

**20
22**

Liberal
Democrats



SPRING CONFERENCE

11th - 13th March • Online

AGENDA



Welcome to the Liberal Democrat Online Spring 2022 *Conference Agenda*.

This first edition of the *Conference Agenda* contains the agenda for the auditorium sessions at conference and information about the conduct of the sessions. It is available as a printed document as well as online.

Updated editions of the *Conference Agenda* will be published online at:

www.libdems.org.uk/s22-agenda

An updated *Conference Agenda* will be issued online in the week before conference incorporating *Conference Extra*, and further updates each day during conference incorporating *Conference Daily*.

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

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

www.libdems.org.uk/conference



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Conference information

Conference will take place through our virtual conference venue Hopin. Access to all conference events requires a valid conference registration and registered attendees will be emailed details of how to log on to the Hopin platform at the time of registration and again just before the conference.

This *Conference Agenda* covers the sessions held in the virtual auditorium at Autumn Conference.

General conference information can be found in the *Conference Directory*, available online from early February at:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference

If you have any questions prior to or during conference, please email:

conferences@libdems.org.uk

If you have any tech queries during the live debates, please go to the tech helpdesk in the exhibition area of the online conference on Hopin (see page 5).

If you wish to communicate with the chair, submit a procedural motion or ask for a separate vote, please use the following link:

www.libdems.org.uk/procedural-motions

If you want to comment about the session you are in, please use the chat function; do not use chat to communicate with the chair of a session. See guidance on page 4.

Hopin: our virtual conference venue

Registered attendees will be emailed details of how to log onto the Hopin platform at the time of their registration. A reminder will be emailed to you just before the start of the conference.

For the best experience of conference when using a computer or laptop, Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox web browsers are recommended. To access Hopin via an iOS mobile device, Safari is the best mobile browser to use; and for an Android device, please use Google Chrome.

Ensure you turn off your ad blockers and don't have any other programs open. If something goes wrong, try refreshing your browser!

If you are unable to use a laptop or desktop computer (which are the preferred

Conference information

devices), and are using an ipad or tablet, please ensure you download the Hopin app which can be accessed via the app store at:

<https://hopin.com/app>

There is a short video on how Hopin works:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EmnaN3lj5c

After the conference the auditorium sessions will be available on YouTube.

Hopin navigation

On the Hopin platform, the menu bar appears on the left.

Home

Scroll down to view the agenda, fringe & training events and exhibition stands (one for each entity in the exhibition area).

Auditorium

Watch the debates and speeches. Members can vote on motions via polls (within Hopin).

There will be BSL signers during auditorium sessions.

Fringe & Training

Fringe is available for all to view. Fringe events happen outside auditorium hours.

Training is only for party members to view and is run simultaneously alongside the auditorium sessions.

See the *Conference Directory* for details.

Exhibition

You can enter this area to view the exhibition stands throughout conference, view exhibitors' videos, ask questions in the chat function and connect to their websites. See the *Conference Directory* for details. There are also specified live times each day when you can chat with someone live from each organisation (if they have chosen to do this).

Conference information

Networking

Chat with a randomly selected participant and share common interests.

If you wish to contact a particular individual to chat with them or have a live video link, please click onto 'people' next to the 'chat' function on the top right and find the person you wish to connect with.

Voting

Only registered members can vote at conference. Voting will be available through Hopin and the polling function in the auditorium.

For the emergency motions ballot, mi-voice voting will be used and registered members will be emailed a link prior to conference to vote in the ballot.

Conference Chat

In each auditorium session there will be a chat feature enabled, which allows attendees to post their views and comments about events in the auditorium.

The chat is public and visible to everybody: bear this in mind when posting. All comments in the chat must be respectful, lawful, and in keeping with the Members' Code of Conduct, accessible here:

www.libdems.org.uk/code-of-conduct

The chat will be moderated, and if your post does not meet the required standards of behaviour, sanctions start with post deletion, and more serious breaches may lead to you having your conference access revoked and/or disciplinary action within the party.

Please do not use the chat to attempt to communicate with members of the Federal Conference Committee (FCC) or the chairs and aides of debates. To raise a query with the chairs and aides use this link:

www.libdems.org.uk/procedural-motions

Q&A

Please post your questions under the Q&A tab. Questions to reports should be submitted as described under 'reports' on page 9; in addition, questions may be submitted using the Q&A tab during the session and they may be selected by the chair, but that is not guaranteed.

Conference information

The chat / Q&A is there to facilitate interactivity in our virtual conference, but it can only do this if everyone in it behaves responsibly and with courtesy and respect towards each other and the moderators.

Conference Extra and Conference Daily

An update to this *Conference Agenda* incorporating *Conference Extra* will be published online ahead of conference, and further updates incorporating *Conference Daily* will be published each day of conference.

They will contain updates to the agenda including information from the FCC, changes to session timings, amendments, topical issues, emergency motions and questions to reports.

You will be able to find *Conference Agenda* updates online at:

www.libdems.org.uk/s22-agenda

Tech helpdesk

If you have any tech issues during the conference, we have a tech helpdesk located in the exhibition area (first stand) which will be open at the following times:

Friday	11 March	12.00 – 18.00
Saturday	12 March	09.15 – 18.00
Sunday	13 March	09.15 – 17.00

Federal Board and Federal Conference Committee helpdesk

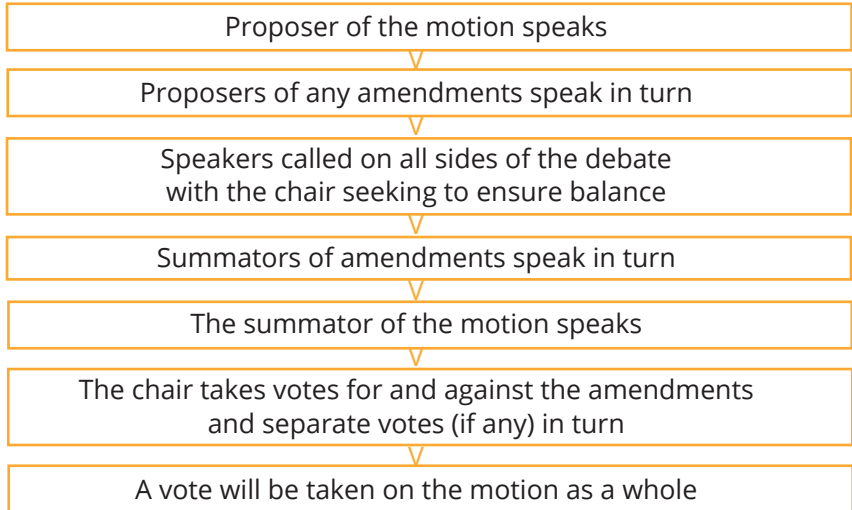
Members of the Federal Board (FB) and the Federal Conference Committee (FCC) will be available to give advice at their stands in the virtual exhibition at the following times:

Friday	11 March	16.15 – 17.15
Saturday	12 March	13.00 – 14.00 and 16.15 – 17.15
Sunday	13 March	13.00 – 14.00 and 16.15 – 17.15

Debates and votes at conference

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

The structure of debate on policy and business motions:



Amendments: all motions except emergency motions are open to amendment; amendments accepted will be published in the *Conference Daily* updates to the *Conference Agenda*.

