

# Autumn Conference

## Agenda 2013

Glasgow 14th–18th September



**Stronger**  
Economy.  
**Fairer**  
Society.



A **MILLION**  
**JOBS**  
FOR A **STRONGER** ECONOMY.

## CONFERENCE RALLY

Saturday 14th September  
18.30–19.30  
Main Auditorium

This year's Rally is all about Jobs. About the one million jobs that Liberal Democrats have helped business create since 2010 and about our campaign to help create a million more. About our work to promote apprentices and our ambition to double the number of businesses that employ them. And it will launch our new campaign for small business.

Jobs will be at the heart of our campaigning ahead of the Scottish referendum, in the local and Euro elections and as we work towards the next General Election.

This Rally will show you why.

***Featuring:***

Nick Clegg

Paddy Ashdown

Alistair Carmichael

Kirsty Williams

Katy Gordon



**STRONGER** ECONOMY. **FAIRER** SOCIETY.

Welcome to the **Agenda** for the Liberal Democrat Autumn 2013 Federal Conference.

If you have any questions whilst at conference please ask a conference steward or go to the Information Desk, located in the Foyer of the Clyde Auditorium on the ground floor of the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC).

## Conference venue

Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC)  
Exhibition Way,  
Glasgow, G3 8YW  
[www.secc.co.uk](http://www.secc.co.uk)

## Conference hotel

Crowne Plaza Glasgow  
Congress Road,  
Glasgow, G3 8QT  
[www.crowneplazaglasgow.co.uk](http://www.crowneplazaglasgow.co.uk)

Please note that the conference hotel is located within the secure area and that access will only be possible with a valid conference photo pass.

For conference details and registration online



[www.libdems.org.uk/autumnconference](http://www.libdems.org.uk/autumnconference)

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The Agenda and other conference publications are available online



[www.libdems.org.uk/autumnconferencepapers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/autumnconferencepapers)

If you require plain text or large print versions of this or other conference publications, please ask at the Information Desk at conference or go to [www.libdems.org.uk/autumnconferencepapers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/autumnconferencepapers)



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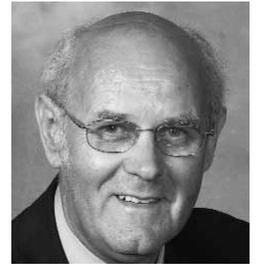
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Alistair Carmichael MP, Chief Whip.

Tim Farron MP, Party President.

Tim Gordon, Chief Executive (non-voting).

Members of the FCC will be available to give advice at the Information Desk at the following times:

Saturday	13.00–15.00
Sunday to	10.30–12.30
Tuesday	

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

# A million jobs for a stronger economy

By Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP

I'm delighted to welcome Liberal Democrats from all over Britain to Glasgow, for this year's autumn party conference.

You can expect the usual lively debates across issues our party cares deeply about. But this year conference has a very clear focus: jobs. Because, right now, finding or keeping a job is the top priority for people up and down the country. That makes it our priority too.

In Coalition Government we've already given business the stability and support needed to create more than one million private sector jobs. With Danny Alexander in the Treasury, Vince Cable and Jo Swinson in the Business Department and Liberal Democrats spread across Whitehall, we are steering

the economy back to health, helping more companies grow and more people into work.

It's thanks to our party that billions of pounds are going towards boosting manufacturing and renewable energy; unprecedented government guarantees are being provided for infrastructure and housing; the Green Investment Bank – a world first – is now up and running; record sums are being invested to create more apprenticeships than ever; Britain's rural communities will have access to the superfast broadband their companies need; and, of course, our income tax cuts and extra childcare are ensuring that millions of people reap the benefits of work – keeping more of the money they earn.

All of these ideas and more were at some point debated at our conference. Now they are making a



Finding or keeping a job is the top priority for people up and down the country. That makes it our priority too.

## A million jobs for a stronger economy continued

difference to people across Britain. This week, Liberal Democrats, we need to do it again. Earlier this year I launched our party's campaign to drive a million more jobs: *A Million Jobs for a Stronger Economy*.

Here in Glasgow we must agree the policies that will help turn that ambition into a reality. Whether it's how to get credit to cash-strapped businesses, or help struggling young people find work, or get house-building going to jolt our construction industry and provide families with much needed homes.

And, as we take those decisions, we'll show the country that not only will the Liberal Democrats deliver a stronger economy, but a fairer society too. We are the only party who can do both. Only a liberal Britain can enable everyone to get on in life, regardless of the circumstances of their birth.

These five days together are also an opportunity to look forward to the battles ahead.

Next May we have crucial local elections, when Liberal Democrats will hit the streets to champion our proud records of local and national action. We're gearing up to the Euro-elections, where our message will be simple and compelling: in Europe, in work. The referendum on Scotland's future in the

UK is now just a year away and, following the example set by Michael Moore, Willie Rennie and the rest of our Scottish team, our party will make the positive case for Scotland's continued place in the UK family.

From our economic recovery, to our green energy future, to our voice in the world, the nations of the United Kingdom will achieve so much more by staying together. And, of course, the clock is ticking to the General Election in 2015 – the first general election the Liberal Democrats will fight as a fully fledged party of government.

So it's an important conference and a busy one. I look forward to seeing you in and around the conference hall as we celebrate our achievements and – even more importantly – as we set ourselves on the challenges ahead. ●



**The Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP is Leader of the Liberal Democrats and Deputy Prime Minister**

### Conference timetable spring 2014

#### 7th–9th March 2014, York

Drafting advice deadline (motions)	13.00	Wednesday	18th December 2013
Motions deadline	13.00	Wednesday	8th January 2014
Drafting advice deadline (amendments, emergency motions)	13.00	Tuesday	18th February 2014
Deadline for amendments to motions, emergency motions, topical issues, questions to reports	13.00	Tuesday	4th March 2014

# Auditorium information

Information concerning the conduct of the main conference sessions at this year's autumn federal conference is listed on the following pages of this **Agenda**. The formal rules for the conduct of federal conference are set out in **standing orders** on pages 62–69.

General conference information is listed alphabetically in the separate **Directory**.

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

## Conference Extra and Daily

**Conference Extra** will show any changes to the order and timings of the conference sessions that are shown in this agenda, amendments to motions, topical issues, emergency motions for debate or the ballot and questions to reports, and changes to movers etc. **Conference Extra** will be available at conference on Saturday 14th September and online at [www.libdems.org.uk/autumnconferencepapers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/autumnconferencepapers).

**Conference Daily** will include last-minute changes to the order of business, movers, amendments, emergency motions, etc. Collect your copy of **Conference Daily** from the Information Desk at the start of each morning session.

## Venue

All auditorium sessions take place in the Clyde Auditorium of the SECC – see conference venue plan and map in the **Directory**.

**Access to the secure area that covers the SECC and Crowne Plaza is possible only with a valid,**

**visible conference photo 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 with the lanyard visible at all times within the area.

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

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

## Disabled facilities

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

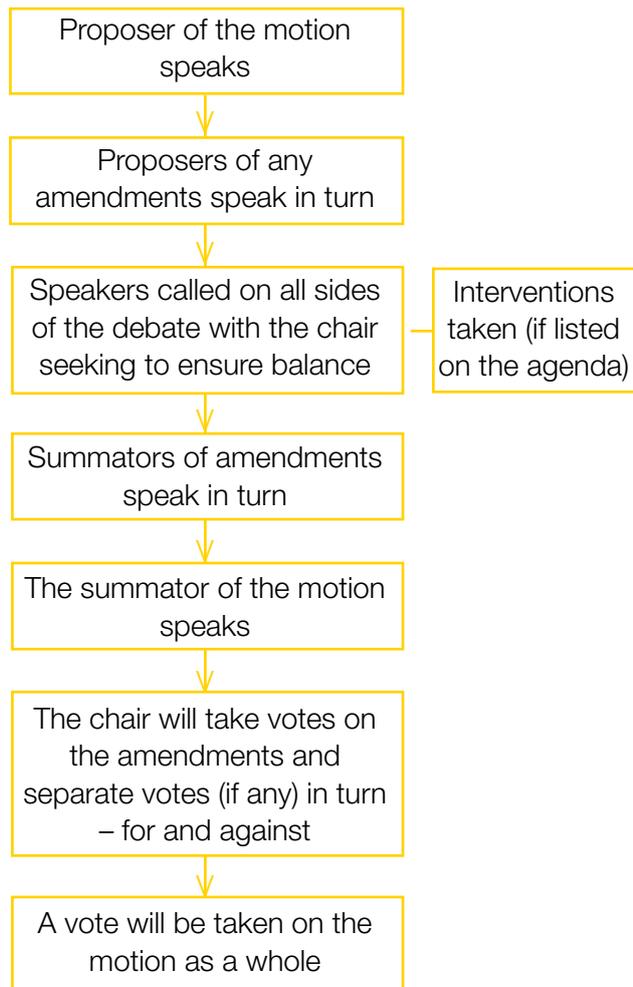
If you need assistance at the venue, please contact a conference steward via the Information Desk or our disabled access steward Robert Littlehales on 07712 667702 or [rlittlehales@aol.com](mailto:rlittlehales@aol.com). ●



# Debates and votes at conference

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

## The structure of debate on policy and business motions:



**Making a speech:** for information about eligibility to speak and applying to speak, see **page 8**.

**Length of speeches:** is shown against each motion in the **Agenda**. Interventions are limited to one minute each.

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

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

**Amendments:** all motions except emergency motions are open to amendment; those accepted will be detailed in **Conference Extra**.

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

**Separate votes:** a vote on whether to delete or retain the specified words or section. Any voting representative can submit a request for a separate vote – in writing to the Speakers' Table in the auditorium by the start of the first conference session on the day before the debate is scheduled; for debates scheduled for the first day of conference to motions@libdems.org.uk by the deadline for emergency motions.

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

**Procedural motions** include:

- Reference back (to stop debate and send the motion to a specified body for more work).
- Next business (to stop debate and move to the next item of business on the agenda).
- Suspension of standing orders (to lift one or more of the rules governing conference).

Procedural motions may be submitted by any voting representative, in writing to the Speakers' Table, with a statement of reasons of 75 words or less. Procedural motions are decided by simple majority of those voting, except the suspension of standing orders, which requires two-thirds.

**Applicability of motions:** federal conference makes policy for the Federal Party. In addition, the English Party has 'passed up' responsibility for policy-making to the Federal Party in all areas and the Welsh Party for some areas. The applicability of each motion is shown in the **Agenda**.

See **standing orders** (pages 62–69) for details.

## Other conference sessions

### Consultative sessions

- Between 10.00 and 12.30.
- Saturday 14th September.
- In the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

A less formal opportunity for conference representatives and other party members to participate in discussion of a particular topic.

Sessions are organised by the relevant Policy Working Group or other party body and are generally framed around a consultative paper that will be included with the Directory mailing. Where appropriate the conclusions will be taken into account when drawing up policy papers.

### Emergency motions and topical issue discussions

- F28 is reserved for emergency motions or topical issues.
- F38 is reserved for emergency motions only.

**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.

Emergency motions may be selected by a ballot among voting representatives. Emergency motions accepted for debate and/or for ballot and the procedure for selection will be detailed in **Conference Extra**.

**Topical issue discussions** are an opportunity for representatives and spokespeople to discuss and comment on a political issue live at the time of conference, where formal policy-making might be premature; they do not make party policy.

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

The submitter of an issue that has been chosen will have five minutes to introduce the discussion; the relevant Parliamentary spokesperson will be invited to respond; and a member of the Federal Policy Committee will sum up and suggest any further actions.

### Question and answer sessions

- Q&A with the party leader, F25.

Questions may be on any relevant subject and must be concise (maximum 25 words), will be selected by the chair of the session, and will be put by the submitter from the intervention microphones in the auditorium.

Questions may be submitted by any voting or non-voting representative, either:

- By email to [questions@libdems.org.uk](mailto:questions@libdems.org.uk) up until 17.00 on Thursday 12th September; or
- On a form collected from and returned to the Speakers' Table in the auditorium, no later than 12.50 on Monday 16th September

### Reports

- Federal Committees (F2, F3, F7, F13, F22 and F23).
- Parliamentary Parties (F9).

Concise questions on any of these reports may be submitted by any voting representative (maximum 25 words).

The reports are printed in the separate reports document. Questions should be brief. Questions to reports of the Parliamentary Parties may relate to any aspect of Liberal Democrat activities in the UK or European Parliaments. The chair will select which questions will be asked during the sessions.

Deadlines for questions to reports:

- Reports of Federal Committees: 13.00 on Monday 2nd September.
- Reports of the Parliamentary Parties: 17.00 on Thursday 12th September.

Submit to the Policy Unit, preferably by email to [questions@libdems.org.uk](mailto:questions@libdems.org.uk), or by post to 8–10 Great George Street, London SW1P 3AE. Download a form from [www.libdems.org.uk/autumnconferencepapers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/autumnconferencepapers)

Questions received by the deadlines above will be detailed in **Conference Extra**.

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

## Speaking in conference debates

**Eligibility:** the only people entitled to speak in debates and interventions at conference are:

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

**Applying to speak:** to make a speech in a debate you must complete a speaker's card, collected from and returned to the Speakers' Table at the front of the auditorium, an auditorium steward or the Information Desk.

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

**When completing a speaker's card, remember:**

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

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

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

## Submitting emergency motions, topical issues, amendments and appeals

**Amendments and emergency motions** must be:

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

Using a form downloaded from [www.libdems.org.uk/autumnconferencepapers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/autumnconferencepapers).

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.

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

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

**Deadlines:**

- Drafting advice: 13.00, Monday 19th August.
- Amendments, emergency motions and topical issues: 13.00, Monday 2nd September.
- Appeals: 09.00, Thursday 12th September.

Send to [motions@libdems.org.uk](mailto:motions@libdems.org.uk) (preferably) or to 8–10 Great George Street, London SW1P 3AE.

Submitters are encouraged to use our **drafting advice service**: draft amendments and emergency motions should be sent to [motionsadvice@libdems.org.uk](mailto:motionsadvice@libdems.org.uk).

**Suggestions for topical issues:**

- may be submitted by any voting representative;
- should be sent to [motions@libdems.org.uk](mailto:motions@libdems.org.uk), by the deadline for emergency motions and amendments.

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

# Scottish Conference

## Welcome from Willie Rennie MSP Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats

Our party's fortunes are on the rise. With our improved performances in elections in Rutherglen, Melrose and Aberdeen, many former supporters are returning to the party. Whether it's punching above our weight in Holyrood, serving our local communities on the council or delivering in government at Westminster, the confidence that people have in our party is growing.

The Glasgow conference week is an opportunity to mark those improvements and plot a further rejuvenation of our fortunes.

I have close connections with Glasgow. My wife, Janet, is from Glasgow. My grandfather was a minister in Maryhill. I studied in Glasgow. I like the gritty humour and the pride of its people. It's a great place to bring our friends from across the UK to discuss and debate key issues. I am sure we will make them all feel very welcome.

For our own Scottish conference we have a packed agenda, with motions on controversial reforms that could remove the need for corroboration in our legal system, tax evasion and land reform. With the European elections now round the corner, we will be hearing from George Lyon MEP about the need for a liberal voice for Scotland in Europe and the leading role he played in securing CAP reform, and

from Jo Swinson MP on the important work she is doing in government on business, pay day lenders, body image and much more.

Between the Scottish and Federal conferences it's going to be a bustling week. I hope you take the opportunity to breathe in the atmosphere, participate in the debates in the hall and at the fringe, and share experiences with members from across Scotland and the UK.

**All conference attendees are welcome to attend Scottish Conference**



## Scottish Conference agenda at a glance

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# Scottish Conference

## 09.30 Welcome address

Chair: Craig Harrow  
Aide: Sheila Thomson

### SC1 Formal Opening of the 2013 Scottish Liberal Democrat Conference, by Cllr Margot Clark, Bailie for Glasgow City Council

## 09.40 Policy motion

Chair: Katy Gordon  
Aide: Ross Stalker

### SC2 Land Reform

#### *Policy Committee*

Mover: Hugh Andrew  
Summation: To be announced

1 Conference notes that Scotland has the most concentrated pattern of landownership in the developed  
2 world. Conference further notes that land values across urban and rural Scotland are the subject of  
3 speculative forces that render houses, farms and forests unaffordable for too many people.

4 Conference believes:

5 a) Scotland needs a coherent policy on the ownership and use of land which incorporates human rights,  
6 the public interest and the rule of law to provide widespread opportunities for ownership of land to  
7 individuals, co-ops, businesses and community organisations to be administered by locally based  
8 democratic governance structures.

9 b) A fair and proportionate fiscal regime would be designed to end speculation and stabilise land prices.

10 c) A transparent and accessible land information system would provide universal information about  
11 landownership and use.

