipt of reports from other bodies

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

13. Amendment of Standing Orders

13.1 Amendment of standing orders

These standing orders may be amended by a two-thirds majority of members of conference voting on a motion duly submitted and selected in accordance with standing orders. Subject to any amendment they shall remain in force from meeting to meeting.

14. The Chair and Vice Chairs of the Committee

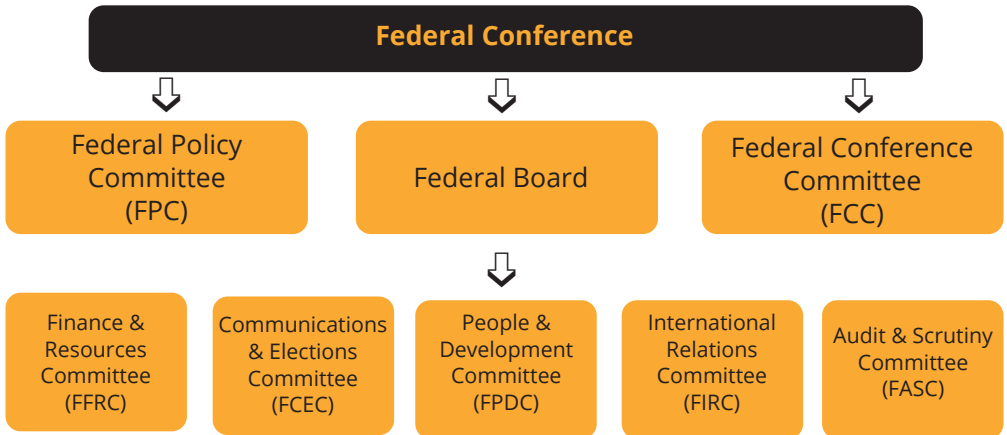
14.1 Chair and Vice Chairs

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

The Federal Party

The Federal Party is responsible for the Party's overall strategy, overall preparations for Parliamentary Elections; the overall presentation, image and media relations of the Party; and our international relationships.

It has the following committee structure:



The roles of each Committee are outlined in Articles 9 through 16 of the Federal Constitution. The Committees have the following Chairs:

- Federal Board: Dr Mark Pack, Party President
- Federal Conference Committee: Cllr Nick da Costa
- Federal Policy Committee: Sir Ed Davey MP
- Federal Finance and Resources Committee: Mike Cox, Registered Treasurer
- Federal Communications and Elections Committee: Cllr Lisa Smart
- Federal People and Development Committee: Mary Regnier-Wilson
- Federal International Relations Committee: Phil Bennion
- Federal Audit and Scrutiny Committee: Helena Cole

Details of all the Committees, their functions and members can be found on the Party website at:

www.libdems.org.uk/committees_organisations

The Conference training session 'How the Party works' will provide further detail.

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