Communications with the chair and aide: At the virtual conference you can contact the chair and aide team using the link:

www.libdems.org.uk/procedural-motions

Please note that this link is solely for formal communication with the chair and the aide on procedural motions and points of order.

Voting: decisions on most motions and all amendments and separate votes are by simple majority of those voting. To vote, registered members must use the polls function on Hopin. That is found by selecting the tab in the top right-hand corner when in the virtual auditorium. Vote by selecting the relevant button on the screen.

Debates and votes at conference

Separate votes: a vote to delete or retain the specified words or section. A request for a separate vote may be submitted by any party member. For agenda items on Friday the request must be submitted by the emergency motions deadline and for other days by the start of conference on the previous day, using the link:

www.libdems.org.uk/procedural-motions

Counted vote: all votes taking place at this conference will be counted by Hopin and the result will be announced by the chair.

Speaking and voting at conference

Eligibility to speak and vote

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

Length of speeches

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

A set of traffic lights will appear on the screen to show the speaker and the audience how long the speaker has left. Green means that the end of the time is at least one minute away. The amber light comes on when there is one minute to go. The red light comes on when time is up and you should stop speaking immediately.

Applying to speak

To make a speech in a debate you must submit an electronic speaker's card online at:

www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card

Applications open on Monday 7 March and close at 16.00 on the day BEFORE the debate.

Speakers selected for a debate (plus a couple of reserves) will be sent an email by 21.00 on the day before the debate. If it is your first time speaking at this conference, you will be asked to log into a Debate Test meeting for our technical team to check your sound and vision. You will be required to

Speaking and voting at conference

download the Zoom app (or equivalent) prior to the test – a link will be in the email.

Our technical team will register you before the debate commences. 10 minutes before the start of the debate you will be asked to log out of Hopin and into a Motion meeting, which will have the same title as the agenda item. You will be able to follow the debate while waiting. The chair will ask you to stand by one speech before yours and then call you to speak when required.

Once you have finished speaking you must log out of the Motion meeting and return to Hopin. The email should answer any questions and will give you contact details to seek further help.

Completing a speaker's card

Please remember to:

- Submit your card no later than 16.00 on the day before the debate. There is no guarantee late cards will be considered.
- Complete the card fully so that the chair knows all about you and what you want to say, and can balance the debate.

Other conference sessions

Emergency motions

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

There is a slot for emergency motions at F25 on Sunday 13 March. Registered members will vote on which of the emergency motions that have been submitted they want to debate. An email will be sent shortly before conference to enable you to vote; the closing time for votes will be 19.00 on Friday 11 March.

Topical issue discussions

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

Party members may submit suggested topics for a discussion, which will

Other conference sessions

be considered by officers of the FCC and FPC. If a topical issue discussion is selected, it will be published in the relevant *Conference Daily* update to the *Conference Agenda*.

Question & answer sessions

Any voting member may submit a concise question (maximum 25 words) on any subject for the Leader's Q&A (F18). Questions will be selected by the chair and the questioner will be able to ask their question via video.

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

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions

The chair may also decide to put questions raised in the chat function during the session.

Reports

The reports of Federal Committees and Parliamentary Parties are printed in the separate reports document. Any voting member may submit concise questions on these reports. Questions may be submitted by 13.00 on 28 February using the online form at:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions

Questions received by the deadline above will be published in the *Conference Extra* update to the *Conference Agenda* and are guaranteed a reply, in the session or in writing thereafter. Questions may also be submitted using the same online form until 16.00 on the day before the session, or through the chat function in Hopin during the session, but will only be called if time allows and at the discretion of the chair of the session.

Submitting amendments, emergency motions, topical issues and appeals

Amendments and emergency motions

Amendments and emergency motions must be:

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

Submitting amendments, emergency motions, topical issues and appeals

And must be submitted by 13.00 on 28 February online at:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions

Submitters should include:

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

Topical issues

Suggestions for topical issues may be submitted by any party member by 13.00 on 28 February online at:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions

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

Drafting advice

Submitters are encouraged to use our drafting advice service: draft amendments and emergency motions should be submitted by 13.00 on 14 February online at:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions

Appeals

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

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

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

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

Appeals should be emailed by 12.00 noon on 10 March to:

appeals@libdems.org.uk

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Friday 11 March

F1

14.00 Party business

Chair: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC).

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



@markpack, #LDConf

14.05 Party business

Chair: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Aides: Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC) and Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC).

F2 Federal Conference Committee Report: questions and accountability

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

The deadline for questions for F2 is 13.00 on 28 February. Questions selected will be published in the Conference Extra and Friday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda. These questions will be guaranteed an answer, either in the session or in writing thereafter.

Questions may also be submitted online until 17.00 on Thursday 10 March, or through the chat function in Hopin during the session, but they will only be called if time allows and at the discretion of the chair of the session.

See page 9 for further information.

Friday 11 March

F3

F3 Standing order amendment: Questions to Reports at Conference*Federal Conference Committee*

Mover: Duncan Brack.

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

1 *Delete standing order 1.5 d) and e) and insert:*

2 d) The closing date for the submission of questions to any of the
3 reports listed in the Agenda, which shall be the same as the deadline
4 for emergency motions. Questions submitted by this deadline are
5 guaranteed to be asked.

6 e) Notwithstanding 1.5 (d), questions may always be submitted to any of
7 the reports listed in the Agenda, by the end of the preceding morning
8 (for report sessions taking place in the afternoon) or afternoon (for
9 report sessions taking place in the morning). Any questions submitted
10 by this deadline will only be taken at the discretion of the chair.

11 *In standing order 12.4:*

12 *In the second sentence, after 'After each question', insert: 'submitted*
13 *under Article 1.5 (d)'.*

14 *In the last sentence, delete 'and (e)'.*

For the text of the existing Federal Conference standing orders, see page 93 of this Conference Agenda.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 10 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 7 – is 13.00, Monday 28 February. Those selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Friday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.

Standing order amendments require a two thirds majority to pass.

Friday 11 March

F4

F4 Federal Policy Committee Report: questions and accountability

Mover: Cllr Lucy Nethsingha (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee).