12 The Liberal Democrats are committed to a transparent, egalitarian, modern and flexible system of land  
13 tenure, ownership and land governance and commits to review its policy to achieve these ends.

14 Conference deplores the SNP's actions on Raasay and commits itself to full consultation and where  
15 possible transfer of state land or land rights to local communities with suitable safeguards wherever  
16 feasible.

17 Conference calls on the party to make a new Land Reform Bill a major plank of our election manifesto.  
18 Areas that such a bill could consider, amongst others, would be:

19 1. A statement on the abolition of crown rights and bringing Scotland's crown lands under the full control  
20 of Scottish local government (if the Westminster government has not already done so by repatriating  
21 the administration and revenues of Scottish crown lands). Conference thus reiterates the position of  
22 the Home Rule and Community Rule Commission on this matter.

23 2. Reviewing compulsory purchase powers to make them fit for purpose.

24 3. Simplifying the community right to buy legislation and extending its scope to urban land.

25 4. Reforming the law of succession to provide children with legal rights to inherit land.

## Scottish Conference continued

- 26 5. Providing the communities within Scotland's 196 burghs that lost their control over Common Good  
27 land in 1975 with the power to take back title to Common Good land at no cost.
- 28 6. Reviewing the laws of prescription, adverse possession and the system of land registration.
- 29 7. Reviewing the use of the legal system to allow landed estates to be held in charitable trust.
- 30 8. Calling on the UK government to remove the tax reliefs which allow land to be bought and sold merely  
31 as a tax vehicle without any regard for the communities thereon.
- 32 Conference believes that breaking the concentration of ownership of land and the cycle of speculative  
33 pricing will be essential to creating a fairer Scottish society.

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is midday Thursday 12th September.*

*Send to: [linda.wilson@scotlibdems.org.uk](mailto:linda.wilson@scotlibdems.org.uk)*

### 10.10 Policy motion

Chair: Sheila Thomson  
Aide: Christine Jardine

#### SC3 Taxpayer Support for Business

*Policy Committee*

Mover: Hugh Andrew  
Summation: Galen Milne

- 1 Conference notes the levels of public subsidy that the Scottish government has given to multinationals  
2 such as Amazon.
- 3 Conference notes that many of these companies use complex tax mechanisms to avoid or to minimise  
4 contributions to the UK tax system.
- 5 Conference recognises the inequity of this position and commits a future Liberal Democrat administration  
6 to the removal of any financial support, whether direct or indirect, from companies that use these  
7 procedures.
- 8 Conference calls on companies that use such techniques to be certified by HMRC thus enabling them to  
9 be clearly identified and calls on the policy above to be adopted by the Federal and Welsh parties in order  
10 that a consistent stand across the UK is taken on systemic tax avoidance by multinationals.

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is midday Thursday 12th September.*

*Send to: [linda.wilson@scotlibdems.org.uk](mailto:linda.wilson@scotlibdems.org.uk)*

### 10.40 Speech

SC4 Speech by George Lyon,  
Liberal Democrat MEP for Scotland

@georgelyonmep  
#LDconf



# Scottish Conference continued

## 10.50 Policy motion

Chair: Judy Hayman  
Aide: Paul McGarry

### SC5 Corroboration

*Policy Committee*

Mover: Alison McInnes MSP  
Summation: Fred Mackintosh

- 1 Conference notes with concern the provisions within the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill to remove the
- 2 requirement for corroboration in criminal cases.
  
- 3 Conference recognises that of respondents to the Scottish Government consultation 'Reforming Scots
- 4 Law and Criminal Practice: The Carloway Review' who expressed a view on the proposal to abolish
- 5 corroboration, most disagreed with this plan.
  
- 6 Conference further notes opposition to the government's plans from the Senators of the College of
- 7 Justice, the Law Society of Scotland, the Faculty of Advocates, Justice Scotland, the Association of
- 8 Scottish Police Superintendents and the Scottish Police Federation.
  
- 9 Conference shares the aspiration to increase the number of successful prosecutions in sexual offence and
- 10 domestic abuse cases but notes the arguments from the Senators of the College of Justice that "it is our
- 11 considered view that if corroboration were to be abolished, that would lead to decreasing confidence in
- 12 the legal system, and to lower rates of conviction generally," and from the Faculty of Advocates that while
- 13 the number of prosecutions may increase it is "a fallacy" that the abolition of corroboration would have a
- 14 positive effect on convictions for sexual offences.
  
- 15 Conference is alarmed that under the proposals in the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill, an accused could
- 16 be convicted on the evidence of a single witness even if five of the 15 jurors thought them innocent, and
- 17 notes the comments from the Law Society of Scotland that a move to a weighted majority will not be
- 18 sufficient to remove the risks created by removing corroboration.
  
- 19 Conference recognises that corroboration has been a cornerstone of the Scottish justice system for
- 20 hundreds of years and believes that the Scottish Government has not made the case to proceed with
- 21 such a major change.
  
- 22 Conference considers that the requirement for corroboration provides an important safeguard against
- 23 miscarriages of justice and is an essential component of the presumption of innocence and a necessary
- 24 bulwark against false accusation and injustice.
  
- 25 Conference therefore states its opposition to these plans and calls on MSPs to oppose the removal of the
- 26 requirement for corroboration as the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill proceeds.

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is midday Thursday 12th September.*

*Send to: [linda.wilson@scotlibdems.org.uk](mailto:linda.wilson@scotlibdems.org.uk)*

## 11.30 Speech

**SC6 Speech by Jo Swinson,  
MP for East Dunbartonshire,  
Minister for Employment Relations and Consumer Affairs**

**@joswinson  
#LDconf**



# Scottish Conference continued

## 11.45 Policy motion

Chair: Cathy McInnes  
Aide: Mike Falchikov

### SC7 Emergency Motion or Topical Issue

*The deadline for topical issues is midday on Friday 30th August. The deadline for emergency motions is 5pm on Friday 13th September. Send to: linda.wilson@scotlibdems.org.uk*

## 12.05 Question and answer session

### SC8 In Conversation with Shirley Williams

## 12.45 Lunch

## 14.15 Policy motion

Chair: Daniel O'Malley  
Aide: Helen Watt

### SC9 Sprinklers: Protecting Lives and Homes

*Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey local party*

Mover: Trevor Escott  
Summation: David Green

- 1 Conference notes:
- 2 1. In the UK, 2 people die and 50 are injured every day as a result of fires.
- 3 2. Compared with the rest of the UK, however, Scotland has the highest rate of fire deaths and injuries
- 4 per million of population.
- 5 3. 75% of fires in the UK occur at home.
- 6 According to the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service "Think Sprinkler" Campaign, sprinklers are ideal for
- 7 protecting homes for the following reasons:
- 8 a) Over the past 130 years, sprinklers have had a better than 99% success rate in controlling fires
- 9 around the world.
- 10 b) Sprinklers virtually eliminate fire deaths, reduce injuries by at least 80%, reduce property damage by
- 11 90% and substantially reduce damage to the environment by fire.
- 12 c) Sprinklers not only warn of a fire, they act immediately to control it - even if nobody is present.
- 13 d) Over 60% of fire casualties are physically or mentally disadvantaged, which prevents or slows their
- 14 escape from a fire. Sprinklers will at the very least control the fire and will raise the alarm, greatly
- 15 extending the time available for escape or rescue.
- 16 e) Sprinklers are not expensive; normally costing around 1% or 2% of the cost of construction of a new
- 17 building.
- 18 f) Records show that the chance of finding a faulty sprinkler head is about one in sixteen million.

## Scottish Conference continued

- 19 g) Each sprinkler is individually triggered directly by the heat of a fire. Only the sprinkler(s) directly affected  
20 by the fire go off, not all of them.
- 21 h) Perhaps most importantly when reducing preventable deaths due to fire is that: There have been no  
22 deaths from fire in a building fully protected by sprinklers in the UK.
- 23 Conference also notes:
- 24 That Angus Council undertook to fit domestic sprinkler systems in all new build social housing since 2009  
25 and all new build domestic properties in 2012 and that the Welsh Assembly has introduced legislation that  
26 sprinklers will be fitted in all new homes from September 2013.
- 27 Conference calls on the Scottish Government to legislate, as soon as possible, that all new builds should  
28 be protected by sprinklers.

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is midday Thursday 12th September.  
Send to: linda.wilson@scotlibdems.org.uk*

### 14.35 Speech

**SC10 Speech by Willie Rennie MSP,  
Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats**

@willie\_rennie  
#LDconf



### 15.05 Policy motion

Chair: Craig Harrow  
Aide: Sheila Thomson

#### **SC11 Subscription Rates for 2014**

*Finance & Membership Committee*

Mover: Caron Lindsay  
Summation: Caron Lindsay

- 1 Conference notes that:
- 2 a) The Scottish Liberal Democrats Executive is proposing that there be no change to the Minimum,  
3 Concessionary, or Liberal Youth subscription rate for 2014.
- 4 b) The Scottish Liberal Democrats Executive is proposing that the recommended rate should rise from  
5 £65 to £67.
- 6 c) The proposed minimum rate, together with our concessionary rate of £6 for those receiving or entitled  
7 to receive state benefits, maintains our position of offering access to the widest possible proportion of  
8 society.
- 9 Conference resolves that for the year 2014:
- 10 1. The recommended subscription rate shall be £67.
- 11 2. The minimum subscription rate shall be £12.
- 12 3. The concessionary subscription rate for those in receipt of, or entitled to, state benefits other than  
13 child benefit or state pension shall be £6.

## Scottish Conference continued

- 14 4. Those paying their subscription through Liberal Youth Scotland shall pay a minimum of £6 or, where a  
15 new member joins, a special introductory rate of £1.

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is midday Thursday 12th September.*

*Send to: [linda.wilson@scotlibdems.org.uk](mailto:linda.wilson@scotlibdems.org.uk)*

## 15.15 Close of Scottish Conference

### Scottish party office bearers

Willie Rennie MSP	Leader
Sir Malcolm Bruce MP	President
Alistair Carmichael MP	Deputy Leader
Craig Harrow	Convener
Caron Lindsay	Treasurer
John Edward	Vice-Convener (Policy)
Sheila Thomson	Vice-Convener (Conference)
Katy Gordon	Vice-Convener (Campaigns & Candidates)



We all know from our own lives that we are stronger when we work together with others. We believe the same is true of Scotland's place within the United Kingdom. Scots from all parties and none are joining Better Together to spread our positive message to help ensure Scotland remains a strong partner within the United Kingdom following the referendum in 2014.

This decision is about what kind of future we want for our country and our families - we can have the best of both worlds with a distinctive Scottish Parliament and the strength and security of being part of the UK.

**This is too important to leave it to someone else so why not pop by our stand at Conference or contact us at:**

**bettertogether**   
A stronger Scotland, a **United Kingdom**

 [www.bettertogether.net](http://www.bettertogether.net)  [info@bettertogether.net](mailto:info@bettertogether.net)  
 [@UK\\_Together](https://twitter.com/UK_Together)  **0141-225-6288**  
 [facebook.com/bettertogetheruk](https://facebook.com/bettertogetheruk)

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**Stronger** Economy. **Fairer** Society.

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# Conference Dinner

With Rt Hon Vince Cable MP  
in support of Jo Swinson MP's re-election campaign,  
in association with Liberal Democrat Women

The Conference Dinner is being held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 8.30 pm (immediately after the Conference Rally), at the Conference Hotel, the Crowne Plaza (a few minutes walk from the rally).

Tickets are priced at £40. Please give an additional donation (if you can), to help Jo Swinson win re-election in a seat strongly targeted by Labour.

Please be part of this special occasion by booking soon as places are limited.

If you cannot make it to the dinner, please could you give a donation in support of Jo Swinson's re-election campaign?

To book return the slip below or buy online at [www.ConferenceDinner.org.uk](http://www.ConferenceDinner.org.uk)  
Places may be reserved (subject to prompt payment) by email to [Info@ConferenceDinner.org.uk](mailto:Info@ConferenceDinner.org.uk) or telephone 0141 931 5674

Yes, I can make it to the Conference Dinner. I will pay for \_\_\_\_ tickets at £40 each and I can make a donation of £\_\_\_\_

Name:

I can't make it to the dinner, but I'd like to donate to help Jo be re-elected:

- £100  
 £50  
 £25  
 £\_\_

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Please make all cheques out to "East Dunbartonshire Liberal Democrats"

**Please return to: Freepost NATN 627, Milngavie, Glasgow G62 6BR**

# Saturday 14th September

10.00 Consultative sessions

–12.30

## Immigration, Identity and Asylum

Argyll 1                      Chair:                      Sir Andrew Stunell MP  
Crowne Plaza Hotel      Rapporteur:              Louise Higgins

## Spring Conference: Cost-Neutral Options for the Future

Argyll 2                      Chair:                      James Gurling  
Crowne Plaza Hotel      Rapporteur:              Rachael Clarke

*Consultative sessions provide a less formal mechanism than full-scale conference debates for conference representatives and other party members to participate in the party's policy-making and decision-making process. Each session examines a particular topic and hears contributions from party members and in some cases outside speakers.*

*The sessions will be organised by the relevant Policy Working Group or other party body. Where appropriate, the conclusions of the sessions will be taken into account by the groups when drawing up their final policy papers. Consultative papers for the sessions are included with the Directory mailing.*

All conference sessions, apart from the consultative sessions above, take place in the Clyde Auditorium in the SECC.

See **Directory** for venue plans and map.

Consultation papers are available online at:



[www.libdems.org.uk/autumnconferencepapers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/autumnconferencepapers)

### Ministerial Q&A Sessions

There will be a series of Ministerial Q&A Sessions, where you can come along and ask questions of our Ministers on the issues relating to their responsibilities and their departments.

See **Directory** and **Conference Extra** for details.

### Conference Rally

**A million jobs for a stronger economy**

Saturday 14th September

18.30–19.30

Main Auditorium, SECC

See inside front cover for more details.

# Saturday 14th September continued

## 14.20 Party business

Chair: Tim Farron MP (President of the Liberal Democrats)  
Aide: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

### **F1 Formal Opening of the Federal Conference by Jo Swinson MP**

## 14.35 Party business

Chair: Liz Lynne  
Aide: Cllr Chris Maines

### **F2 Report of the Federal Conference Committee**

Mover: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

*The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 2nd September; questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 13.35 on Saturday 14th September. See page 7 for further information.*

## 14.50 Party business

Chair: Liz Lynne  
Aide: Cllr Chris Maines

### **F3 Report of the Federal Policy Committee**

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

*The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 2nd September; questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 13.50 on Saturday 14th September. See page 7 for further information.*

## 15.00 Policy motion

Chair: Susan Gaszczak  
Aide: Dr Evan Harris

### **F4 A *Balanced Working Life* (Low and Middle Income Households Policy Paper)**

*Federal Policy Committee*

Mover: Rebecca Cooper  
Summation: Baroness Tyler (Chair of the Policy Working Group)

- 1 Conference affirms that Liberal Democrats are working for a stronger economy in a fairer society, enabling
- 2 every person to get on in life.
- 3 Conference recognises that life can be very tough for people on low and middle incomes and that they
- 4 have felt the impact of the economic crisis particularly acutely.
- 5 Conference endorses policy paper 108, *A Balanced Working Life*, to help people on low and middle
- 6 incomes juggle working and caring responsibilities, and welcomes the approach taken in suggesting

## Saturday 14th September continued

7 policies in the areas of household budgets, childcare and other caring responsibilities, flexible working  
8 practices and family friendly public services.

9 Conference notes that the economic crisis has had an adverse impact on public spending and that some  
10 of the policies detailed in policy paper 108 will need to be phased in over time as finances allow.