The deadline for questions for F4 is 13.00 on 28 February. Questions selected will be published in the Conference Extra and Friday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda. These questions will be guaranteed an answer, either in the session or in writing thereafter.

Questions may also be submitted online until 17.00 on Thursday 10 March, or through the chat function in Hopin during the session, but they will only be called if time allows and at the discretion of the chair of the session.

See page 9 for further information.

Friday 11 March

F5

14.35 Policy motion

Chair: Bex Scott. Aides: Duncan Brack and Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC).

F5 Expanding the Use of British Sign Language*10 members*

Mover: Christine Jardine MP.

Summation: Euan Davidson.

1 Conference notes:

- 2 i) The House of Commons Petition "Make British Sign Language part of
- 3 the National Curriculum", which collected over 30,000 signatures from
- 4 across the UK.
- 5 ii) That British Sign Language was recognised as a language in its own
- 6 right by the UK Government in 2003.
- 7 iii) That British Deaf Association figures suggest that 151,000 people
- 8 currently can speak BSL in the UK including 87,000 hearing impaired
- 9 users.
- 10 iv) That qualifications for BSL currently exist to level 6 NVQ.
- 11 v) Extensive research suggesting that the best time to learn a second
- 12 language is during the ages of six to puberty.

13 Conference believes that:

- 14 a) All deaf and hearing-impaired individuals have the right to participate
- 15 in society fully and independently and too often these rights are not
- 16 fully realised.
- 17 b) British Sign Language should have equal status to the UK's other
- 18 official languages.
- 19 c) Modern languages are a vital part of a modern education programme.

20 Conference therefore calls for:

- 21 1. The rapid introduction of GCSE equivalent qualifications in BSL in
- 22 England.
- 23 2. The Department for Education to commission a feasibility study into
- 24 the introduction of BSL lessons in primary schools to embed the

Friday 11 March

F5

25 teaching of basic BSL from an early age, with expert findings to be
26 offered to devolved education departments.

Applicability: Federal; except 1. and 2. (lines 21–26), which are England only.

Mover: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 10 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 7 – is 13.00, Monday 28 February. Those selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Friday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.

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F6

15.05 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC). Aides: Matt McLaren and Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC).

F6 COP15 and the UK Government*20 members*

Mover: Baroness Parminter.

Summation: Richard Benwell.

- 1 Conferences notes with concern that:
 - 2 1. The UK has lost nearly half of its biodiversity since the Industrial
3 Revolution and is ranked in the bottom 10% in the world and the
4 worst among G7 nations for biodiversity.
 - 5 2. The Conservative Government has missed its 2020 target for 50% of
6 Sites of Special Scientific Interest to be in favourable condition with
7 just 38% in favourable condition in England.
 - 8 3. The Conservative Government has missed its 2020 target for UK seas
9 to meet Good Environmental Status, failing on 11 out of 15 indicators
10 of marine health.
 - 11 4. The Conservative Government is set to miss its target for 75% of
12 rivers and streams to be in good condition by 2027, with just 14%
13 of surface waters in good ecological condition in England and 0% in
14 good overall condition.
 - 15 5. There has been a global decline of 68% in animal population
16 sizes since 1970 and that previous targets to halt global decline in
17 biodiversity have been missed.
 - 18 6. The climate emergency and the ecological emergencies are
19 intrinsically linked, and that there has been insufficient action in the
20 UK and globally to tackle the climate emergency.
- 21 Conference recognises that the opportunity for the UK to help secure an
22 effective multilateral agreement for nature ahead of the forthcoming UN
23 Biodiversity conference (COP-15) is undermined by a lack of credibility in
24 domestic action, caused by many years of environmental policy failure by
25 the Conservative government, including:

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- 26 I. Inadequate protection or investment in wildlife sites.
27 II. Debilitating funding cuts to the statutory environmental agencies.
28 III. Weak policies that fail to support a transition to a sustainable farming
29 and fishing industry.
- 30 Conference notes in particular that the Conservative government's
31 domestic record in key policy areas relating to COP-15 is currently
32 inadequate, including:
- 33 A. Targets, where the Conservative government has yet to set out a
34 credible action plan for delivering its environmental goals for water
35 quality, air quality, habitats and biodiversity.
36 B. Protecting 30% of the land and sea for nature, where Conservative
37 ministers claim to be close to the target are completely undermined
38 by a lack of management measures and enforcement.
39 C. Accountability, with the Conservatives decision to restrict the
40 independence of the new Office for Environmental Protection and
41 forthcoming reforms that would reduce access to environmental
42 justice.
- 43 Conference therefore calls on the UK government at COP15 to:
- 44 i) Take urgent diplomatic steps in support of measurable and specific
45 biodiversity goals to begin to reverse the decline of biodiversity by
46 2030 and create a nature-positive economy by 2050.
47 ii) Propose a declaration and action plan at COP15 to empower
48 subnational actors in co-designing and delivering biodiversity
49 restoration.
- 50 Conference also calls on the UK government to take steps urgently to
51 increase its environmental credibility and effectiveness by:
- 52 a) Laying before Parliament a cross-Whitehall plan that stops the long-
53 term decline in biodiversity by 2030 with specific and costed policy
54 measures (including planning policy, fishing, agriculture and land
55 use policies) that add up with a high degree of confidence to turning
56 round the long-term decline in biodiversity.
57 b) Giving substance to its promise to protect 30% of land and sea for
58 nature by strengthening and completing the network of protected

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- 59 wildlife sites in England, and reforming the powers, purposes, funding
60 and duties for AONBs and National Parks to restore nature.
- 61 c) Implementing the recommendations of the Dasgupta Review at pace
62 and ensuring that the environment is at the heart of all government
63 policymaking by adopting a set of economic measures that go beyond
64 GDP to take account of the natural world.
- 65 d) Committing to a shared fiscal and policy framework between central
66 and local government to enable authorities to contribute effectively to
67 solutions to an ecological emergency.
- 68 e) Reversing the recent cut to international development spending,
69 restoring it to 0.7% of GNI, and increasing finance for developing
70 countries to protect and restore their ecosystems.

71 Conference reaffirms pledges in motion International Trade and the
72 DIT (September 2021) for minimum environmental and animal welfare
73 standards for future trade agreements, where they can be negotiated,
74 based on a UK Trade and Human Rights Policy, and a Trade and
75 Development Policy, as a UK successor to the Cotonou agreement.

Applicability: Federal; except a) and b) (lines 52–60) and d) (lines 65–67), which are England only.

Mover: 5 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 3 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 10 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 7 – is 13.00, Monday 28 February. Those selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Friday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.

Friday 11 March

F7

15.40 Policy motion

Chair: Jennie Rigg. Aides: Bex Scott and Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC).

F7 Political Reform to Tackle Sleaze*10 members*

Mover: Wendy Chamberlain MP (Chief Whip of the Commons Parliamentary Party).

Summation: To be announced.

1 Conference notes with concern:

- 2 I. The Conservative sleaze scandal in Autumn 2021, precipitated by the
3 egregious Government decision to overturn Owen Paterson's 30-day
5 suspension from the House of Commons.
- 6 II. The subsequent revelations of parties in Downing Street and the
7 accusations that Number 10 officials and the Prime Minister have
8 potentially breached lockdown rules.
- 9 III. That the Conservative Government has consistently refused to
10 properly investigate allegations of sleaze, failed to declare relevant
11 meetings, and tried to change the system to sweep issues under the
12 carpet.
- 13 IV. That polling in December 2021 has demonstrated that just 5% of the
14 public believe politicians work for the good of the country.

15 Conference believes that:

- 16 a) The Conservatives' actions have created a sense of 'one rule for them,
17 another rule for us'.
- 18 b) The Government is accountable to the public, who have the right to a
19 transparent Government that does not act above the law.
- 20 c) An end to corruption in politics is necessary for a well-functioning
21 democracy with a high standard of public debate and rules which are
22 upheld robustly and quickly.
- 23 d) This crisis has highlighted the imbalance of power between the
24 executive and the legislature including:

Friday 11 March

F7

- 25 i) The Government's evasion of scrutiny during Parliamentary
26 recess, as only ministers can recall Parliament.
- 27 ii) The Government's control of the Parliamentary timetable, limiting
28 the issues which can be discussed by MPs.
- 29 Conference reaffirms the commitment to introduce fair votes via
30 proportional representation to ensure that every voter's voice is heard.
- 31 Conference calls upon the UK Government to:
- 32 1. Launch an immediate, independent public inquiry with the powers
33 and resources to uncover the truth around the Conservative sleaze
34 scandal, including the ability to compel witnesses and demand the
35 disclosure of any relevant official documents and communications.
 - 36 2. Enshrine the Ministerial Code in legislation, making its governance
37 independent of the Prime Minister and accordingly removing the
38 power of the executive to override decisions on breaches of the code.
 - 39 3. Detail a range of sanctions which may be issued within the Ministerial
40 Code, including, but not limited to, apologies, fines, and asking for a
41 minister's resignation in line with the November 2021 Committee for
42 Standards of Public Life Report.
 - 43 4. Empower the Independent Adviser to initiate investigations into
44 breaches of the Ministerial Code, determine these breaches and
45 publish their report no later than eight weeks after its submission to
46 the Prime Minister.
 - 47 5. Implement the outstanding recommendations of the Wright Reforms,
48 giving Parliament greater control over its own business.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 10 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 7 – is 13.00, Monday 28 February. Those selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Friday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.

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16.20 Auditorium break

Please see the [Conference Directory](#) for our fringe and exhibition programme.

18.45 Speech

Chair: Matt McLaren.

F8 Cllr Pippa Heylings, Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for South Cambridgeshire

@pippaheytings, #LDConf



19.05 Policy motion

Chair: John Bridges. Aides: Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC) and Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC).

F9 Action to Improve Air Quality*Ealing Borough*

Mover: Cllr Hina Bokhari AM.

Summation: Cllr Jon Ball.

- 1 Conference notes that:
- 2 I. Air pollution is the cause of many thousands of premature deaths
- 3 each year in the UK. In 2019 fine particulate matter (PM2.5) was
- 4 responsible for more than 33,000 deaths annually in the UK, and
- 5 nitrogen dioxide (NO2) for 5,750.
- 6 II. Air pollution is one of the greatest environmental risks to health.
- 7 The World Health Organisation states that by reducing air pollution
- 8 levels, countries can reduce the burden of disease from stroke, heart
- 9 disease, lung cancer, and both chronic and acute respiratory diseases
- 10 including asthma. In addition, maternal exposure to polluted air
- 11 can result in premature and low birth-weight babies. Children living
- 12 in highlighted polluted areas are more likely to have reduced lung
- 13 growth.

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- 14 III. The United Kingdom's national limits for nitrogen dioxide and
15 particulate matter are set at four times the level of the World Health
16 Organisation guidelines, and the principal source of these are traffic
17 emissions, with wood-burning stoves also being a major contributing
18 factor in some areas.
- 19 IV. The UK was frequently found to be in breach of EU air pollution rules
20 when they applied to the UK before Brexit.
- 21 V. For the first time in December 2020 air pollution exposure was listed
22 as a cause of death, in the tragic death of Ella Adoo-Kissi-Debrah, and
23 that in a report to prevent future deaths published in April 2021 the
24 coroner recommended a reduction in national limits for particulate
25 matter.
- 26 VI. Groups such as the Clean Air Parents' Network intend to take legal
27 action against the Government to compel them to take action to
28 improve air quality.

29 Conference believes that:

- 30 A. Everyone has the basic right to breathe clean air and urgent action
31 to achieve this is vital to protect the health of all but particularly our
32 children.
- 33 B. Taking action on air quality will take pressure off the NHS.

34 Conference reaffirms existing Liberal Democrat policy to:

- 35 i) Legislate to end the sale of new diesel and petrol cars and small vans,
36 including hybrids, by 2030, and accelerate the installation of charging
37 points.
- 38 ii) Oppose any Airport expansion in the South East of England.

39 Conference supports the introduction of Clean Air Zones in large towns
40 and cities across the UK, including the Ultra Low Emission Zone in London
41 and the Clean Air Zone in Liberal Democrat-controlled Portsmouth.

42 Conference calls on local authorities to:

- 43 a) Install more pollution sensors near major roads and at every urban
44 school.
- 45 b) Publicise local air quality issues including publishing live pollution

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- 46 levels from their pollution sensors stating specific levels of pollutants
47 using globally recognised units of measurement.
- 48 c) Work to improve air quality in their area.
- 49 d) Take into account likely differential air pollution changes in different
50 roads when designing traffic schemes.
- 51 e) Consider implanting or extending Clean Air Zones.
- 52 Conference calls on the Government to:
- 53 1. Urgently bring forward statutory instruments under the Environment
54 Act 2021 to introduce legally binding national limits for particulate
55 matter and other pollutants at or below current WHO guidelines.
- 56 2. Introduce a fully-funded obligation for all local authorities to install
57 and maintain pollution sensors in their areas.
- 58 3. Introduce a scrappage scheme for petrol and diesel vehicles to
59 encourage their more rapid phasing out.
- 60 4. Introduce targeted funding to provide financial support for the
61 operators of buses, taxis and private hire vehicles to switch to less
62 polluting technologies.
- 63 5. Increase the Air Quality Grant Programme which provides funding to
64 local authorities to tackle locally identified air pollution issues.
- 65 6. Increase the maximum penalty that local authorities can apply to
66 drivers leaving their engines idling.