11 Conference believes:

- 12 1. The introduction of the minimum wage (NMW) in 1998 has driven living standards higher and  
13 increased social mobility, has contributed to a fairer society through the protection of low-paid  
14 workers, and its national recognition and simplicity has contributed to the emergence of a more  
15 empowered workforce and resulted in a far stronger economy.
- 16 2. That through tax credits and other in-work benefits the government is effectively subsidising low  
17 wages when in some cases the employer could afford to pay a higher wage without profoundly  
18 affecting profits.
- 19 3. Government should help people who struggle with the cost of living and to make ends meet by:
  - 20 a) Creating a commission to establish an official living wage – including the level, method of delivery,  
21 deciding eligibility and other factors.
  - 22 b) Ensuring the living wage is paid by central government and encouraging local government also to  
23 lead by example.
  - 24 c) Making companies that employ over 250 people be transparent about how many of their  
25 employees are not paid the living wage.
  - 26 d) Government procurement recognising the added value of those employers who pay the newly  
27 established living wage.
  - 28 e) Reviewing Universal Credit two years after its full roll-out with a view to possibly increasing work  
29 incentives or introducing a disregard for families with disabled children and a disregard for second  
30 earners.
  - 31 f) Revising the status of various market regulators and bringing them under one roof to save on  
32 running costs – this new ‘one-stop shop’ would have consumer interest as its central focus.
- 33 4. A decent supply of good quality and affordable childcare can enable parents who so wish to return to  
34 work with clear economic benefits, whilst also having an important impact on the early development of  
35 the child, and is critical to social mobility.
- 36 5. Government should improve the affordability, quality, convenience and provision of childcare by:
  - 37 a) Introducing a local information pack as well as a new high profile online source of information to  
38 help new parents with information about services and entitlements and how to access them.
  - 39 b) As Local Authority finances allow, continuing the roll-out of Children and Family Centres, which  
40 can serve as centres of excellence and multi-disciplinary hubs for childcare providers in the area,  
41 making it easier for parents to access the childcare they need in one place.
  - 42 c) Increasing the allocation of free childcare, starting with the current gap between maternity pay and  
43 free entitlement at age two, to:
    - 44 i) 10 hours for babies between the ages of one and two.
    - 45 ii) 15 hours for all 2–3 year olds, rather than just the most deprived 40%.
    - 46 iii) 20 hours for 3–4 year olds, increasing the current entitlement by 5 hours.
    - 47 iv) 25 hours for 4–5 year olds.
  - 48 d) Ensuring that by 2015 the leader of the team working with children in each Local Children and  
49 Family Centre is educated to degree level.

## Saturday 14th September continued

- 50 e) Introducing a use-it-or-lose-it 'Daddy Month' based on the Swedish model, to encourage uptake  
51 of parental leave amongst fathers.
- 52 f) Encouraging employers to allow employees with caring commitments to take 6 months 'Carer's  
53 Leave' during periods of acute crisis.
- 54 g) Creating an awareness campaign aimed at business to raise awareness of the needs of the  
55 'sandwich generation' who have caring needs towards both children and elderly relatives.
- 56 6. It is important to strike the right balance between assisting businesses to grow and ensuring  
57 employees are given a fair deal to achieve a balanced working life, and therefore the government  
58 should:
- 59 a) Set up a small, time-limited Challenge Fund to provide SMEs with access to a pool of consultants  
60 who can advise on introducing practical wellbeing programmes in companies including help to  
61 introduce flexible working.
- 62 b) Encourage Local Authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups to promote wellbeing in the work-  
63 place by liaising with companies to actively promote health and wellbeing, using the new Health  
64 and Wellbeing Boards protocols established in April 2013.
- 65 c) Encourage the use of flexi-time banking and annualised hours for employees with caring  
66 responsibilities.
- 67 d) Introduce mandatory work-life balance councils in businesses of more than 250 employees  
68 with employee/union representatives and HR/management to develop tailor-made policies for a  
69 balanced working life and improved working conditions.
- 70 e) Review the impact of the extension to request flexible working two years after its introduction, with  
72 a view to introducing legal presumption in favour of flexible working if take up for both men and  
72 women does not improve.
- 73 f) Introduce a 'national work-life balance awareness week' to promote the benefits of flexible working  
74 and other policies.
- 75 g) Introduce a kite-marking system, the criteria of which should be introduced as standard practice  
76 in Company Annual Reports, either by statutory regulation or through incentives to companies,  
77 allowing shareholders and external stakeholders to judge how well a company was performing in  
78 relation to the wellbeing of its staff.
- 79 h) Encourage corporate models, such as mutuals, that give employees a stake in their organisations.  
80 i) Underwrite the debt of successful claimants at employment tribunals.
- 81 7. Family-friendly approaches to public services should be introduced, such as:
- 82 a) Further roll-out of community budgets to allow local people to prioritise access to those services  
83 upon which they most rely.
- 84 b) Piloting a programme of support offered to those people furthest away from the job market to  
85 bring together their social care needs – this would include support for those with mental health  
86 problems or disabilities, treatment for those with drug and alcohol problems and rehabilitation  
87 support for ex-offenders.
- 88 c) Allowing patients the flexibility of Skype or telephone consultations with their GPs when both  
89 parties prefer that option and also create a family appointment option, as a means of enhancing  
90 flexibility and efficiency specifically for parents and their children.
- 91 d) Allowing people to choose a GP based on proximity to work as opposed to home.
- 92 e) Enabling local people have a greater say in the tendering process for local bus services, including  
93 the power to insist that certain local services are included on routes.

*Applicability: Federal, except 4 and 5 (lines 33–56), 6 b) (lines 63–65) and 7 (lines 83–95), which are England only.*

*Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.*

# Saturday 14th September continued

*In addition to speeches from the platform, conference representatives will be able to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion; see pages 6 and 8.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion and for requests for separate votes is 13.00, Monday 2nd September. See pages 6 and 8. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.*

## 16.30 Speech

Chair: Kelly-Marie Blundell

Aide: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

### F5 Speech by Tim Farron MP, President of the Liberal Democrats

@timfarron  
#LDconf



## 16.50 Standing order amendment

Chair: Baroness Barker

Aide: Sandra Gidley

### F6 Emergency Motions

*13 conference representatives*

Mover: David Grace

Summation: Martin Tod

- 1 *In standing order 4.5:*
- 2 *After 'If one or more ballots is held the Committee shall circulate the text', insert: 'and the proposed length*
- 3 *of debate'.*
- 4 *After 'Following the counting of any ballots the Committee', delete: 'shall decide how many motions shall*
- 5 *be debated in the time available', and insert: 'shall organise the debates on the motions in the order*
- 6 *chosen by conference in the ballots'.*

*Applicability: Federal.*

*Mover of motion: 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 and for requests for separate votes is 13.00, Monday 2nd September. See pages 6 and 8. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.*

*The existing text of standing orders is given on pages 62–69 of this Agenda. A standing order amendment requires at least a two-thirds majority to pass.*

## 17.20 Close of session

# Sunday 15th September

## 09.00 Party business

Chair: Dr Evan Harris  
Aide: Gareth Epps

### **F7 Report of the Federal Finance and Administration Committee**

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

*The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 2nd September; questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 17.20 on Saturday 14th September. See page 7 for further information.*

## 09.10 Party business

Chair: Dr Evan Harris  
Aide: Gareth Epps

### **F8 Membership Subscription and Federal Levy**

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

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 a) The Federal Executive is proposing that there be no change to the Minimum, Concessionary, or Liberal
- 3 Youth subscription rates, and no change to the Federal Levy.
- 4 b) The Federal Executive is proposing that the recommended rate should rise from £65 to £67.
- 5 c) The proposed minimum rate, together with our concessionary rate of £6 for those receiving or entitled
- 6 to receive state benefits, maintains our position of offering access to the widest possible proportion of
- 7 society.

8 Conference resolves that for the year 2014:

- 9 1. The recommended subscription rate shall be £67.
- 10 2. The minimum subscription rate shall be £12.
- 11 3. The concessionary subscription rate for those in receipt of, or entitled to, state benefits other than
- 12 child benefit or state pension shall be £6.
- 13 4. Those paying their subscription through Liberal Youth shall pay a minimum of £6 or, where a new
- 14 member joins, a special introductory rate of £1.
- 15 5. Nothing in this motion prevents a State Party from setting a recommended rate or rates of
- 16 subscription by its internal procedures which is higher than that agreed by the Federal Conference, or
- 17 from introducing additional concessionary rates.

18 Conference further resolves that for the year 2014 the Federal Levy on new members shall be 0% of the

19 subscription paid and the Federal Levy on renewal subscriptions shall be 44%.

*Applicability: Federal.*

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

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 2nd September. Those selected for debate will be*

# Sunday 15th September continued

printed in Conference Extra. See page 8 for further information. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 14.20, Saturday 14th September; see page 6.

## 09.35 Party business

Chair: James Gurling  
Aide: Cllr Louise Bloom

### F9 Reports of the Parliamentary Parties of the Liberal Democrats

Commons: Alistair Carmichael MP (Chief Whip) and Annette Brooke MP (Chair of Parliamentary Party)  
Lords: Lord McNally (Leader) and Lord Newby (Chief Whip)  
Europe: Fiona Hall MEP (Leader)

*Each of the reports will be moved briefly, and voted on at the end of the session, but the bulk of the session will be used to allow voting representatives to put questions on any aspect of Liberal Democrat activities in the Westminster and European Parliaments to the panel. Questions may be submitted by email up until 17.00 on Thursday 12th September, or, on events occurring after this deadline, up until 17.20 on Saturday 14th September. See page 7 for further information.*

## 10.20 Policy motion

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

### F10 Green Growth and Green Jobs (Transition to a Zero Carbon Britain Policy Paper)

*Federal Policy Committee*

Mover: Lord Teverson (Co-Chair, Parliamentary Party Committee on Environment and Climate Change)  
Summation: Neil Stockley (Chair of the Policy Working Group)

- 1 Conference endorses the Liberal Democrat vision for a zero carbon Britain, which will help to create green
- 2 jobs, revive the economy, lay the foundations for new technologies, new industries and new, sustainable
- 3 sources of prosperity, free the country from its dependence on fossil fuels and help tackle the grave threat
- 4 of climate change.
- 5 Conference endorses Policy Paper 109, *Green Growth and Green Jobs – Transition to a Zero Carbon*
- 6 *Britain*, which sets out the framework for a long-term strategy to set the UK on the path to a carbon-
- 7 neutral future.
- 8 Conference in particular welcomes the paper's specific proposals to:
- 9 1. Strengthen the UK policy framework for green growth by:
  - 10 a) Providing greater policy stability and promoting investor confidence.
  - 11 b) Facilitating investment in low-carbon technologies and infrastructure, including:
    - 12 i) Expanding the Green Investment Bank's borrowing powers.
    - 13 ii) Encouraging the creation of green financial products.
  - 14 c) Developing and retaining a skilled and flexible UK workforce.
  - 15 d) Promoting low-carbon innovation.
  - 16 e) Ensuring that local government plays a full role in the transition to a zero carbon Britain.
  - 17 f) Reviewing the contribution of the planning framework.
  - 18 g) Ensuring that government takes a stronger lead in procuring low-carbon goods and services.

## Sunday 15th September continued

- 19 2. Press for a strengthened EU policy framework for green growth, including:
- 20 a) Binding EU and member state emissions targets, as part of a 2030 energy and climate package,  
21 reducing emissions by 50 per cent from 1990 levels.
- 22 b) Swift and ambitious reform of the EU Emissions Trading System.
- 23 c) Better use of EU funds to steer investment into low-carbon solutions.
- 24 3. Halve total energy demand by 2030 by:
- 25 a) Improving domestic energy efficiency, including:
- 26 i) Transforming the Green Deal into a comprehensive one-off programme to bring all homes up  
27 to the EnerPHit standard by 2050, focusing initially on households suffering from fuel poverty  
28 and homes in off-gas-grid areas.
- 29 ii) Offering differential final stamp duty rates on home transactions.
- 30 iii) Providing incentives to local authorities to reduce council tax rates for those who can  
31 demonstrate significant improvements in a home's EPC ratings.
- 32 b) Targeting energy efficiency improvements in commercial, services and public sector buildings.
- 33 c) Encouraging and empowering domestic consumers to reduce energy use.
- 34 4. Decarbonise the power sector by:
- 35 a) Enacting as soon as possible a legally binding target for decarbonising the power sector by 2030,  
36 in the range of 50–100 g of CO<sub>2</sub> per kWh of electricity.
- 37 b) Developing a more diverse and competitive generation and supply market.
- 38 c) Providing support for new technologies and business models through the Green Investment Bank.
- 39 d) Reducing planning barriers to renewable energy developments.
- 40 e) Helping onshore wind developers to engage with local communities.
- 41 f) Encouraging investment in offshore wind.
- 42 g) Promoting marine renewables.
- 43 h) Continuing the government's cap on new dedicated biomass plants, and ending support for all  
44 new biomass for electricity generation after 2020.
- 45 *Either Option A:*
- 46 i) Rejecting the construction of a new generation of nuclear plant.
- 47 *Or Option B:*
- 48 i) Accepting that in future, nuclear power stations could play a limited role in electricity  
49 supply, provided concerns about safety, disposal of radioactive waste and cost (including  
50 decommissioning) are adequately addressed and without allowing any public subsidy for new  
51 build.
- 52 j) Prioritising construction of international interconnectors.
- 53 k) Investigating the development of a larger UK energy storage market.
- 54 l) Not allowing new gas-fired generation in the absence of a clear plan to recover heat for supply to  
55 industrial or commercial consumers or via a heat network.
- 56 m) Permitting limited shale gas extraction, ensuring that regulations controlling pollution and  
57 protecting local environmental quality are strictly enforced, planning decisions remain with local  
58 authorities and local communities are fully consulted over extraction and fully compensated for all  
59 damage to the local landscape.
- 60 n) Supporting the development of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology.
- 61 o) Promoting community energy projects.
- 62 5. Decarbonise the UK heat supply by 2050 by:
- 63 a) Reducing heat wastage.

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- 64 b) Promoting district heating.
- 65 c) Ensuring that biomass is used for heating fuel rather than electricity generation alone.
- 66 d) Expanding the use of low-carbon gas.
- 67 6. Decarbonise the transport sector by:
- 68 a) Promoting walking and cycling.
- 69 b) Taking action to reduce private vehicle emissions, including:
- 70 i) Supporting ambitious EU emissions targets for cars, of around 70g CO<sub>2</sub>/km, to take effect in
- 71 2025.
- 72 ii) Supporting tighter EU emissions targets for vans.
- 73 iii) Developing a Vehicle Emissions Duty (VED) escalator linked to the EU targets with a subsidy
- 74 for the cleanest vehicles, paid for by higher VED on the highest emission vehicles.
- 75 iv) Preparing for the introduction of a revenue-neutral system of road pricing and supporting local
- 76 authorities introducing road pricing in congested areas.
- 77 v) Specifying that, by 2040, only ultra-low carbon vehicles will be permitted on UK roads for non-
- 78 freight purposes.
- 79 c) Extending electrification of the rail network where there are clear economic and environmental
- 80 benefits.
- 81 d) Reducing bus emissions and promoting bus use.
- 82 e) Reducing aviation emissions by replacing air passenger duty with a per-plane duty, charged in
- 83 proportion to the carbon emissions created by that journey.
- 84 f) Promoting international action to reduce shipping emissions.
- 85 g) Including international aviation and shipping emissions in the UK's statutory targets to reduce
- 86 emissions and the carbon budget framework.
- 87 h) Pressing for reform of EU policies in order to reduce support for unsustainable transport biofuels
- 88 and end all support for food-crop-based biofuels after 2020.
- 89 7. Address emissions from industry by:
- 90 a) Encouraging greater efficiency in industrial processes.
- 91 b) Assisting energy-intensive industries to adopt low-carbon production methods and invest in
- 92 energy-efficiency measures.
- 93 c) Ensuring that UK Trade and Investment and UK Export Finance withdraw fully from supporting all
- 94 fossil fuel-related sectors, and instead increase support to exports of low-carbon technologies and
- 95 services.
- 96 8. Take action to reduce carbon emissions from agriculture and land use, including:
- 97 a) Working with the European Commission to plan for a mid-term review of the CAP in 2017 to build
- 98 on the current reforms.
- 99 b) Adopting a National Food Strategy to secure the production and consumption of sustainable and
- 100 healthy food.
- 101 c) Expanding forestry.
- 102 9. Ensure that consumers gain from the transition to a zero carbon Britain by:
- 103 a) Ensuring that decarbonisation policies achieve their objectives cost-effectively and affordably.
- 104 b) Creating market-wide incentives for energy saving, or 'negawatts'.
- 105 c) Promoting collective switching initiatives.
- 106 d) Assisting households suffering from fuel poverty.
- 107 10. Working for a globally coordinated international response to climate change including:
- 108 a) Playing a leading political role in the EU and international forums to secure an effective new climate
- 109 treaty, containing emission reduction commitments from all countries, with the richer countries

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- 110 taking the lead, supported by a well-financed Green Climate Fund to provide assistance to poor  
111 countries.
- 112 b) Pursuing EU and international action to reduce hydrofluorcarbons (HFCs) and other 'short-lived  
113 climate forcers'.
- 114 c) Promoting international action to end net global deforestation by 2020.