Applicability: England only; except i) (lines 35–37) and 3. (lines 58–59), which are Federal.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card.

The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 10 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 7 – is 13.00, Monday 28 February. Those selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Friday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.

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19.55 Party business

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

F10 Board Reform (Constitutional Amendments)*Federal Board*

Mover: Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, Federal Board).

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

- 1 Conference notes that the Thornhill Review into the 2019 general election
- 2 concluded that:
 - 3 i) "The lack of connection between operational, political and governing
 - 4 parts of the party has created structures which foster a lack of
 - 5 collaboration and isolated decision making".
 - 6 ii) "There is no clear 'leadership team' where the three pillars of the
 - 7 party – political, operational, federal – can make cohesive decisions,
 - 8 simply, quickly, and effectively. The Federal Board – 40+ members – is
 - 9 not, cannot, and should not be that team".
 - 10 iii) "The Federal Board was often a 'rubber-stamp' and is too large a
 - 11 group to be a realistic decision-making body".
- 12 Conference believes that a democratically accountable body should be at
- 13 the heart of such decisions and leadership, and that therefore the best
- 14 response to those findings is to improve the way the Federal Board is
- 15 structured and operates.
- 16 Conference notes that in the consultation with party members run in late
- 17 2021:
 - 18 a) Just over half (51%) of party members responding said the Board
 - 19 should be 10-20 in size and a further one in five (21%) members said
 - 20 it should be under 10 in size, adding up to more than seven in ten
 - 21 members saying it should be 20 or less, compared with the current 41
 - 22 size.
 - 23 b) That the most popular option was a smaller hybrid Board (selected by
 - 24 around a third of party members responding – 32%), and nearly tied
 - 25 in second place were role-based Board plus a scrutiny committee and

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- 26 a role-based Board plus a full council, which were the first preference
27 of nearly one in five members each (19% and 18% respectively).
28 Bottom of the six options, with only 1 in 20 members (6%) picking it,
29 was the current Board structure.
- 30 c) That when an alternative vote count was conducted eliminating the
31 least popular option in turn, the same three options came out as the
32 top three with a smaller hybrid Board the clear winner.

33 Conference further notes that:

- 34 1. The Party Leader, President and Vice President responsible for working
35 with ethnic minority communities are all elected by all party members.
- 36 2. The Scottish Convenor is elected by all members in Scotland, the
37 Welsh President is elected by all members in Wales, the Chair of
38 Young Liberals is elected by all Young Liberals members, that the
39 councillor representative is elected by all councillors, and that the
40 Chair of Federal Conference Committee has to come from the FCC
41 members elected by all party members.

Votes will be taken between the options below so that one option is finally selected.

42 **OPTION 1: SMALLER HYBRID**

43 Conference agrees from the date of the declaration of the results in the
44 committee elections in 2022 to replace Article 9.2 with the following and
45 renumber accordingly:

46 9.2 It shall consist of the following voting members:

- 47 A. The President, who shall act as its Chair;
48 B. The Leader;
49 C. The Chair of the English Party, the Convenor of the Scottish Party
50 and the President of the Welsh Party;
51 D. The Vice President responsible for working with ethnic minority
52 communities;
53 E. Three people who shall be party members elected by all
54 members of the Party except that persons who, at the date of
55 the close of nominations for election under this paragraph, are
56 members of Parliamentary Parties set out in Article 17 shall not

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- 57 be eligible to be candidates for election under this paragraph.
- 58 Casual vacancies amongst this group shall be filled in accordance
- 59 with the election regulations;
- 60 F. A Vice-Chair of the Federal Policy Committee;
- 61 G. The Chairs of the Federal Conference Committee, the Federal
- 62 Communications and Elections Committee, the Federal Finance
- 63 and Resources Committee and the Federal People Development
- 64 Committee;
- 65 H. The Chair of the Young Liberals; and
- 66 I. A principal local authority councillor, elected Mayor or Police
- 67 and Crime Commissioner, elected by the principal local authority
- 68 councillors, elected Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners
- 69 of the Party.

70 Voting members under A-D or F-I may nominate a voting substitute if they
 71 are unable to attend a meeting.

72 9.3 The Board shall invite other appropriate people to attend its meetings
 73 for relevant agenda items, including but not limited to inviting the Chief
 74 Executive, the Financial Controller for items with significant financial
 75 implications, a staff representative for issues likely to have a significant
 76 impact on party staff, the chairs of other Federal Committees and
 77 Subcommittees for items that interact with their remit, and the Chief Whip
 78 in the House of Commons (or their nominee) for items with Parliamentary
 79 or Parliamentary Office of the Liberal Democrats impact. The Board shall
 80 also invite the chairs of any Board sub-groups, sub-committees or working
 81 groups to submit reports in writing and to give reports in person as
 82 appropriate.

83 9.4 The Federal Board may co-opt people for such periods not exceeding
 84 three years as it thinks fit who shall be entitled to attend and speak but
 85 not vote (but so that there shall not be more than two persons co-opted
 86 at any time).

87 OR OPTION 2: BOARD PLUS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

88 Conference agrees from the date of the declaration of the results in the
 89 committee elections in 2022 to replace Article 9.2 as above in Option 1
 90 and in addition to insert a new Article 17 and renumber accordingly:

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91 ARTICLE 17: The Federal Scrutiny Committee

92 17.1 There shall be a Federal Scrutiny Committee (FSC), which shall be
93 responsible to the Federal Conference.

94 17.2 It shall be responsible for scrutinising the work of the Federal Board,
95 including ensuring that decisions are being taken in line with the party
96 strategy as voted for by Conference, and may require a response on any
97 issue from the Board.

98 17.3 It shall consist of the following voting members:

- 99 A. Nine people who shall be party members elected by all members
100 of the Party except that persons who, at the date of the close
101 of nominations for election under this paragraph, have during
102 the previous three years held Federal Party office or been a
103 member of any Federal Committee or been a member of the
104 Parliamentary Parties set out in Article 17 or been a member
105 of Federal Party staff shall not be eligible to be a candidate for
106 election under this paragraph. Casual vacancies amongst this
107 group shall be filled in accordance with the election regulations.
- 108 B. Eight people who shall be appointed for their relevant scrutiny
109 skills by the Federal Board subject to ratification by the Federal
110 Conference.

111 The Chair of the FSC shall be elected by its members.

112 17.4 The Committee shall meet at least four times in each calendar year.