*Applicability: Federal, except 1 e) and f) (lines 16–17), 3 (lines 24–33), 4 d) and e) (lines 39–40), 4 h) (lines 43–44), 4 n) and o) (lines 60–61), 5 b) and c) (lines 64–65), 6 a) (line 68), 6 b) iv) (lines 75–76), 6 c) and d) (lines 79–81) and 8 b) and c) (lines 99–101), which are England only.*

*Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.*

*In addition to speeches from the platform, conference representatives will be able to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion; see pages 6 and 8.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 2nd September; those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra. See page 8 for further information. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 14.20, Sunday 15th September; see page 6.*

## 11.50 Policy motion

Chair: Kelly-Marie Blundell

Aide: James Gurling

### F11 Cycling Reform

Mover: Dr Julian Huppert MP

Summation: Layla Moran

- 1 Conference believes that:
- 2 I. Cycling is an extremely efficient and safe form of transport.
- 3 II. The Government should encourage people to cycle for the benefits it brings to health and wellbeing,  
4 the environment, the economy and the alleviation of congestion.
- 5 III. As progress is made to make Britain fit for cycling, the rights and safety of pedestrians must continue  
6 to be considered and respected.
- 7 Conference therefore welcomes:
- 8 i) The Coalition commitment to support sustainable travel initiatives, including the promotion of cycling  
9 and walking.
- 10 ii) The recent *Get Britain Cycling* report from the All Party Parliamentary Cycling Group.
- 11 iii) The £600 million Local Sustainable Transport Fund for the development of transport measures  
12 focused on economic growth and reducing carbon emissions.
- 13 iv) The inclusion of cycling measures in 94 of 96 Local Authority bids for the Local Sustainable Transport  
14 Fund, and the additional UK Government investment of £107 million in cycling in the last year alone,  
15 including funding to address dangerous junctions.
- 16 v) The Times' *Cities Fit for Cycling* campaign, highlighting methods for promoting cycling and road  
17 safety nationwide, and the creation of an interactive website which to date has identified over 10,000  
18 junctions requiring attention.

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- 19 vi) Funding for the integration of rail and bikes, Bikeability and the continuation of the Cycle to Work  
20 scheme.
- 21 vii) The Government's policy to promote 20 mph speed limits as the default value on residential roads.
- 22 viii) The positive legacy of the Olympics which has resulted in more people taking up cycling for pleasure  
23 and exercise.
- 24 But conferences notes that:
- 25 A. Unsustainable transport policies pursued over many decades are costing the economies of our towns  
26 and cities tens of billions of pounds through congestion, road casualties, poor air quality and the  
27 impact of inactivity on mental and physical health.
- 28 B. Three-quarters of all journeys made in the UK are five miles or less.
- 29 C. Cycling accounts for 2% of journeys made in the UK compared with 30% for the Netherlands, in part  
30 due to their dedicated fund for cycling.
- 31 D. 74% of adults in Britain are frightened by the idea of cycling on busy roads.
- 32 E. Lorries make up 5% of traffic, yet are currently responsible for half of cyclist fatalities; 75% of cyclists'  
33 injuries occur at or near junctions.
- 34 F. More needs to be done to encourage cycling amongst women, ethnic minorities and young people,  
35 whom research indicates currently tend to cycle less.
- 36 G. Improving the environment for cyclists must not be to the detriment of pedestrians.
- 37 Conference therefore calls for:
- 38 1. The Government to further improve cycling in the UK by aiming to raise the number of journeys made  
39 by bike to 10% in 2025, rising to 25% by 2050.
- 40 2. Better cycling infrastructure through:
- 41 a) Creating a cycling budget of at least £10 per person per year, increasing to £20.  
42 b) A requirement for Local Authorities to provide for cyclists in the planning system as well as in the  
43 design of all highways and traffic schemes, and training in how to do this.  
44 c) Expansion of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund.  
45 d) Integration of the cycle network with rail and bus travel.  
46 e) Creation of high-quality, segregated cycle routes where appropriate.
- 47 3. The promotion of cycling through:
- 48 a) A Government strategy to increase Bikeability cycle training courses for people of all ages and  
49 backgrounds.  
50 b) The provision of training and facilities in schools and places of work.  
51 c) A cross-departmental 'Cycling Action Plan' drawn up in conjunction with relevant stakeholders  
52 and partners.
- 53 4. A commitment to improving the safety of cyclists on the roads through:
- 54 a) An increase of priority traffic lights for cyclists and Trixi mirrors that allow drivers to see cyclists on  
55 their near-side.  
56 b) The adoption of vehicle safety measures such as sensors, alarms, safety bars and extra mirrors on  
57 lorries.  
58 c) The inclusion of a cyclist safety section in the national driving test and cyclist awareness training  
59 for drivers of large vehicles.

# Sunday 15th September continued

- 60 5. Justice for victims of accidents on the roads through:
- 61 a) Consultation on the introduction of proportionate liability rules so that the default assumption after
- 62 collisions is that the larger vehicle is at fault.
- 63 b) Review of existing road traffic laws and their enforcement to ensure that dangerous and careless
- 64 driving is dealt with the seriousness it merits.
- 65 c) By ensuring cyclists, like all other road users, obey the rules of the road about rights of way, traffic
- 66 lights and lights at night.
- 67 d) Implementation of Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 to permit local authorities to enforce
- 68 moving traffic offences, including the illegal use of cycle lanes.

*Applicability: England, except 4 b) and c) (lines 56–59) and 5 b) and c) (lines 63–66), which are Federal, and 5 a) (lines 61–62), which is England and Wales.*

*Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 2nd September; those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra. See page 8 for further information. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 14.20, Saturday 14th September; see page 6.*

## 12.30 Speech

Chair: Qassim Afzal  
Aide: Jenni Lang

**F12 Speech by Rt Hon Edward Davey MP,  
Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change**

**@EdwardDaveyMP  
#LDconf**



## 12.50 Lunch break

## 14.15 Party business

Chair: Sandra Gidley  
Aide: Cllr Paul Tilsley

### **F13 Report of the Federal Executive**

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

*The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 2nd September; questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 13.15 on Sunday 15th September. See page 7 for further information.*

## 14.35 Constitutional amendment

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

# Sunday 15th September continued

## F14 Responsibilities of Members

### Federal Executive

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

Summation: Sue Doughty

- 1 *Re-number existing Clause 3.1 as 3.1(a) and insert:*
- 2 3.1(b) As a Member of the Liberal Democrats, you must treat others with respect and must not bully,
- 3 harass or intimidate any Party member, member of Party staff, member of Parliamentary staff,
- 4 Party volunteer or member of the public. Such behaviour will be considered to be bringing the
- 5 Party into disrepute.

### Existing Article 3.1:

3.1 Membership of the Party is open to all persons who agree with its fundamental values and objectives without discrimination as to age, ethnic origin, religion, disability, gender or sexual orientation.

*Applicability: Federal.*

*Mover of motion: 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, Monday 2nd September; those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra. See page 8 for further information. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 14.20, Saturday 14th September; see page 6.*

*A constitutional amendment requires a two-thirds majority to pass.*

## 15.05 Speech

Chair: David Rendel

Aide: Justine McGuinness

### F15 Speech by Willie Rennie MSP, Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats

@willie\_rennie  
#LDconf



## 15.25 Policy motion

Chair: Jeremy Hargreaves

Aide: Kelly-Marie Blundell

### F16 *Learning for Life* (Education and Skills from Upper Secondary to Lifelong Learning Policy Paper)

#### Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Jo Owen

Summation: Baroness Brinton (Chair of the Policy Working Group)

- 1 Conference believes that Liberal Democrats are working for a stronger economy in a fairer society,
- 2 enabling every person to get on in life.

## Sunday 15th September continued

- 3 Conference recognises that education and skills are vital both to individual opportunity and the overall  
4 economic performance of the country.
- 5 Conference endorses policy paper 110, *Learning for Life – Education and Skills from Upper Secondary to*  
6 *Lifelong Learning*, which aims to build a world class education and skills sector, celebrating vocational and  
7 academic education pathways from age 14 onwards.
- 8 Conference believes that:
- 9 A. Lifelong access to independent careers information, advice and guidance is critical for all.
- 10 B. With the extension of compulsory education to 18 it is important that young people continue to study  
11 subjects associated with literacy and numeracy up until they are 18.
- 12 C. As the end of compulsory education will be 18 by 2015, there should be a clear 14–18 phase of  
13 education and training.
- 14 D. Government should do all in its power to eradicate unemployment amongst 18–24 year olds.
- 15 E. We should build on the good work of the Coalition Government in increasing the number of  
16 apprenticeships, particularly by focusing on increasing the number of apprenticeships in small  
17 businesses.
- 18 F. The numbers of qualified young people attending university should increase over time.
- 19 G. The Higher Education system should be more flexible for students, including transferring between  
20 universities and using online methods of learning.
- 21 H. The current system of Higher Education funding represents the best deal for students and taxpayers  
22 currently available. Further, that alternatives such as a Graduate Tax have a number of obvious failings,  
23 which would place an additional burden on low and middle income students and graduates, as well as  
24 a substantial extra cost to the state.
- 25 I. More should be done to encourage UK students to take up post graduate courses and provide  
26 support including income contingent loans.
- 27 Conference calls for:
- 28 1. A world-class independent Careers Information, Advice and Guidance Service, which should be  
29 available to all, with:
- 30 a) Governing bodies monitoring careers education and Ofsted being required to comment on the  
31 careers provision when inspecting schools and colleges.
- 32 b) A legal requirement for young people to gain work experience for not less than three weeks  
33 between 14 and 16.
- 34 c) Reviewing careers, information, advice and guidance for SEN students and adults.
- 35 d) Expanding the National Careers Service to provide face-to-face guidance online.
- 36 e) A streamlined and professional Careers body throughout education, which accredits advisers.
- 37 2. A world class 14–18 system in which:
- 38 a) Every young person to study Literacy and Numeracy until they are 18, and ICT up to Level 2.
- 39 b) Free school meals to be extended to pupils and students from poorer backgrounds in colleges.
- 40 c) A student premium providing extra money for institutions for each student they enrol who meets  
41 free school meals criteria.
- 42 d) Equality between vocational and academic routes of learning with greater freedom to move  
43 between courses, tailoring learning to the individual's needs.
- 44 e) Subsidised or free travel is available for 16–18 year olds in receipt of the student premium.
- 45 f) Pre-apprenticeship training for 14–16 year olds and the introduction of a financial incentive to  
46 encourage employers to take on 16–17 year olds.

## Sunday 15th September continued

- 47 3. Policies to support 18–24 year olds at risk of unemployment including:
- 48 a) Raising student numbers at universities and lifting the cap on numbers of Higher Education places  
49 over time.
- 50 b) Expanding the number of full-time two-year Foundation Degrees in Science, Technology,  
51 Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects.
- 52 c) Maintenance loans for full-time 18-24 further education students on Level 3 STEM courses.
- 53 d) Expanding higher level and professional apprenticeships for 18-24 year olds.
- 54 e) Explaining the part-time fee loan system to students, and to employers.
- 55 f) Small maintenance loans for part-time study for 18-24 year olds in employment.
- 56 g) Wages support for employers taking on low qualified young adults, under the Youth Contract.
- 57 h) Mandatory skills training under the new Universal Credit regime of sufficient duration to allow  
58 unemployed younger adults to achieve qualifications up to full Level 3 qualifications.
- 59 i) The introduction of six month traineeships which combine structured job search, continuing  
60 English, Maths, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) support for those who  
61 particularly need it.
- 62 j) Bringing together the government funding streams for 18-24 year olds into an agency that can  
63 provide joined-up intensive support.
- 64 4. A step change in 18+ Apprenticeships by:
- 65 a) Increasing public spending on 18-24 apprenticeships.
- 66 b) Placing the public contribution to 18-24 apprenticeships into the hands of each employer with  
67 funding redistributed through the NI/PAYE system.
- 68 c) Continuing to treat expenditure on apprenticeships, including apprentice wages, as an expense  
69 deductible against corporation tax liabilities.
- 70 d) Ensuring that full cost funding of adult apprenticeships is specified in large scale public contracts.
- 71 e) Considering offering a time-limited employer NI rebate from 13.8% to zero for all age adult  
72 apprenticeships when public spending is exhausted to help make the jobs sustainable in the  
73 longer term.
- 74 f) The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) developing a central admissions system.
- 75 5. A cross-party Commission to look at Adult Further Education during the next Parliament, including:
- 76 a) Addressing funding by the individual, employer and the state.
- 77 b) New methods of learning (including on-line and distance learning, and massive open online  
78 courses).
- 79 c) 'Credit cloud' frameworks that bring together an individual's wide range of learning and  
80 qualifications, based on the Scottish system of Credit Qualification Framework.
- 81 6. Policies to create a Higher Education system fit for the 21st Century including:
- 82 a) Creating a single Higher Education (HE) Council, incorporating the current Higher Education  
83 Funding Council, the Quality Assurance Agency and the Office of Fair Access – the HE Council will  
84 conduct an annual review of the impact of the funding and maintenance regime for both full and  
85 part time students and report to Parliament and the Social Mobility Tsar.
- 86 b) Ensuring that institutions are transparent about their financial viability, working with the HE Council  
87 to produce an annual report.
- 88 c) Raising student numbers at universities with 20,000 STEM Foundation Degrees and lifting the cap  
89 on numbers of higher education places over time.
- 90 d) Retaining the current system of higher education finance, and committing to a review within the  
91 next Parliament, which will examine its impact on access, participation and quality – this review  
92 should consider both the pressure on the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement from unpaid loans  
and progress made on widening and increasing participation.

# Sunday 15th September continued

- 93 e) Further increasing and enhancing the National Scholarship Programme by transforming it into a  
94 National Bursary Scheme to support poorer students.
- 95 f) Institutions to agree a single Social Mobility Charter with the HE Council, with input from their  
96 students – this will include running summer schools, sponsoring/establishing schools, setting-up  
97 mentoring programmes between students/alumni and schools' pupils.
- 98 g) Recognising the excellence in teaching in universities, by making teaching as important as  
99 research excellence in the quality assessment of universities; universities should also break down  
100 how much of their teaching is delivered by staff on permanent or temporary contracts, or by  
101 teaching assistants on hourly rates.
- 102 h) Introducing a central admissions system for part time students.
- 103 i) Making UK students wanting to undertake a taught post graduate course eligible for an income  
104 contingent loan of up to £10,000.
- 105 j) Removing international students from the immigration figures, with fast tracked visa routes for  
106 those offered places at accredited universities.
- 107 k) Allowing international students to remain in the UK for up to three years following their course  
108 providing they are in graduate-level employment.

*Applicability: England, except 6 j) and k) (lines 105–108), which are Federal.*

*Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.*

*In addition to speeches from the platform, conference representatives will be able to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion; see pages 6 and 8.*

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## 17.00 Policy motion

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

Aide: Cllr Louise Bloom

### F17 Protecting Children from Online Pornography

*10 conference representatives*

Mover: Baroness Benjamin

Summation: Julie Pörksen

- 1 Conference welcomes the fact that:
- 2 A. The internet has the power to transform our society by empowering citizens, improving and extending  
3 services, and enabling innovation.
- 4 B. It is vital both for our economy and our society that we teach children how to use the internet from an  
5 early age.
- 6 C. Liberal Democrats have a long tradition of protecting free speech and the right for adults to make  
7 informed choices about their own internet habits.
- 8 However, conference believes that:
- 9 i) It is the role of government to protect those too young to make an informed choice from potentially  
10 damaging experiences wherever possible.

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- 11 ii) The long term effects on young minds of early exposure to often violent and abusive sexual material is  
12 highly damaging to impressionable young people and may significantly alter their attitudes to sex and  
13 violence.
- 14 iii) The growing danger of children accessing online pornography is of increasing concern to parents,  
15 teachers and children's organisations.
- 16 iv) In addition to the problems posed by pornographic material, there are also significant concerns about  
17 other adult material such as suicide and eating disorder sites that often actively target young people.
- 18 Conference notes:
- 19 a) That the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has recently found an increase in the  
20 number of cases of children sexually assaulting other children.
- 21 b) The increasing number of cases of children being bullied or coerced into performing pornographic acts  
22 by their peers.
- 23 c) That the National Association of Head Teachers has found that nine out of ten parents want a default  
24 setting on computers and smartphones to block online pornography.
- 25 Conference therefore calls on the Government to:
- 26 1. Work with the software industry to introduce opt-in filters to explicit material on all new internet-  
27 enabled electronic devices.
- 28 2. Ensure that those adults wishing to view pornographic material should be required to opt in to  
29 websites containing such material by providing verifiable proof of age.
- 30 3. Work with Internet Service Providers (ISPs) providers to police actively their platforms and filter out  
31 explicit material which is currently easily accessible to children.
- 32 4. Support parents to take a more active role in how their children use the internet and to understand the  
33 risks involved.
- 34 5. Ensure that teaching about the dangers of the internet and the distorted view of sex provided by  
35 pornography forms part of sex education teaching.

*Applicability: Federal, except 5 (lines 34–35), which is England only.*

*Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 2nd September; those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra. See page 8 for further information. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 14.20, Saturday 14th September; see page 6.*

18.00 Close of session

# Monday 16th September

## 09.00 Policy motion

Chair: Sandra Gidley  
Aide: Qassim Afzal

### F18 A New Liberal Democrat Approach to Race Equality

*Ethnic Minority Liberal Democrats and 32 conference representatives*

Mover: Issan Ghazni  
Summation: Baroness Hussein-Ece

- 1 Conference notes the report *Towards Race Equality: A Liberal Democrat Approach*, produced by the  
2 Liberal Democrat Race Equality Task Force.
- 3 Conference notes with concern:
- 4 A. That racial inequality and racism continues to be a major problem faced by black and minority ethnic  
5 people from early years and throughout education and employment, in that:
- 6 i) While BAME educational attainment has improved, Black Caribbean and Pakistani pupils remain  
7 below average, with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children a long way behind.
- 8 ii) Disproportionate numbers of Black Caribbean boys are excluded from schools and they are more  
9 likely to be excluded the smaller the minority they are in a school.
- 10 iii) BAME students continue to be under-represented in Russell Group universities.
- 11 iv) There is continued under-representation of BAME teachers especially in senior roles.
- 12 v) The BAME workforce continues to face discrimination particularly in the private sector, where  
13 studies have shown that BAME applicants for advertised jobs have a 35% chance of suffering  
14 discrimination on the basis of their name compared with a 4% chance from public sector  
15 employers.
- 16 vi) BAME pupils and the workforce remain subject to stereotypical assumptions about their abilities.
- 17 B. The collapse in services such as provision of teachers of English for Speakers of Other languages  
18 since the incorporation of the Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant into the General Schools Grant.
- 19 Conference believes that:
- 20 a) Liberal Democrats seek to balance the fundamental values of liberty, equality and community and  
21 champion the freedom, dignity and well-being of individuals, acknowledging and respecting their right  
22 to develop their talents to the full.
- 23 b) Liberal Democrats reject all prejudice and discrimination and oppose all forms of entrenched privilege  
24 and inequality; recognising that the quest for freedom and justice can never end, we promote human  
25 rights and open government.
- 26 c) Bringing this about is the responsibility of each citizen and the duty of the state.
- 27 d) While the 'holistic' or human rights-based approach to equality is the right one, substantial numbers  
28 within society continue to discriminate against individuals and groups on the basis of race, and  
29 therefore it is vital that the government undertakes urgent action against race discrimination.
- 30 e) If we fail to tap into the full potential of ethnic minority communities, we will lose the benefits that they  
31 would bring to society as a whole.
- 32 Accordingly conference calls upon Liberal Democrats in Government to:
- 33 1. Reassert the importance of addressing race discrimination and inequality and of each equality strand  
34 having its own programme of action.
- 35 2. Ensure monitoring and accountability of schools' expenditure of the Ethnic Minority Achievement  
36 Grant and reinstate the requirement for the Ofsted inspection framework to judge schools on their

# Monday 16th September continued

- 37 promotion of equality of opportunity and community cohesion.
- 38 3. Ensure that the school curriculum reflects the diversity of the country.
- 39 4. Implement the Children's Commissioner's report into the prevention of and positive alternatives to
- 40 exclusion, and reinstate the right of appeals panels to order the return of unjustly expelled children to
- 41 school.
- 42 5. Require all universities to be fully transparent about all their selection criteria.
- 43 6. Take action to improve race equality in the private sector, in accordance with the Coalition
- 44 commitment to transparency and accountability, by requiring private sector and third sector
- 45 organisations in receipt of public money, licences or other benefits to undertake meaningful equality
- 46 monitoring and forward it to the relevant public authority, which shall in turn publish this data for each
- 47 organisation by name, annually (whilst respecting the confidentiality of individuals).
- 48 7. Implement the Equality Act in the form that Liberal Democrat Parliamentarians voted it into law,
- 49 including implementation of the Codes of Practice.

*Applicability: 1 (lines 33–34) and 6 and 7 (lines 43–49) are Federal, the remainder are England only.*

*Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 2nd September; those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra. See page 8 for further information. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Sunday 15th September; see page 6.*

## 10.00 Policy motion

Chair: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

Aide: Justine McGuinness

### F19 Strengthening the UK Economy

*15 conference representatives*

Mover: To be announced

Summation: Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP (Leader of the Liberal Democrats)

- 1 Conference believes we should pursue a bold and imaginative economic strategy to stimulate jobs,
- 2 growth and investment within a strong framework for fiscal consolidation.
- 3 Conference welcomes recent improvements in the UK economy, specifically that:
- 4 I. Faced with the highest budget deficit in post-war history in 2010 as a consequence of the banking
- 5 crisis and Labour's mismanagement, the Government has managed to reduce the structural deficit by
- 6 a third since it came to power.
- 7 II. Growth is returning to the UK economy; in the first half of 2013 growth was above forecast and
- 8 forecasts from the Bank of England and the OECD see the UK growing steadily for the rest of 2013, at
- 9 a faster pace than France, Germany and the Eurozone.
- 10 III. Employment levels are close to their highest ever with over a million net new private sector jobs,
- 11 helped by a strong package of government programmes to keep people in work.
- 12 IV. Inflation has now fallen to around half its post-recession peak, easing the squeeze on household
- 13 budgets.
- 14 V. Interest rates have been kept under control, in stark contrast to various troubled continental
- 15 economies.
- 16 VI. Business confidence has been improving steadily in recent business surveys, and with record levels of
- 17 company start-ups.

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- 18 Conference notes the UK's difficult financial position and recognises the dangers of failing to bring the  
19 public finances under control as the Government has set out. Conference welcomes the flexibility the  
20 Government has already shown to promote growth within the fiscal mandate, including:
- 21 A. Allowing the automatic stabilizers to operate.
- 22 B. Helping businesses and households through monetary policy characterised by the IMF as "vigorous  
23 and appropriate with substantial easing and policy innovations" including:
- 24 i) The use of quantitative easing.  
25 ii) The introduction of the Funding for Lending Scheme, recently adapted to encourage more  
26 business lending.  
27 iii) A new more expansionary remit for the Monetary Policy Committee announced in the 2013  
28 Budget.
- 29 C. Getting companies to invest and builders to build through the introduction of £40bn worth of  
30 government guarantees for infrastructure projects and a further £10bn worth of government  
31 guarantees for new house building.
- 32 D. Getting credit to good businesses including through the Business Secretary's introduction of a  
33 Business Bank.
- 34 E. Supporting private sector growth and jobs through:
- 35 i) A £2.4bn Regional Growth Fund, that leverages in over £13bn of private sector investment and  
36 supports 500,000 private sector jobs.  
37 ii) The Green Investment Bank which has committed £700m of its £3bn investment.  
38 iii) A £500m Growing Places Fund to help local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships in less  
39 prosperous areas to build and improve infrastructure.  
40 iv) Funding over a million new apprenticeship starts.
- 41 F. Taking a vigorous approach to industrial strategy by promoting manufacturing, expanding science and  
42 innovation spending, boosting capital investment in key future technologies, boosting apprenticeships  
43 and building on the success of industries such as civil aerospace, wind and automotives through the  
44 creation of sector strategies to strengthen key growth industries in the UK.
- 45 Conference however notes that the UK's economic recovery remains fragile, particularly:
- 46 a) Despite significant progress since 2010, the UK budget deficit is still forecast be amongst the largest  
47 in the EU in 2013.
- 48 b) Youth unemployment remains stubbornly high, with close to 1 million young people classified as  
49 unemployed.
- 50 c) House building remains well below historical averages with less than 30,000 house building starts in  
51 the first quarter of 2013.
- 52 d) Businesses continue to report severe difficulties in accessing finance from the banks.
- 53 Conference reaffirms its support for the Government's fiscal mandate as expressed in the conference  
54 motion *Generating Jobs and Growth in a time of Austerity* (September 2012). However within the fiscal  
55 envelope, conference calls on the Coalition Government to:
- 56 1. Take radical action to tackle stubbornly high youth unemployment by developing a comprehensive  
57 strategy for 16 – 24 year olds ensuring that all young people have access to the skills, advice and  
58 opportunities necessary to find sustainable employment.
- 59 2. Dramatically increase the number of houses being built by pooling council borrowing limits, so that  
60 councils who want to build more houses but are at their borrowing limits are able to do so; and further  
61 to examine urgently whether Public Sector Net Debt (PSND) could be brought into line with definitions

# Monday 16th September continued

- 62 of other EU countries so that the liabilities of trading corporations (such as council housing operations)  
63 are off balance-sheet, thereby enabling councils with a sustainable business model to borrow to invest  
64 in building more homes for rent.
- 65 3. Boost lending to good British businesses by expanding the Business Bank so that it can directly  
66 support the establishment of new challenger banks, creating more competition and a banking system  
67 that is more regionally diverse.
- 68 4. Use continued public ownership of the Royal Bank of Scotland to keep its leadership focussed on  
69 increasing business lending, and support structural changes and branch sales that increase banking  
70 competition.
- 72 5. Invest further in the UK Green Investment Bank and act now to make it a fully independent institution  
72 that can borrow to invest in its own right without impacting on government fiscal totals.
- 73 6. Continue to invest in the UK infrastructure by prioritising investment spending in areas such as  
74 housing, science and innovation, transport and renewable energy.
- 75 7. Monitor closely the progress of the Bank of England against its refocused mandate in order to ensure  
76 that monetary policy is focussed on aiding growth.

*Applicability: Federal.*

*Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.*

*In addition to speeches from the platform, conference representatives will be able to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion; see pages 6 and 8.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 2nd September; those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra. See page 8 for further information. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Sunday 15th September; see page 6.*

## 11.40 Policy motion

Chair: Jenni Lang  
Aide: James Gurling

### F20 Cohabitation Rights

*Ten conference representatives*

Mover: Lord Marks  
Summation: Dr Julian Huppert MP (Co-Chair, Parliamentary Party Committee on Home Affairs, Justice and Equalities)

- 1 Conference notes that:
- 2 a) More and more couples, different sex and same sex, choose to live together without entering into civil  
3 partnerships or getting married.
- 4 b) English law currently gives extremely limited protection to people living together in cohabiting  
5 relationships, when their relationships break down and they separate.
- 6 c) There is a widespread mistaken belief that couples who cohabit enjoy rights arising out of so-called  
7 'common law marriage'.
- 8 d) When couples cohabit, one partner frequently gives up his or her time, resources or career or business

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- 9 opportunities for the benefit of the other, and, under current law such sacrifices go unrewarded and  
10 uncompensated.
- 11 e) The Law Commission, after a full consultation, produced a comprehensive report in 2007,  
12 *Cohabitation: the Financial Consequences of Relationship Breakdown*, proposing a statutory scheme,  
13 under which:
- 14 i) Where one partner to a cohabiting relationship has suffered an economic disadvantage or acquired  
15 a retained benefit from that relationship, a court would be able to make an order adjusting the  
16 retained benefit and/or sharing that economic disadvantage between them.
- 17 ii) Such relief would be available to couples who had lived together for a fixed period (a period to be  
18 fixed by Parliament at between two and five years was recommended by the Law Commission) or  
19 who had lived together and had children together.
- 20 iii) It would be open to couples to opt out of the statutory scheme by agreement freely entered into  
21 between them.
- 22 f) The Law Commission's proposals do not in any sense equate cohabitation with marriage or civil  
23 partnership.
- 24 g) The Law Commission's proposals have been widely welcomed by the judiciary and family lawyers in  
25 England and Wales.
- 26 h) Scotland, the Republic of Ireland and other jurisdictions now give protection for cohabiting couples on  
27 relationship breakdown.
- 28 h) The judiciary have repeatedly called for fair provision to be made for cohabiting couples, most recently  
29 and forcefully in the 2012 United Kingdom Supreme Court's decision in *Gow v Grant*, in which the  
30 Scottish provisions were held to provide fair and reasonable relief for cohabitants on the breakdown of  
31 their relationships.
- 32 i) The Labour Government in 2009 refused to implement the proposals of the Law Commission or to  
33 support the private member's Cohabitation Bill introduced in the House of Lords in 2008 by Liberal  
34 Democrat peer Lord Lester of Herne Hill.
- 35 j) The Law Commission produced a further report in 2011, *Intestacy and Family Provision Claims on*  
36 *Death*, proposing that the law on intestacy should be reformed so that upon the death without a will of  
37 one partner in a cohabiting couple, the other should benefit from his or her estate provided that certain  
38 qualifying conditions were met.
- 39 Conference believes that:
- 40 1. The present lack of provision protecting cohabiting couples upon relationship breakdown is  
41 unsatisfactory and unfair to them and their children.
- 42 2. The law of intestacy also needs reform to protect the position of those in cohabiting relationships  
43 when their partners die.
- 44 3. The Law Commission's proposals are fair, proportionate and workable.
- 45 4. The Law Commission's proposals would not in any sense undermine marriage or civil partnerships.
- 46 5. Achieving fair arrangements for cohabiting couples on relationship breakdown and intestacy accords  
47 with fundamental Liberal Democrat principles and is a necessary part of creating a fair society.
- 48 Conference therefore calls for the implementation without delay of proposals giving cohabiting couples  
49 fair and reasonable redress upon relationship breakdown and upon intestacy, based upon the proposals  
50 made in the Law Commission's 2007 and 2011 reports.

*Applicability: England and Wales.*

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*Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 2nd September; those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra. See page 8 for further information. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Sunday 15th September; see page 6.*

## 12.30 Speech

Chair: Cllr Chris Maines  
Aide: Kelly-Marie Blundell

**F21 Speech by Rt Hon Vince Cable MP,  
Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills**

@vincecable  
#LDconf



## 12.50 Lunch break

## 14.15 Party business

Chair: Cllr Louise Bloom  
Aide: Cllr Chris Maines

### **F22 Report of the Diversity Engagement Group**

Mover: Baroness Brinton (Chair, Diversity Engagement Group)

*The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 2nd September; questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 13.15 on Monday 16th September.*

### **F23 Report of the Campaign for Gender Balance**

Mover: To be announced

*The deadline for questions to this report is 13.00, Monday 2nd September; questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted up until 13.15 on Monday 16th September.*

## 14.25 Speech

Chair: Liz Lynne  
Aide: David Rendel

**F24 Speech by Kirsty Williams AM,  
Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats**

@Kirsty\_Williams  
#LDconf



# Monday 16th September continued

## 14.45 Question and answer session

Chair: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

Aide: Susan Gaszczak

### **F25 Question and Answer Session with Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats and Deputy Prime Minister**

*Conference representatives may put questions, on any topic, to the Leader of the Liberal Democrats in a 'Town Hall' style event. Concise questions (maximum 25 words) may be submitted by email to [questions@libdems.org.uk](mailto:questions@libdems.org.uk) up until 17.00 on Thursday 12th September or to the Speakers' Table up until 12.50 on Monday 16th September; see page 7.*

## 15.30 Policy motion

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

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

### **F26 Fairer Taxes (Tax Policy Paper)**

*Federal Policy Committee*

Mover: Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP

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

- 1 Conference believes that in a fair society, government has a duty to help the least well off to get on and to
- 2 ensure that everyone pays their fair share
  
- 3 Conference believes that taxation policy has a crucial role to play in building a fairer society, promoting
- 4 prosperity and protecting the environment, and that the tax system itself should be simpler, and endorses
- 5 policy paper 111, *Fairer Taxes*, as a statement of Liberal Democrat tax policy to help achieve this.
  
- 6 Conference believes:
  - 7 1. Government should cut tax for those earning low and middle incomes, through:
    - 8 a) Raising the income tax threshold to £10,000, taking 2.7 million people out of paying income
    - 9 tax altogether, and giving a tax cut of £700 to many million others, now delivered by Liberal
    - 10 Democrats in government.
    - 11 b) Further raising the income tax threshold to the level equivalent to a full time job on the National
    - 12 Minimum Wage (NMW), and index-linking it to further rises in the NMW, ensuring that no-one
    - 13 earning the minimum wage pays income tax on a standard full-time salary, and giving a tax cut of
    - 14 up to £460 to millions of other workers.
  - 15 2. The wealthiest should pay their fair share, through:
    - 16 a) A Mansion Tax, applicable at 1% on the excess value of a residential property over £2 million.
    - 17 b) Lifetime tax relief for pensions being limited to a pension pot of £1 million.
    - 18 c) Non-dom tax status being more tightly restricted, and prevented from becoming hereditary.
  - 19 3. Wealthy individuals and companies should no longer be able to see paying tax as optional, through:
    - 20 a) Liberal Democrat-led efforts within government to crack down on tax avoidance, including both
    - 21 international efforts and the introduction of a General Anti-Abuse Rule in the UK.
    - 22 b) The introduction of a stronger General Anti-Avoidance Rule, supported by a straightforward pre-
    - 23 clearance system, which would outlaw any move taken purely to avoid tax in ways not intended by
    - 24 Parliament.