113 Conference also agrees to:

- 114 1. *In Article 6.5 of the Constitution, before 'and Federal Conference*
115 *Committee' insert 'Federal Scrutiny Committee'.*
- 116 2. *In Articles 5.3 and 8.1 of the Constitution, after 'the Federal International*
117 *Relations Committee' insert ', Federal Scrutiny Committee'.*
- 118 3. *Rename the existing Federal Audit and Scrutiny Committee by changing*
119 *all mentions in the Constitution of the 'Federal Audit and Scrutiny*
120 *Committee' to 'Federal Audit Committee' and all mentions of 'FASC' to*
121 *'FAC'.*

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- 122 OR OPTION 3: BOARD PLUS FULL COUNCIL
- 123 Conference agrees from the date of the declaration of the results in the
124 committee elections in 2022 to replace Article 9.2 as above in Option 1
125 and in addition to add the following:
- 126 9.9 There shall be a Federal Council which shall consist of the following
127 voting members:
- 128 A. Twenty-one people who shall be party members elected by all
129 members of the Party except that persons who, at the date of
130 the close of nominations for election under this paragraph, are
131 members of Parliamentary Parties set out in Article 17 shall not
132 be eligible to be candidates for election under this paragraph.
133 Casual vacancies amongst this group shall be filled in accordance
134 with the election regulations;
 - 135 B. Three members from each State Party, elected according to their
136 own procedures;
 - 137 C. Three principal local authority councillors, elected Mayors or
138 Police and Crime Commissioners, elected by the principal local
139 authority councillors, elected Mayors and Police and Crime
140 Commissioners of the Party;
 - 141 D. Three members of the Young Liberals, elected according to their
142 own procedures;
 - 143 E. Three representatives of the Parliamentary Group as set out in
144 Article 17.5; and
 - 145 F. The Chair of the Federal Audit and Scrutiny Committee.
- 146 9.10 The Chair of the Federal Council shall be elected by its members.
- 147 9.11 Members of the Federal Board may attend and speak at meetings of
148 the Federal Council but may not be voting members of the Federal Council.
- 149 9.12 The Council shall be responsible for scrutinising the work of the
150 Federal Board, including ensuring that decisions are being taken in line
151 with the party strategy as voted for by Conference, and may require a
152 response on any issue from the Board.
- 153 9.13 The Council shall be considered to be a Committee of the Federal
154 Party for the purposes of Articles 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 8.2, 8.5, 8.8 and 8.9.

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155 Conference also agrees to in Article 6.5 of the Constitution, insert 'Federal
156 Council' before 'and Federal Conference Committee'.

157 OR OPTION 4: STATUS QUO

158 Conference agrees to leave Article 9.2 unamended.

159 OTHER

160 In addition, Conference, believing that power should be accountable in-
161 between elections, agrees to add a new Article 20.2 to the Constitution
162 (and to renumber accordingly):

163 20.2 The Federal Board shall have power to vote on a motion of no
164 confidence in the party's President. Such a vote may only be taken with
165 at least seven days notice to all Board members and shall require a two-
166 thirds majority of voting Board members (with vacancies, abstentions or
167 absences counted as votes against). If the vote passes, a casual vacancy
168 shall be deemed to have occurred and the processes in Article 20.1 shall
169 be followed. The President deemed to have vacated office in this way shall
170 have the right to seek nomination in the subsequent election. If they win
171 re-election, this shall not count as a re-election for the purposes of the
172 term limit in Article 20.1, and they shall not be eligible to be subject to a
173 further vote of no-confidence for the remainder of that term.

174 Conference, noting the importance of winning elections to the party's
175 reason for existing, agrees to add to the list of bodies which report to
176 conference by amending Article 6.5 of the Constitution as follows:

177 *After 'Federal Policy Committee' insert ', Federal Communications and*
178 *Elections Committee'.*

For the text of the existing Federal Constitution, see
www.libdems.org.uk/constitution.

See notes at the end of F11 on page 34.

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F11

F11 Board Reform (Standing Order Amendments)*Federal Board*

Mover: Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, Federal Board).

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

1 Conference, noting the importance of winning elections to the party's
2 reason for existing, agrees to add to the list of bodies which report to
3 conference by amending conference standing order 1.1 (b) as follows:

4 *After 'Federal Policy Committee' insert ' , Federal Communications and*
5 *Elections Committee'.*

6 Conference, believing in the importance of transparency and noting that
7 two federal party committees are accountable or responsible to the Board
8 but do not report directly to conference, agrees to amend conference
9 standing order 12.2 by adding the following sentence at the end:

10 'Questions to the Federal Board report may include questions about the
11 work of the Federal Audit and Scrutiny Committee and the work of the
12 Federal People Development Committee'.

13 And depending on results of votes between options in F10:

14 IF OPTION 2: BOARD PLUS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15 *In conference standing order 1.1 (b), before 'and Federal Conference*
16 *Committee' insert 'Federal Scrutiny Committee'.*

17 OR IF OPTION 3: BOARD PLUS FULL COUNCIL

18 *In conference standing order 1.1 (b), before 'and Federal Conference*
19 *Committee' insert 'Federal Council'.*

*For the text of the existing Federal Conference standing orders, see page 93 of this
Conference Agenda.*

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F11

Notes for F10 and F11:

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

There will be votes taken on the options in F10 so that only one option is one is selected.

Votes taken on the options in F11 correspond to the option selected by conference in motion F10 Board Reform (constitutional amendments). If option 1 (smaller hybrid) or option 4 (status quo) in F10 are selected by conference, only lines 1–12 in motion F11 should be voted on.

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in the debates on F10 and F11, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card.

The deadline for amendments to F10 and F11 – see page 10 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 7 – is 13.00, Monday 28 February. Those selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Friday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.

Constitutional and standing order amendments require a two-thirds majority to pass.

21.15 Close of session

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F12

09.30 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Joe Otten. Aides: John Bridges and Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC).

F12 Catching Up on Our Children's Education

13 members

Mover: Munira Wilson MP (Spokesperson for Education).

Summation: Cllr Dine Romero.