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- 25 c) Continuing to invest in HMRC's ability to tackle avoidance, which has demonstrated a good return  
26 on investment, and in international efforts to co-ordinate anti-avoidance.
- 27 d) Tackling tax avoidance by multinational companies, especially in developing countries, by requiring  
28 greater transparency of their tax arrangements, including country by country reporting.
- 29 4. The tax system should be simplified by:
- 30 a) Making personal tax returns simpler by HMRC pre-populating them based on information they  
31 hold, and make contacting HMRC much more straightforward.
- 32 b) Continuing to simplify tax rules by limiting specific reliefs, and ensuring that they have 'sunset  
33 clauses'.
- 34 c) Renewing the mandate of the Office of Tax Simplification.
- 35 5. Taxation should focus on wealth rather than income, through:
- 36 a) Supporting the introduction of a system of land value taxation.
- 37 b) Moving back to a system in which capital gains are taxed at the same level as income, rather than  
38 at a lower rate.
- 39 *Either Option A:*
- 40 c) Maintaining the existing rates of income tax, including the additional rate of 45% for income over  
41 £150,000 per year.
- 42 *Or Option B:*
- 43 c) Maintaining the existing rates of income tax, apart from the additional rate for income over  
44 £150,000, which should rise to 50%, subject to an independent review concluding that the  
45 additional income from this change would be likely (on the balance of probabilities) to exceed the  
46 costs of introducing it.
- 47 6. Businesses and especially small businesses should be supported, through:
- 48 a) The reduction of corporation tax by the Government to a historically low level, which has helped to  
49 stimulate business and is attractive to international investors.
- 50 b) Introducing a range of financial and non-financial measures to help small businesses, including  
51 simplifying tax administration.
- 52 7. Control of taxation should be devolved further to nations, through:
- 53 a) Devolving power over a range of taxes to the Welsh Assembly, in line with the recommendations  
54 made by the Silk Commission.
- 55 b) Supporting a move towards Fiscal Federalism for Scotland, including further transfer of tax  
56 powers as set out in the Scottish Liberal Democrats policy paper '*Federalism: the best future for  
57 Scotland*'.
- 58 8. The tax system should promote environmental sustainability, by:
- 59 a) Continuing to push for reform of the EU emissions trading scheme (EUETS) so that it drives  
60 improved energy efficiency.
- 61 b) Further promoting more energy efficient homes by lowering the rate of VAT for home renovations  
62 which increase the energy efficiency rating.
- 63 c) Linking Vehicle Exercise Duty bandings to EU emissions targets to improve energy efficiency.
- 64 d) Continuing to push for reform of taxation of international aviation to change Air Passenger Duty to  
65 a Per-Plane Duty.
- 66 e) Providing ISA allowances for investments into enterprises with environmental and/or technological  
67 benefits.

# Monday 16th September continued

*Applicability: Federal, although 2 a) (lines 15–18) and 5 a) (line 36) would become England only under the proposals in 7 (Lines 52–57).*

*Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.*

*In addition to speeches from the platform, conference representatives will be able to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion; see pages 6 and 8.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 2nd September; those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra. See page 8 for further information. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Sunday 15th September; see page 6.*

## 17.15 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Louise Bloom

Aide: Gareth Epps

### F27 Making Housing Benefit Work for Tenants in Social Housing

*Berwick-upon-Tweed*

Mover: Julie Pörksen

Summation: Claire Mills

- 1 Conference accepts there is under-occupancy of social housing, and all tenants, including pensioners,
- 2 should be encouraged to live in homes that meet their housing needs.
  
- 3 Conference is concerned that the Government's extension of Labour's policy of reducing housing benefit
- 4 entitlements for private rented sector tenants considered to have spare bedrooms to the social housing
- 5 sector is discriminating against the most vulnerable in society.
  
- 6 Conference also believes that:
  - 7 I. The majority of rural and urban areas outside large cities such as London have insufficiently large,
  - 8 diverse and dynamic social housing markets to make moving into a smaller property locally a viable
  - 9 option
  - 10 II. There is lack of appreciation of the housing requirements of children and adults with disabilities and
  - 11 care needs
  - 12 III. Insufficient funds are allocated to Discretionary Housing Payment Funds of Local Authorities to meet
  - 13 demand and there is insufficient support for tenants to apply and to challenge decisions
  - 14 IV. In many areas it is more important to free up family homes with three or more bedrooms than two
  - 15 bedroom homes.
  - 16 V. The implementation of policy paper 104, *Decent Homes for All* (2012), should be a priority for
  - 17 Government.
- 18 Conference welcomes:
  - 19 i) Scottish Liberal Democrats passing a motion against the policy.
  - 20 ii) Reports that some councils will not evict those in arrears or will not adopt the policy in full.
  - 21 iii) The work of many, including voluntary organisations, in supporting those applying for discretionary
  - 22 payments and highlighting the injustices caused by this policy.

## Monday 16th September continued

- 23 iv) The changes successfully demanded by Liberal Democrats in Government to protect some of the  
24 most vulnerable, including exempting foster carers and families of members of the Armed Forces.
- 25 v) The increase in the Discretionary Housing Payment fund from £60m in 2012/13 to £155m in 2013/14  
26 achieved by Liberal Democrats in Government.
- 27 Conference calls for further action by Government, including:
- 28 1. An immediate evaluation of the impact of the policy, establishing the extent to which larger homes are  
29 freed up, money saved, costs of implementation, the impact on vulnerable tenants, and the impact on  
30 the private rented sector.
- 31 2. A redrafting of clear housing needs guidelines in association with those representing vulnerable groups  
32 including the disabled, elderly and children that are responsive to local circumstances.
- 33 3. A review of the amount allocated to Local Authorities for the Discretionary Housing Payment Fund and  
34 guidelines on the use of these funds and appeal processes.
- 35 4. The development of practical strategies to encourage pensioners to downsize where a single person  
36 or couple lives in a three or more bedroom home.
- 37 5. In the context of new guidelines an assessment of the current and future demand for social housing  
38 and the use of this at local level to facilitate planning to get the right homes in the right place.
- 39 6. Until any new guidelines are in place:
- 40 a) No withdrawal of housing benefit to those who are on the waiting list for social housing which fits  
41 the current guidelines within their local area.
- 42 b) No reduction in housing benefit from their projected housing need for those who, for a period  
43 of less than six months, temporarily have a smaller housing need due to a change in their  
44 circumstances, but whose need will predictably return to a higher level (e.g. whose children will  
45 pass the age limits for separate rooms within that period).

*Applicability: Federal, except 2, 3, 4 and 5 (lines 31–38), which are England only.*

*Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 2nd September; those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra. See page 8 for further information. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Sunday 15th September, see page 6.*

18.00 Close of session

# Tuesday 17th September

## 09.00 Policy motion

Chair: Gareth Epps  
Aide: Liz Lynne

### **F28 Emergency Motion or Topical issue**

*This slot has been reserved for an emergency motion, or discussion of an important current political issue. The deadline for emergency motions and for suggestions for topical issues is 13.00, Monday 2nd September. See pages 7 and 8 for further information. Those selected for debate and/or proposed for the ballot will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.*

*Emergency motion timing – mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.*

## 09.45 Policy motion

Chair: David Rendel  
Aide: Suan Gaszczak

### **F29 Recognising a Legal Status for British Sign Language**

*18 conference representatives*

Mover: David Buxton  
Summation: George Potter

- 1 Conference notes:
- 2 A. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was ratified by the UK
- 3 in 2009.
- 4 B. That British Sign Language (BSL) is used by some 125,000 deaf adults in the UK and an estimated
- 5 20,000 deaf children.
- 6 C. That in 1997 the European Union of the Deaf (EUD) recognised that deaf people view themselves as a
- 7 cultural and linguistic minority.
- 8 D. That deaf people still do not have full access to information and services in the UK as hearing people
- 9 do, particularly in the areas of education, health and employment.
- 10 E. That BSL was recognised as a language on 18th March 2003 by the UK government but has not
- 11 been given any legal protection in the UK.
- 12 F. That deaf people who use BSL currently rely on the Equality Act to secure access to information and
- 13 services in their own language and that 'reasonable adjustments' do not allow for an automatic right to
- 14 direct access or to information provision in their own language.
- 15 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitment to the principle that deaf children, young people
- 16 and adults are entitled to:
- 17 I. The right positively to identify with their own language(s), and to have this respected; regardless of
- 18 minority or majority language status.

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- 19 II. The right to sign language; to learn it and to have it developed in formal schooling as a language of  
20 instruction by qualified educators.
- 21 III. The right to learn one of the languages of the UK and to have sign language recognised as an official  
22 language of the UK.
- 23 IV. The right to maintain, and have respectfully treated, their identity and culture as deaf individuals.
- 24 Conference further expresses Liberal Democrat belief in the principle that deaf people as a collective  
25 community have the general rights to:
- 26 a) Exist as a linguistic minority community.
- 27 b) Celebrate, promote, develop and teach sign language; and to create educational settings where the  
28 deaf community can influence the curricula.
- 29 c) Be represented in political contexts as a group.
- 30 d) Be able to independently and autonomously handle and decide on community matters with regard to  
31 culture, education, social affairs and religion.
- 32 e) Have financial resources to achieve such aims, noting the government's responsibility to support deaf  
33 people and minority groups.
- 34 Conference therefore calls for Liberal Democrat Ministers to press within government for:
- 35 1. The recognition of BSL as one of the UK's official languages, commanding equal respect and  
36 protection as with Welsh and Gaelic.
- 37 2. The achievement of better awareness of information needs and of services for BSL users, particularly  
38 within the fields of health, education and employment.
- 39 3. The protection of the linguistic integrity of the language.
- 40 4. A requirement that interpreters, Communication Support Workers and Teachers of the Deaf should all  
41 achieve NVQ Level 3 standard of language proficiency.
- 42 5. The promotion of the cultural aspects of BSL and the deaf community as part of the UK's national  
43 heritage.

*Applicability: Federal.*

*Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 2nd September; those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra. See page 8 for further information. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Monday 16th September; see page 6.*

### 10.15 Policy motion

Chair: Dr Evan Harris

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

# Tuesday 17th September continued

## F30 Preventing and Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence

*Liberal Youth, Women Liberal Democrats, West Midlands Liberal Democrats, Stratford-upon-Avon and 29 conference representatives.*

Mover: Tessa Munt MP

Summation: Elizabeth Adams

1 Conference notes with concern:

2 I. Last year in the UK, around 1.2 million women and 800,000 men suffered domestic abuse and over  
3 400,000 women were sexually assaulted.

4 II. There is still significant lack of understanding over what counts as domestic violence, especially  
5 amongst young people.

6 III. Domestic and sexual violence has estimated annual costs of £40.1 billion per year and CAADV  
7 (Corporate Alliance Against Domestic Violence) states it currently costs UK businesses over £1.9  
8 billion a year.

9 Conference asserts the Liberal Democrat beliefs that:

10 A. Domestic and sexual violence are a violation of basic human rights and need collective action by  
11 government, including Education and Health.

12 B. Violence against women and girls and stigmatisation of male victims is inextricably linked to continued  
13 gender inequality.

14 C. The huge financial cost to society of domestic violence warrants investment in prevention and services  
15 to support victims.

16 Conference commends the Coalition Government's launch of the cross-departmental action plan 'Call to  
17 End Violence Against Women and Girls' as a crucial part of delivering a fairer society and note existing  
18 progress, especially:

19 i) Changing the definition of domestic violence to include 'coercive control' and incidents concerning 16  
20 and 17 year olds.

21 ii) The *This is ABUSE* campaign to raise awareness amongst young people.

22 Conference calls for:

23 1. Stronger focus on prevention of domestic and sexual violence, by:

24 a) Renewed commitment to relationships and consent becoming a compulsory part of sex education  
25 in schools, with assurance that schools are provided with support to deliver this through properly  
26 trained staff and a system that doesn't infringe on the existing rights of parents.

27 b) Domestic and sexual abuse, harassment, keeping safe online and gender inequality becoming  
28 integral topics to be covered by all students across the curriculum.

29 c) Updated information and training on identifying and supporting abuse victims for all healthcare  
30 professionals, including those working with dental patients, pregnant women and victims of  
31 substance abuse.

32 d) Training and new procedures for GPs to deal with domestic abuse perpetrators.

33 2. Further improvement to support for victims of domestic and sexual violence by:

34 a) Establishing lead departments in local authorities to co-ordinate continued training for and  
35 improved data collection by all professions dealing with abuse victims.

36 b) Running 'Domestic Violence Perpetrator Programmes' in place of anger management for all  
37 types of court cases involving domestic violence (DVPPs are community based behaviour-change

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- 38 programmes and the most appropriate type of help for those who are abusive or violent to their  
39 partners).
- 40 c) Making ‘progress made on preventing and prosecuting domestic violence’ one of the key  
41 performance indicators for Police and Crime Commissioners and covering this area in PCC annual  
42 reporting.
- 43 3. Minimising any adverse impacts of government spending restraints by:
- 44 a) Promoting the business case for ending violence against women to companies and employers by  
45 launching a government campaign for women’s safety and the workplace.
- 46 b) Working with local authorities to identify and deliver strategically improved allocation of ring-  
47 fenced funds, ensuring the ability to provide high quality services for victims by properly trained  
48 professionals is maintained.

*Applicability: England, except 3 a) (lines 44–45), which is Federal.*

*Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 2nd September; those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra. See page 8 for further information. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Monday 16th September; see page 6.*

### 11.00 Speech

Chair: Cllr Paul Tilsley  
Aide: Qassim Afzal

**F31 Speech by Fiona Hall MEP,  
Leader of the Liberal Democrat European Parliamentary Party** #LDconf

@FionaHallMEP



### 11.20 Policy motion

Chair: Baroness Doocey  
Aide: Cllr Paul Tilsley

**F32 *Defending the Future – UK Defence in the 21st Century* (Defence Policy Paper)**

*Federal Policy Committee*

Mover: Dr Julie Smith (Chair of the Policy Working Group)  
Summation: Sir Nick Harvey MP

- 1 Conference believes that:
- 2 a) It is a significant role of government to provide a secure UK in a stable neighbourhood; while good  
3 international relations and strong international law are crucial to security, when they fail effective military  
4 capabilities are required.
- 5 b) The UK’s vision of its place in the world appears virtually unchanged since 1945; the UK needs to re-  
6 assess its role, ensure that ambitions match resources and respond to 21st century threats, not those  
7 of the Cold War.

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8 c) The UK does not face any current existential military threat from any other state actor and that most  
9 credible threats to the UK also challenge our neighbours in Europe, yet international terrorism, cyber  
10 warfare and the consequences of major natural disasters such as those arising from climate change  
11 all pose security threats and most recent conflicts have not been predicted, hence we cannot be  
12 complacent about defence.

13 Conference therefore welcomes and approves policy paper 112, *Defending the Future – UK Defence in*  
14 *the 21st Century*, as a statement of Liberal Democrat policies on defence.

15 Conference accepts that the UK cannot aspire to full-spectrum capabilities but must be able to defend  
16 the UK and the territories for which it has responsibility, support its neighbours and allies, and to engage  
17 in humanitarian intervention. Conference therefore proposes that the UK should:

18 1. Maintain a credible contribution to Expeditionary Forces, including carriers, land- and sea-based  
19 airpower and land forces rapidly deployable by sea or air.

20 2. Re-establish effective maritime surveillance of our own shores.

21 Conference favours greater integration of EU and NATO Europe military capabilities and procurement  
22 to address common problems, to overcome economic constraints and to redress waning American  
23 commitment in our neighbourhood.

24 Conference recognises that all three armed services have already been reduced and warns that further  
25 reduction should remain under review until government plans to recruit more reservists to compensate are  
26 shown to be successful. We support the proposed increase in mandatory reserve training.

27 Conference deeply regrets that defence procurement has proved a major problem for successive  
28 governments with tens of billions of pounds wasted.

29 Conference believes that these problems arise from bespoke 'gold-plated' solutions despite good off-  
30 the-shelf options often being available; weaknesses in procurement management; budgetary uncertainty;  
31 the lack of a coherent defence industrial strategy; and the excessive influence of the defence industry on  
32 procurement, in particular due to strong informal networks between senior ex-military staff, now working  
33 for industry via the 'revolving door', and their former colleagues in MOD.

34 Conference recognises that the government's proposed changes to procurement, including the so-called  
35 GOCO (government-owned, contractor-operated) model may alleviate some of these issues but notes  
36 that the model is as yet untested. Conference therefore calls for:

37 I. A full review of the legal framework surrounding defence procurement, including conflicts-of-interest  
38 and other civil service rules and the UK's application of EU defence procurement directives.

39 II. Longer periods between resigning from the civil service and working in the industry, in line with rules  
40 applied to politicians leaving office.

41 Conference welcomes the signing of the Arms Trade Treaty in April 2013, and recent tightening of the UK  
42 Arms Export regime by the Coalition Government, but also calls for the Government to:

43 A. Conduct a cross-Departmental and public consultation on arms export policy.

44 B. Implement a policy of 'presumption of denial' for export licences to countries listed in the Foreign  
45 Office's annual human rights report.