- 1 Conference notes with concern that:
 - 2 a) The Government has only committed £4.9 billion of the £15
 - 3 billion needed for catch-up education as recommended by the
 - 4 Government's former Education Recovery Commissioner, Sir Kevan
 - 5 Collins.
 - 6 b) Disruption to education caused by the pandemic could cause children
 - 7 to lose £40,000 in income over their lifetime, leading to a £350 billion
 - 8 hole in the economy.
 - 9 c) Most children in the UK have lost half a year of schooling, 5% of
 - 10 their entire time in school, which is likely to increase educational
 - 11 inequalities and effects on mental health.
- 12 Conference believes that:
 - 13 i) Young people have suffered enormous disruption to their education
 - 14 and spent months isolated from their peers. Pupils have missed out
 - 15 on millions of days of vital teaching and their parents have been left
 - 16 to pick up the pieces.
 - 17 ii) Parents have worked tirelessly throughout this pandemic and
 - 18 must be empowered to have more involvement in their children's
 - 19 education.
 - 20 iii) As we recover from the pandemic, it is right that closing the
 - 21 disadvantage gap is a top priority for the Liberal Democrats.
- 22 Conference calls for:
 - 23 1. Government to immediately commit the full £15 billion to catch-up

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- 24 funding for children, in line with the recommendations from the
25 Government's former Education Recovery Commissioner, Sir Kevan
26 Collins.
- 27 2. Government to distribute £5 billion of this funding to Catch-Up
28 Vouchers worth £200 a year for 3 years, given directly to parents for
29 all 8.3 million children in state-funded schools.
- 30 3. Government to double the worth of these vouchers for disadvantaged
31 children eligible for the Pupil Premium or those with special
32 educational needs.
- 33 4. Government to triple the worth of these vouchers for pupils with
34 special educational needs who are also eligible for free school meals
35 and looked-after or previously looked-after children.

Applicability: England only.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 28 February; see page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Saturday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 11.00 Friday 11 March; see page 7.

Saturday 12 March

F13

10.20 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC). Aides: Jennie Rigg and Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC).

F13 Rebuilding Trade and Cooperation with Europe

Federal Policy Committee

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

Summation: Duncan Brack.

- 1 Conference recognises that Boris Johnson's Brexit is failing to deliver any
- 2 benefits for Britain and bears no resemblance to the promises made by
- 3 the Leave campaign in 2016.

- 4 Conference notes that the consequences of Johnson's Brexit deal are
- 5 becoming steadily clearer, and include, among others:
 - 6 I. New barriers to trade, leading to significant falls in UK exports and
 - 7 imports, rising food prices and empty supermarket shelves.
 - 8 II. Severe threats to traditional farming and fishing enterprises and
 - 9 communities, and the likelihood of lower standards as a result of the
 - 10 government's free trade agreements ending altogether exports of
 - 11 some British food products to the EU.
 - 12 III. Shortages of HGV drivers and of staff in the healthcare, farming and
 - 13 hospitality sectors, and the loss of British citizens' opportunities
 - 14 to work, to be together with their loved ones, to study and retire
 - 15 anywhere in the EU, as a result of the ending of freedom of
 - 16 movement.
 - 17 IV. Lasting damage to British cultural, educational and medical and
 - 18 scientific research sectors.

- 19 Conference notes the evidence that the supposed benefits of Brexit
- 20 have proved to be a fantasy, and recognises that Britain now exercises
- 21 less control over the forces that determine its future than it did inside
- 22 the EU, at a time when the challenges the world faces, from the climate
- 23 and nature emergencies to an aggressive Russia and an assertive China,
- 24 require more international cooperation, not less.

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F13

25 Conference therefore reaffirms the Liberal Democrats' support for a
26 longer-term objective of UK membership of the EU, as set out in the
27 September 2020 conference motion, 'The UK and Europe'.

28 Conferences notes with dismay, however, that the Conservatives have
29 wrecked Britain's good relations and bonds with Europe, to the point that
30 there is no indication that the EU sees Britain as a good neighbour, nor
31 that it would want the UK back in its current state.

32 Conference therefore recognises that as the UK seek to build a closer
33 partnership with Europe, it must first convince EU member states that the
34 UK is serious about rebuilding the relationship and forging stronger links,
35 which can only be built back gradually over time.

36 Conference reaffirms existing Liberal Democrat policy on the UK's
37 relationship with the EU, as set out in the spring 2021 conference motion
38 'The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement and the Future of the UK-
39 EU relationship', which included developing policy proposals to:

- 40 A. Demonstrate the benefits to UK citizens and businesses of a much
41 closer relationship compared to the government's inadequate
42 measures.
- 43 B. Recommend roadmaps for the UK to rejoin the Customs Union, Single
44 Market and other EU agencies and programmes as appropriate.
- 45 C. Maximise public support for eventual UK membership of the EU.

46 Conference therefore resolves to adopt the proposals set out in policy
47 paper 144, *Rebuilding Trade and Cooperation with Europe*, on the UK-EU
48 trading relationship and Single Market membership, and in particular its
49 roadmap to re-establishing good relations, and rebuilding the associations
50 between Britain and its European neighbours, to the benefit of both, and
51 maximising the chances of the UK ultimately rejoining the EU:

- 52 1. Immediate UK initiatives to begin to repair the UK-EU relationship,
53 including:
 - 54 a) A clear declaration of a fundamental change in the UK's
55 approach, setting out the intentions to act as a good neighbour
56 to the EU and to repair the damage caused by the Conservatives.

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- 57 b) Reforming and increasing funding for the Turing Scheme.
58 c) Automatically granting full Settled Status to all EU citizens and
59 their families who were living in the UK as of 31st December
60 2020.
61 d) Establishing channels beyond those created in the Trade and
62 Cooperation Agreement, on an EU-wide and bilateral basis.
63 e) Increasing the UK's presence in Brussels and major EU
64 capitals, not only through central government but by devolved
65 governments, local authorities, cultural organisations and civil
66 society; improving relations with individual EU member states;
67 and establishing the UK-EU Parliamentary Partnership Assembly.
- 68 2. Further steps to rebuild confidence, including by:
- 69 a) Seeking association or cooperation agreements with EU
70 regulatory framework agencies such as the European Chemicals
71 Agency, European Aviation Safety Agency, European Medicines
72 Agency and European Food Standards Authority.
73 b) Improving educational and cultural links by returning to Erasmus
74 Plus and seeking to participate fully in Creative Europe.
75 c) Supporting UK and EU research and innovation by pressing for
76 an agreement with the EU on UK associate status in Horizon
77 Europe.
78 d) Working together with the EU to tackle the climate and nature
79 emergencies by associating the UK Emissions Trading System
80 (ETS) with the EU ETS and applying to join the European
81 Environment Agency.
82 e) Improving cooperation on crime and policing, and seek to reach a
83 UK-EU agreement on asylum seekers.
- 84 3. Deepening the trade relationship with the EU, including by:
- 85 a) Making an explicit commitment to maintaining the level playing
86 field and not to lower standards of labour, environmental and
87 consumer protection in the UK.
88 b) Continuing to mirror EU regulatory standards in UK law and
89 aiming to reach mutual recognition agreements to avoid double-
90 testing.
91 c) Aiming to open negotiations on a comprehensive agreement