46 C. Implement end-user certification on all future arms export licences and report annually to Parliament  
47 on this certification.

48 D. Enact legislation to control the re-export of British arms sales.

49 Conference remains wholly unconvinced that Britain needs to renew its submarine-based nuclear  
50 weapons system on the same Cold War scale as the system designed in 1980, nor do we believe that

## Tuesday 17th September continued

51 the nation can afford to do so. The proposed full-scale replacement, Successor, might in time account for  
52 as much as 10% of the UK's defence budget.

53 Conference therefore resolves that Britain should end Continuous-at-Sea-Deterrence and instead adopt a  
54 realistic, credible 'Contingency Posture', which would involve:

- 55 i) Construction and maintenance of fewer Successor submarines, and a reduction in crewing levels  
56 accordingly.
- 57 ii) A declaratory policy of going to sea only with unarmed missiles and storing a reduced stockpile of  
58 warheads for redeployment within a specified timeframe.
- 59 iii) Surging to more constant, armed patrols only during limited periods when a deteriorating security  
60 picture demands this.
- 61 iv) Exercise of the submarine capability regularly to maintain relevant skills, including weapons handling  
62 and nuclear command and control.
- 63 v) Periodic practice of redeployment of an armed submarine within a specified timeframe.
- 64 vi) Amended submarine design to enable alternative or dual use for conventional purposes.
- 65 vii) In the long term, construction of a single class of multi-purpose submarines to succeed the Astute  
66 and Successor classes, to perform all submarine roles we may need, including the capability to re-role  
67 from conventional to nuclear missions within a specified timeframe.

68 Conference believes that such a policy would represent the greatest single act of de-escalation  
69 ever undertaken by one of the established nuclear powers, would send a powerful signal of Britain's  
70 commitment to multilateral disarmament and would be a significant step towards our ultimate goal of a  
72 world free of nuclear weapons.

72 Conference recognises the vital role Britain's armed forces play in the defence of the nation and believes  
73 that it is the role of Government to safeguard the interests of service personnel and veterans. Conference  
74 strongly supports the Military Covenant, now enshrined in law as the Armed Forces Act and proposes a  
75 set of more specific measures to support serving servicemen and women and veterans, including:

- 76 a) Transferring the Office of the Veterans' Minister to the Cabinet Office, so that the services of  
77 all departments can be marshalled in support of veterans, and creating a post of Veterans'  
78 Commissioner.
- 79 b) Strengthening local military covenants by defining more exacting guidelines and ensuring best practice  
80 is rolled out across all local authorities.
- 81 c) Offering the Armed Forces the opportunity to organise representation along the lines of the Police  
82 Federation but without the right to strike.
- 83 d) Seeking an affordable way to rectify the situation whereby Gurkha veterans in the UK have a pensions  
84 entitlement for pre-1997 service of only one quarter that of veterans from the UK and Commonwealth.
- 85 e) Ensuring that care for veterans injured in service is fully budgeted and funded.

86 Conference acknowledges the different pressures that reserves face and proposes that:

- 87 1. Employers be required to offer two weeks' unpaid leave annually to assist reserves attending training  
88 camps.
- 89 2. The services explore ways of granting all reserves access to the medical provisions of their service.

*Applicability: Federal.*

## Tuesday 17th September continued

*Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.*

*In addition to speeches from the platform, conference representatives will be able to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion; see pages 6 and 8.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 2nd September; those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra. See page 8 for further information. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Monday 16th September; see page 6.*

12.50 Lunch break

14.15 Policy motion

Chair: Susan Gaszczak

Aide: Dr Evan Harris

### **F33 Dignity at Home: Transforming Home Care**

*16 conference representatives*

Mover: Norman Lamb MP

Summation: Linda Jack

- 1 Conference notes the importance of providing high quality home care for the elderly, disabled and
- 2 vulnerable and believes the key to this is ensuring properly trained staff with adequate time and resources
- 3 to carry out their duties.
- 4 Conference further notes that while the Government has recognised the importance of raising the status
- 5 and qualifications for those working in child care, the same is not the case for those working in home care
- 6 and a largely female workforce remains low-paid, low-status and often exploited.
- 7 Conference is concerned that poor employment practices, unrealistic targets, unequal distribution of
- 8 funds, lack of training, lack of consultation and proper support for care staff, has led to abuse, bullying
- 9 and harassment of both staff and clients.
- 10 Conference believes that home care could be vastly improved and vulnerable people better protected
- 11 through a range of measures and calls on the Government to:
  - 12 1. Ensure staff are allowed enough time to deal with service users' needs and to travel between calls.
  - 13 2. Hold the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to account for properly monitoring care and follow up when
  - 14 care companies fail to meet standards.
  - 15 3. Ensure the CQC website is user friendly, in particular making it clear how whistleblowers can make
  - 16 anonymous complaints.
  - 17 4. Ensure that local authorities commission care on the basis of outcomes – better care, improving
  - 18 people's mobility, improving their health and well being – rather than the current 'race to the bottom' in
  - 19 which standards of care are inevitably compromised.
  - 20 5. Ensure staff training, includes equality and diversity, interpersonal skills, dealing with dementia and
  - 21 customer care.
  - 22 6. Raise the status of care workers through better training, career progression and commensurate
  - 23 reward.
  - 24 7. Improve employment practices to bring the care sector more into line with normal employment

## Tuesday 17th September continued

25 standards, for example ensuring that the use of zero hours contracts is the exception rather than the  
26 rule and used only when absolutely necessary and ensuring staff are properly reimbursed for things  
27 like training and travel.

*Applicability: England.*

*Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.*

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### 14.55 Speech

Chair: Justine McGuinness  
Aide: David Rendel

**F34 Speech by Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP,  
Chief Secretary to the Treasury**

@dannyaalexander  
#LDconf



### 15.15 Policy motion

Chair: Duncan Brack (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)  
Aide: Sandra Gidley

**F35 Prosperous, Sustainable and Secure (Europe Policy Paper)**

*Federal Policy Committee*

Mover: Ben Jones (Chair of the Policy Working Group)  
Summation: Fiona Hall MEP (Leader, Liberal Democrat European Parliamentary Party)

- 1 Conference affirms that the European Union has been a hugely positive force for the promotion of peace,
- 2 prosperity and democratic values in Europe, and that membership of the EU is in the vital national interest
- 3 of the United Kingdom, playing a vital role in delivering a stronger economy in a fairer society, because:
  - 4 I. Our place in Europe ensures British influence over the rules and development of the largest single
  - 5 market in the world; millions of British jobs – and the prospects for many more – are linked to this
  - 6 marketplace of 500 million citizens with its combined GDP of £11 trillion.
  - 7 II. The EU helps Britain to tackle challenges like climate change, cross-border crime and food and energy
  - 8 security and provides an opportunity for the UK to lead on challenges that no European state can
  - 9 tackle alone.
  - 10 III. In an increasingly multipolar, globalised world, membership of the EU provides Britain with collective
  - 11 strength to promote our values and advance our interests around the world.
- 12 Conference recognises that:
  - 13 A. Sovereign debt crises in several EU countries have prompted important changes to economic
  - 14 governance, and further action is needed to secure the future of the euro and stabilise the financial
  - 15 system across Europe.
  - 16 B. Deeper integration within the euro area raises questions about Britain's position within the EU.

## Tuesday 17th September continued

- 17 C. The EU must be subject to a continuous process of renewal and reform to ensure that it can better  
18 address the challenges of the 21st Century.
- 19 Conference therefore endorses policy paper 113, *Prosperous, Sustainable and Secure*, and its emphasis  
20 on the UK working with like-minded partners to push for renewal and reform of the EU so that all its  
21 members can compete globally, create a more sustainable future and tackle cross-border threats to our  
22 security. In particular, Conference welcomes its proposals to:
- 23 1. Deliver a more prosperous Europe through deepening the single market, supporting innovation and  
24 competitiveness and promoting international trade, including by:
- 25 a) Leading a drive to complete the single market, particularly for the digital economy and services  
26 sector.
- 27 b) Continuing the pursuit of global and bilateral trade agreements.
- 28 c) Encouraging greater use of EU apprenticeship schemes, building on Liberal Democrat  
29 achievements in the promotion of apprenticeships in the UK.
- 30 d) Taking a lead on the EU innovation agenda and development of a European knowledge market.
- 31 e) Promoting green growth and sustainability throughout all EU programmes with more 'green jobs'  
32 created.
- 33 f) Developing European project bonds for vital infrastructure development, which would also benefit  
34 Britain's financial services industry.
- 35 g) Seeking greater flexibility in applying the Working Time Directive and retaining the individual right to  
36 opt-out.
- 37 h) Welcoming the positive contribution of free movement of labour, while taking measures to ensure  
38 that its provisions are not abused.
- 39 2. Work together to tackle environmental degradation and climate change, and ensure greater  
40 sustainability, including by:
- 41 a) Adopting an EU emissions reduction target of 50% by 2030 on 1990 levels.
- 42 b) Reforming the EU Emissions Trading System to incentivise cost-effective investments into low-  
43 carbon technology.
- 44 c) Making EU funds more effective in steering investment into low-carbon solutions, in particular to  
45 help poorer Member States.
- 46 d) Supporting greater devolution within the Common Agricultural Policy, alongside the switch from  
47 production subsidies to area based farm payments, and seeking a mid-term review of the CAP in  
48 2017.
- 49 e) Supporting farming and rural communities, particularly in disadvantaged and upland areas of  
50 Europe, in order to protect and enhance biodiversity, landscape, heritage and the rural economy.
- 51 f) Switching funding from the CAP into research on sustainable food production, climate change and  
52 water management.
- 53 g) Safeguarding within the Common Fisheries Policy a 100% ban on the discard of edible and usable  
54 fish, and developing European marine conservation areas.
- 55 h) Ensuring tougher enforcement of EU fishing rules by all Member States, and a UK review to assess  
56 the distribution of fishing opportunities between large and small-scale operators.
- 57 3. Improve the safety and security of EU citizens in the face of rapid globalisation and technological  
58 change, cross-border crime and regional instability, including by:
- 59 a) Strengthening the EU's efforts to tackle cybercrime, particularly through support for the new  
60 European Cybercrime Centre (EC3) within Europol.
- 61 b) Supporting EU-wide action to stop VAT fraud, and procedures to clamp down on money  
62 laundering and movement of criminal assets.
- 63 c) Applying a proportionality test to the European Arrest Warrant, and supporting implementation of  
64 the European Supervision order.

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- 65 d) Promoting improved policy and strategy formulation and coordination within the European External  
66 Action Service.
- 67 e) Promoting greater pooling and sharing of European defence capabilities without infringing the  
68 sovereign right of individual countries to decide when to deploy military force.
- 69 f) Supporting further enlargement of the EU, subject to stringent compliance by candidates with  
70 standards of democracy and civil rights.
- 72 g) Developing a robust common EU policy towards Russia, and a stronger common EU energy  
72 policy.
- 73 h) Encouraging other EU states to match UK spending on development, and improving EU  
74 development policy coordination.
- 75 4. Tackle concerns about the accountability and efficiency of European cooperation and continue to  
76 ensure that when the EU does act it does so democratically and proportionately, always respecting the  
77 principle of subsidiarity, including by:
- 78 a) Guaranteeing full voice in the regulation and application of the four freedoms – of goods, capital,  
79 labour and services – of the single market for both euro and non-euro states in the next EU treaty.
- 80 b) Adopting measures to enable national parliaments to contribute more directly to the development  
81 of EU policy and legislation.
- 82 c) Working with like-minded countries to make the EU budget more relevant to 21st century  
83 challenges.
- 84 d) Pressing for improved efficiency in the EU institutions and agencies.
- 85 e) Seeking treaty change to provide for a single seat for the European Parliament.
- 86 And with regard to the UK Parliament and Government:
- 87 f) Improving scrutiny of EU affairs at Westminster.
- 88 g) Encouraging more actively and training potential UK candidates for the EU institutions.
- 89 5. Address the prospect of further revision of the Treaties by:
- 90 a) Requiring that when the EU Act triggers a referendum for the first time, there should be an ‘In or  
91 Out’ referendum in which citizens across the UK can have their say on the new Treaty settlement  
92 and our relationship with the EU as a whole.
- 93 b) Committing the Liberal Democrats to campaign strongly for the UK to remain in the EU.

*Applicability: Federal.*

*Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.*

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### 16.40 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball  
Aide: Jenni Lang

## F36 Impact of the Private Finance Initiative on the National Health Service

Lewisham Borough

Mover: Peter Ramrayka

Summation: Cllr Chris Maines

- 1 Conference believes that among the many economic problems left by the last Labour Government, the  
2 Private Finance Initiative (PFI) in the NHS, is the most toxic; the total capital costs to the Department of  
3 Health of £11.6 billion will cost individual trusts and hospitals £80 billion in repayments.
- 4 Conference believes that Labour's eagerness to keep vast amounts of debt 'off the government books'  
5 led to a failure rigorously to negotiate contracts and get value for money – this has resulted in finance  
6 companies pocketing enormous profits whilst 27 hospital trusts locked into unaffordable contracts are on  
7 the brink of bankruptcy.
- 8 Conference believes that many of the PFI deals entered into for the NHS by the previous Government  
9 gave unacceptable levels of protection to the investors; resulted in insufficient openness and transparency  
10 as to which companies are involved and little regard to the longer term affordability and flexibility required  
11 for future health care needs.
- 12 Conference notes that, since these PFI contracts were created, the country has entered a period of  
13 economic austerity, in which it is necessary to reconsider the affordability of all government contracts and  
14 for them to be reduced or renegotiated.
- 15 Conference notes that many more Trusts would be in deficit had the Department of Health not spent £1  
16 billion to help bail them out; however, this piecemeal approach is not sustainable and the quality of care  
17 and equality of access to hospitals is threatened and Trusts need support and guidance in working out  
18 viable rescue plans with their PFI providers.
- 19 Conference notes that the Government's desire to maintain expenditure on health care will be undermined  
20 if closures and cuts in treatment are made in order to fund the increasing annual payments to the PFI  
21 providers; these payments have grown from £459 million per year to £628 million per year over the last  
22 three years and are set to grow exponentially in future years.
- 23 Conference calls for:
- 24 1. The identification and publication of the names of all private contractors who initially entered into PFI  
25 Contracts with the NHS, the duration of these contracts and the profit margins; where debts have  
26 been passed on, identification of the organisations concerned and any additional contracts they have  
27 entered into with any part of the NHS.
  - 28 2. Government support to trusts to assist them in robust renegotiations of the debts, naming and  
29 shaming banks and lenders who refuse to respond to the changed financial environment.
  - 30 3. New regulatory controls on existing PFI providers that ban the transfer of ownership of contracts and  
31 assets to offshore tax havens.

*Applicability: England.*

*Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 2nd September; those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra. See page 8 for further information. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Monday 16th September; see page 6.*

## 17.20 Policy motion

Chair: Qassim Afzal

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

### F37 High Street Gambling

*Ealing Borough*

Mover: Rt Hon Don Foster MP

Summation: Cllr Jon Ball

1 Conference notes:

2 a) The increase in the number of betting shops in deprived areas since the last Labour Government  
3 passed the Gambling Act 2005 which included the removal of the need for operators to prove unmet  
4 demand.

5 b) That betting shops are currently in the same use class as banks and building societies, allowing them  
6 to be opened with no planning consent required for change of use in some cases.

7 c) That the majority of the revenue generated from betting shops is now from high reward gambling  
8 machines rather than from traditional betting on sporting events.

9 d) The Portas Review into the future of High Streets describes gaming outlets as a “blight on the high  
10 street”, and that their proliferation is creating unsightly gambling ‘clusters’ on struggling retail hotspots.

11 e) That Newham Council’s recent refusal to allow a further betting shop application in a street with an  
12 existing proliferation, which was seen as a test case, was overturned on appeal.

13 f) That in many areas, crime and anti-social disorder has been associated with a proliferation of betting  
14 shops.

15 Conference welcomes the DCMS-initiated review of fixed odds betting terminals, including stakes, prizes  
16 and numbers of machines and recognises that the holding of the review is a success of Liberal Democrats  
17 in Government.

18 Conference believes that local councillors should be empowered to decide whether or not to give  
19 approval to additional gambling venues in their community.

20 Conference therefore calls on Liberal Democrats in government to push for:

21 1. Betting shops to be put in a new separate planning use class, allowing local authority planning  
22 committees to control them

23 2. The Gambling Act to be amended to allow council licensing committees to take into account the  
24 cumulative impact of a proliferation of gambling activities when considering applications.

*Applicability: England.*

*Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 2nd September; those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra. See page 8 for further information. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Monday 16th September; see page 6.*

## 18.00 Close of session

# Wednesday 18th September

## 09.00 Policy motions

Chair: Cllr Chris Maines  
Aide: Sandra Gidley

### F38 Emergency Motions

*This slot has been reserved for an emergency motion or motions. The deadline for emergency motions is 13.00, Monday 2nd September. See pages 7 and 8 for further information. Those selected for debate and/or proposed for the ballot will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.*

*Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.*

## 10.30 Speech

Chair: Jenni Lang  
Aide: David Rendel

### F39 Speech by Rt Hon Michael Moore MP, Secretary of State for Scotland

@MichaelMooreMP  
#LDconf



## 10.50 Policy motion

Chair: Justine McGuinness  
Aide: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

### F40 *A Stronger Economy in a Fairer Society* (Manifesto Themes Paper)

*Federal Policy Committee*

Mover: Rt Hon David Laws MP (Chair of the Manifesto Group)  
Summation: Duncan Brack (Vice Chair of the Manifesto Group)

- 1 Conference affirms that the task of the Liberal Democrats is to work for a stronger economy in a fairer
- 2 society, enabling every person to get on in life.
- 3 Conference reaffirms the principles set out in the preamble to the Liberal Democrat constitution, including
- 4 our commitment to build and safeguard a fair, free and open society, in which we seek to balance the
- 5 fundamental values of liberty, equality and community, and in which no one shall be enslaved by poverty,
- 6 ignorance or conformity.
- 7 Conference recognises the many achievements of the Liberal Democrats in the Coalition Government,
- 8 including delivering a £700 tax cut for millions of low-to-middle earners and lifting over two million people
- 9 out of tax altogether, a £2.5 billion Pupil Premium to target extra help at disadvantaged schoolchildren,
- 10 creating a million apprenticeships, and setting up the Green Investment Bank.
- 11 Conference, however, acknowledges that much more needs to be done to meet our ambitions for Britain
- 12 and the world and that Liberal Democrats should fight the next election on an independent and ambitious
- 13 programme for the 2015–2020 Parliament.
- 14 Conference endorses the manifesto themes paper, *A Stronger Economy in a Fairer Society – Enabling*

# Wednesday 18th September continued

15 *Every Person to Get on in Life*, as an analysis of the challenges Britain and the world will face in the next  
16 Parliament, a statement of the party's 2020 vision for the UK, and the basis for developing the next Liberal  
17 Democrat General Election Manifesto.

18 Conference in particular welcomes:

19 1. The commitment to a stronger economy, including:

- 20 a) Building solid foundations for growth: investing in infrastructure, particularly in transport and  
21 renewable energy; improving resource efficiency in industry; rebuilding a healthy and diverse  
22 banking system; using the tax system to encourage work and investment and penalise pollution  
23 and tax avoidance; bringing the budget back into balance; and playing a positive and influential  
24 role within the EU.
- 25 b) Modernising the economy: promoting green industries and jobs, decarbonising the economy and  
26 expanding the Green Investment Bank; investing in housing; supporting technology and science;  
27 and raising standards in education and skills and expanding higher education.
- 28 c) Enabling everyone to participate: further raising the personal income tax allowance and introducing  
29 a Mansion Tax; expanding the Regional Growth Fund; improving access to child care; encouraging  
30 higher pay for low earners; and creating a fair and welcoming immigration system which  
31 commands public confidence.

32 2. The commitment to a fairer society at home and abroad, including:

- 33 a) Realising everyone's potential: supporting children and parents; improving education, particularly  
34 in the early years and for those from disadvantaged backgrounds; improving access to further and  
35 life-long education; and removing barriers faced by communities such as ethnic minorities.
- 36 b) Creating a country fit to live in: guaranteeing open, accessible and high-quality public services;  
37 ensuring a fair pensions system; reforming prisons and extending restorative and community  
38 justice and tackling hate crime; and protecting cultural heritage, landscape and wildlife.
- 39 c) Enlarging freedom at home and abroad: reforming the electoral system and the House of Lords;  
40 dispersing power to the nations, regions and communities of Britain, and to workplaces; securing  
41 civil liberties and human rights through a written constitution; and working through the EU  
42 and UN to tackle climate change, improve global financial regulation and promote sustainable  
43 development.

*Applicability: Federal, except some aspects of 1 b) and 1 c) (lines 25–31), 2 a) and 2 b) (lines 33–38), which are England only.*

*Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.*

*In addition to speeches from the platform, conference representatives will be able to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion; see pages 6 and 8.*

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## 12.00 Policy motion

Chair: Gareth Epps  
Aide: Cllr Paul Tilsley

## F41 Human Rights

*Brighton & Hove*

Mover: Dr Julian Huppert MP

Summation: Brian Stone

1 Conference believes:

- 2 A. That Britain has a proud history of international leadership on human rights, using our political  
3 leadership and legal expertise to drive the creation of the European Convention on Human Rights in  
4 1950.
- 5 B. British leadership on human rights is as important now as it has ever been with worrying cases such  
6 as the imprisonment of Pussy Riot in Russia, the segregation of Roma Gypsy children in parts of  
7 Europe, the rise in human trafficking and the continued trampling of basic freedoms of individuals  
8 across the globe.
- 9 C. Human rights are fundamental to a fair, free and open society.
- 10 D. All governments should be bound by rights legislation and rights legislation should be entrenched in a  
11 written constitution.

12 Conference welcomes:

- 13 I. Nick Clegg's statement that "the Human Rights Act is here to stay" while Liberal Democrats are in  
14 Government.
- 15 II. The Coalition's commitment to "be strong in the defence of freedom" and "implement a full programme  
16 of measures to reverse the substantial erosion of civil liberties and roll back state intrusion".
- 17 III. The UK-led Brighton Declaration, which will help to reduce the backlog of cases at the Strasbourg  
18 court and to allow the court to operate more effectively.
- 19 IV. That members of the Government's 'Commission on a Bill of Rights' did agree that any new human  
20 rights legislation must provide at least the same level of protection for our freedoms and rights as the  
21 existing Human Rights Act and European Convention on Human Rights.
- 22 V. That the Human Rights Act is a vital lifeline for citizens who have been unfairly treated and was  
23 responsible for:
- 24 1. Ensuring that Gary McKinnon was not unjustly extradited to the United States.  
25 2. Stopping blanket DNA retention.  
26 3. Preventing councils from snooping on citizens.  
27 4. Stopping the degrading treatment of vulnerable people in the NHS.  
28 5. Securing accommodation for domestic violence victims.  
29 6. Ensuring that fostered children can visit their mentally disabled parents.  
30 7. Defending the right of couples to be accommodated together in residential care homes.  
31 8. Protecting transport services for disabled people.
- 32 VI. The introduction by the Foreign Office of a new presumption that known human rights abusers should  
33 not be granted permission to enter the UK.

34 Conference however regrets:

- 35 i) That the Government's 'Commission on a Bill of Rights' failed to reach a unanimous agreement.  
36 ii) The ongoing political debate surrounding rights legislation, which reflects widespread  
37 misunderstanding about the origins, aims and effects of the Human Rights Act.  
38 iii) That politicians from both the Labour and Conservative parties continually portray human rights  
39 legislation as a "villains' charter" which has done "way more damage than good".

## Wednesday 18th September continued

- 40 iv) That the existing process for taking an appeal from the UK courts to the European Court of Human  
41 Rights in Strasbourg is cumbersome and has led to long delays, contributing to a view that human  
42 rights themselves are to blame.
- 43 v) That the public image of the Human Rights Act as nothing but a tool for terrorists, criminals and  
44 trouble-makers has been left unchallenged by some politicians and media outlets.
- 45 Conference therefore calls for:
- 46 1. The Human Rights Act to be retained.
- 47 2. The British Government to continue to work with European partners to reform the process through  
48 which the European Convention on Human Rights is administered, to ensure that frustrating delays,  
49 like in the case of Abu Qatada, are prevented in future.
- 50 3. The UK to remain a prominent signatory to the European Convention on Human Rights so that rights  
51 legislation is entrenched throughout Europe.
- 52 4. Liberal Democrats in Government to stand firm against the Conservative Party in defence of the  
53 Human Rights Act and European Convention on Human Rights.
- 54 5. A constitutional convention to draw up a UK Bill of Rights as part of a wider written constitution, which  
55 will include:
- 56 a) Full involvement of the devolved administrations.  
57 b) Cross-party negotiations.  
58 c) The incorporation of the Human Rights Act and every protection contained therein.  
59 d) Continued support for the European Convention on Human Rights.

*Applicability: Federal.*

*Mover of motion: 7 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 8.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion, is 13.00, Monday 2nd September; those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra. See page 8 for further information. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Tuesday 17th September; see page 6.*

12.40 Lunch break

14.20 Party business

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

Aide: Liz Lynne

### F42 Party Awards

14.50 Speech

F43 Speech by Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, @Nick\_Clegg  
Leader of the Liberal Democrats and Deputy Prime Minister #LDconf



15.35 Close of conference

(approx)

# Standing orders for federal conference

## Glossary of terms

### **Business motion**

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

### **Business amendment**

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

### **Committee**

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

### **Constitutional amendment**

A proposal to change the constitution of the Party.

### **Secondary constitutional amendment**

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

### **Consultative session**

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

### **Day visitor**

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

### **Elected representative**

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

### **Emergency motion**

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

### **Emergency amendment**

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

### **Full session**

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

### **Non-voting member**

A party member who has paid the appropriate registration fee, but, because they are not an elected representative,

is not entitled to vote at conference. A non-voting member is, however, entitled to submit a speaker's card for any item on which voting members may submit a speaker's card.

### **Point of order**

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

### **Policy motion**

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

### **Policy amendment**

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

### **Policy paper**

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

### **Procedural motion**

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

#### ***Move to next business***

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

#### ***Reference back***

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

#### ***Request for a count***

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

#### ***Separate vote***

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

#### ***Suspension of standing orders***

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

### **Special conference**

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

### **Standing order amendment**

A proposal to change these standing orders.

# Standing orders continued

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

# Standing orders

## 1. The conference agenda

### 1.1 What is on the agenda

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

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

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

### 1.2 Conference or council of state parties

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

### 1.3 Right to submit agenda items

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

regional parties in England, local parties, Specified Associated Organisations and 10 conference representatives. Business motions, standing order amendments and secondary standing order amendments may also be submitted by the Federal Conference Committee.

- c) Motions accompanying policy papers may only be submitted by the Federal Policy Committee.
- d) Policy motions (including amendments, emergency policy motions and amendments) may be submitted by the Federal Policy Committee, state parties, regional parties in England, local parties, Specified Associated Organisations and 10 conference representatives.
- e) Proposals for topical issue discussions may be submitted by any voting member.

### 1.4 How motions and amendments are submitted

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

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

The Committee shall specify:

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

# Standing orders continued

be at least two days before the start of conference, except for questions to the reports of the Parliamentary Parties in the House of Commons, House of Lords and European Parliament, where the closing date shall be at least one hour before the start of the business session at which the report is due to be considered.

- e) Notwithstanding 1.5(d), questions may always be submitted to any of the reports listed in the agenda arising from events occurring after the deadline specified in 1.5(d). The deadline for these questions shall be one hour before the start of the business session at which the report is due to be considered.
- f) The closing date for proposals for topical issue discussions, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference

## **1.6 Notification of deadlines**

All dates specified under Standing Order 1.5 shall be notified to conference representatives and bodies entitled to submit motions. Publication in the party newspaper may be treated as notice for this purpose.

## **1.7 Later deadlines in special circumstances**

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

## **2. Consultative sessions**

### **2.1 The subjects for consultative sessions**

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

### **2.2 Speaking at consultative sessions**

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

### **2.3 Voting at consultative sessions**

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

## **3. The agenda**

### **3.1 The shortlisting of motions**

The Committee shall draw up the agenda and shall decide which of the motions duly submitted shall be included in it. The Committee may allocate time for one or more policy

or business motions to be selected by ballot. Copies of motions not selected shall be available for inspection and will be supplied to any conference representative on payment of a copying charge and postage.

### **3.2 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders**

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

### **3.3 Balance between State and Federal policy debates**

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

## **4. Selection of motions and amendments**

### **4.1 Compositing or otherwise altering motions**

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

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

### **4.2 Selection of amendments**

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

### **4.3 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders**

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

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

# Standing orders continued

- 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 representatives attending Conference as soon as practicable and shall specify a closing time for the ballot. Following the counting of any ballots the Committee shall 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 motions and for business which is formal or, in its opinion, uncontroversial.

### 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. If the person who is excluded is a voting member of conference, their local party or SAO shall be contacted immediately and invited to appoint a substitute for the remainder of the conference.

## 7. The Chair

### 7.1 Who chairs conference

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

### 7.2 The chair's aide

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

## 8. Conduct of Debate

### 8.1 Variation in the order of business

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

### 8.2 Withdrawal of motions and amendments

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

# Standing orders continued

## **8.3 The order of debate**

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

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

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

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

## **8.6 The special rights of the Federal Committees**

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

## **8.7 The selection of speakers**

Voting and non-voting members wishing to speak in

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

## **8.8 The length of speeches**

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

## **9. Voting at Conference**

### **9.1 The method of voting**

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

### **9.2 Counting of votes**

A vote by show of voting cards shall be counted:

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

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

### **9.3 Separate votes**

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

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

## **10 Points of Order**

### **10.1 Making a point of order**

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

## **11 Procedural Motions**

### **11.1 Next business**

- a) A voting member may, during any full conference session, submit, in writing, a request that conference move to next business, giving the reasons to do so.

# Standing orders continued

The submission shall not exceed 75 words.

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

## **11.2 Reference back (moved by a representative)**

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

the next meeting of the conference, state what action it has taken on the reference.

## **11.3 Reference back (moved by the Federal Policy Committee)**

- a) The Federal Policy Committee may, at any time before the beginning of the debate on a motion, submit, in writing, a request to refer that motion to the next meeting of the conference. The chair shall announce the existence of such a request at the start of the debate.
- b) The chair may take the request to refer back at whatever stage of the debate they consider appropriate. A nominee of the Federal Policy Committee will speak and the mover of the substantive motion, or their nominee, may reply. The chair shall have discretion whether to allow other speakers on the request.
- c) The reference back shall require a simple majority of those voting to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or 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.

# Standing orders continued

- b) No motion to suspend standing orders may suspend any requirement of the constitution, nor any part of these standing orders which govern:
  - i) The rights of, or timetable for, submission of motions and amendments.
  - ii) Consultative sessions.
  - iii) Procedural motions for next business or suspension of standing orders.
- c) No motion to suspend standing orders to introduce a motion or amendment on to the agenda can be taken unless the motion or amendment has been submitted to the Committee in accordance with the published timetable and, where a right of appeal against non-selection exists, the right has been exercised.
- d) The chair shall read the statement of purpose and, if the suspension is allowable in the terms of this standing order, ask the conference whether it wishes to debate the request for suspension. If the conference decides not to debate the request, it falls. If the conference decides, by a majority of those present and voting, to hear the request the mover may speak and a representative of the Committee may reply. The chair shall have the discretion to allow other speakers. All speeches on the motion to suspend standing orders will be limited to two minutes.
- e) A motion to suspend standing orders shall only be carried if supported by at least two-thirds of the conference members voting. If the procedural motion is carried all standing orders shall remain in force except only for the purposes set out in the motion.

## **11.7 No procedural motions during votes**

No procedural motion can be moved during a vote.

## **12 Reports**

### **12.1 Which reports are tabled**

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

### **12.2 Submission and selection of questions**

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

### **12.3 Whether questions are in order or not**

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

### **12.4 How questions and supplementary questions are put and answered**

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

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

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

### **12.6 Receipt of reports from other bodies**

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

## **13 Amendment of Standing Orders**

### **13.1 Amendment of standing orders**

These standing orders may be amended by a two-thirds majority of members of conference voting on a motion duly submitted and selected in accordance with standing

# Standing orders continued

orders. Subject to any amendment they shall remain in force from meeting to meeting.

## 14 The Chair and Vice Chairs of the Committee

### 14.1 Chair and Vice Chairs

At its first meeting after a new election the Committee shall elect a Chair, who must be a member of the

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

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# The Federal Party

## Officers of the Federal Party

Leader	Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP
President	Tim Farron MP
Chair of FFAC	Peter Dunphy
Treasurer	Sir Ian Wrigglesworth
Vice President (England)	Peter Ellis
Vice President (Scotland)	Craig Harrow
Vice President (Wales)	John Last CBE
Chief Executive	Tim Gordon

## Federal Executive (FE)

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

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

## Federal Finance and Administration Committee (FFAC)

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

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

## Federal Policy Committee (FPC)

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

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

## Federal Conference Committee (FCC)

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

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

The members of the FCC are shown on page 2.



**Liberal  
Democrats**

**Autumn Conference**  
**Agenda 2013**  
**Glasgow 14th–18th September**