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- 92 guaranteeing enhanced access for UK food and animal products
 93 to the Single Market.
- 94 d) Exploring ways to simplify procedures for UK exporters, and the
 95 possibility of a specific UK-EU agreement on small businesses
- 96 e) Seeking to ratify the memorandum of understanding with the EU
 97 on equivalence for financial services.
- 98 f) Open negotiations for reciprocal deals with EEA member states
 99 on low-cost and fast-tracked work visas for key economic sectors.
- 100 g) Initiate conversations to establish mutual recognition of
 101 professional qualifications.
- 102 4. Once the trading relationship between the UK and the EU is
 103 deepened, and the ties of trust and friendship are renewed, aim to
 104 place the UK–EU relationship on a more formal and stable footing by
 105 seeking to join the Single Market, thereby bringing full access to EU
 106 and EFTA economies for UK goods and services, resolving many of
 107 the problems around the Northern Ireland Protocol, helping to create
 108 a more united UK, and opening up freedom of movement, helping
 109 to relieve the pressures caused by Brexit for British enterprises and
 110 public services, including the NHS and social care, and enlarging
 111 opportunities for British citizens.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover and summation: 16 minutes combined; movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 28 February; see page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Saturday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 11.00 Friday 11 March; see page 7.

Saturday 12 March

F14

11.40 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Simon McGrath. Aides: Matt McLaren and Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC).

F14 Ending Sewage Discharges

10 members

Mover: Tim Farron MP (Spokesperson for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs).

Summation: To be announced.

1 Conference notes with concern that:

- 2 i) Water companies discharged raw sewage into waterways 400,000
- 3 times in 2020 – amounting to more than 3 million hours of discharges.
- 4 ii) The longest discharges lasted more than 8,000 hours.
- 5 iii) Just 14% of the UK's waterways are in a good ecological condition.
- 6 iv) More than half of England's rivers fail to pass cleanliness tests.
- 7 v) Water companies made £2.2 billion in profits in 2020.

8 Conference believes that:

- 9 a) We have a duty to protect our natural environment.
- 10 b) The government has failed to hold the water companies accountable
- 11 for dumping sewage into waterways.
- 12 c) Water companies should work to minimise sewage discharges into
- 13 our rivers and lakes.

14 Conference calls on the Government to:

- 15 1. Set meaningful targets and deadlines for water companies to end
- 16 sewage discharges into waterways.
- 17 2. Introduce a Sewage Tax on water companies profits to fund the clean-
- 18 up of waterways.
- 19 3. Reduce the number of licences given to water companies permitting
- 20 them to discharge sewage into rivers.
- 21 4. Strengthening Ofwat's powers to hold the companies accountable for
- 22 discharging raw sewage into rivers.
- 23 5. Add local environmental groups onto water companies' boards.

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- 24 Conference reaffirms the pledge in policy paper 140 *Giving Consumers a*
25 *Fairer Deal* (March 2021) to promote a public benefit company model for
26 water companies, so that particular economic and environmental policy
27 objectives must be considered explicitly in the running of the companies.

Applicability: England only.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 28 February; see page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Saturday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 11.00 Friday 11 March; see page 7.

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12.25 Speech

Chair: Cllr Simon McGrath.

F15 Christine Jardine MP (Spokesperson for the Treasury)



@cajardineMP, #LDConf

12.45 Standing order amendments

Chair: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Aides: Belinda Brooks-Gordon and Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair FCC).

F16 The Selection of Speakers

11 members

Mover: Toby Keynes.

Summation: David Barnsdale.

- 1 Conference believes that:
- 2 1. There can be no genuine and meaningful debate unless opposing
- 3 viewpoints are heard, even if one side may appear to be in a small
- 4 minority.
- 5 2. Genuine, balanced debate should bring forward ideas and arguments
- 6 that participants have not previously considered, may identify major
- 7 flaws in a motion and should result in better decision-making.
- 8 Conference resolves to amend conference standing order 8.7 as follows:
- 9 *Delete:* 'The chair shall be responsible for the choice of the speakers
- 10 and shall attempt to provide a balanced debate between the different
- 11 viewpoints in the conference, but may announce a departure from this
- 12 rule if there is an overwhelming preponderance of members wishing to
- 13 speak on the same side.' *and insert:* 'The chair shall be responsible for the
- 14 choice of speakers and shall aim to provide an evenly balanced debate
- 15 between the different viewpoints in the conference, even if there is a clear
- 16 preponderance of members wishing to speak on the same side.'

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For the text of the existing Federal Conference standing orders, see page 93 of this Conference Agenda.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 28 February; see page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Saturday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 11.00 Friday 11 March; see page 7.

Standing order amendments require a two thirds majority to pass.

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13.00 Auditorium break

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

14.15 Policy motion

Chair: Liz Lynne. Aides: Duncan Brack and Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC).

F17 Tigray and the Ethiopian Civil War*11 members*

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

Summation: To be announced.

- 1 Conference notes with concern:
- 2 A. The ongoing civil war in Ethiopia, primarily between Ethiopian
- 3 government forces and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF),
- 4 which has resulted in:
 - 5 i) The deaths of tens of thousands of civilians by airstrikes,
 - 6 massacres and starvation.
 - 7 ii) The internal displacement of 4 million.
 - 8 iii) At least 9 million in need of desperate help.
- 9 B. The publication of the Joint Investigation by the UN Human Rights
- 10 Office and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, which found
- 11 that "there are reasonable grounds to believe that all parties to the
- 12 conflict in Tigray have, to varying degrees, committed violations of
- 13 international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law, some of
- 14 which may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity".
- 15 C. The humanitarian crisis and in particular the threat of mass starvation
- 16 in:
 - 17 i) Tigray, which has been particularly exacerbated by the de facto
 - 18 blockade of aid into the region by the Ethiopian government.
 - 19 ii) Other parts of Northern Ethiopia, where the UN World Food

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- 20 Programme (WFP) was forced to halt aid distribution following
21 the looting of warehouses by Tigrayan rebels.
- 22 D. The horrific reports of the use of rape and sexual violence as a tool of
23 conflict, by troops allied with the Ethiopian government in Tigray, as
24 well as by TPLF fighters.
- 25 E. The alleged atrocities committed by Tigrayan forces in Amhara and
26 Afar including reports of summary executions.
- 27 F. The highly concerning reports of mass detention of Tigrayans, by the
28 Ethiopian government, on the basis of their ethnicity.
- 29 G. The refusal of all parties to the conflict to seriously engage with
30 attempts, including those of the African Union and former Nigerian
31 president Olusegun Obasanjo to negotiate a ceasefire.
- 32 H. The serious danger of the potential spread of ethnic violence
33 spreading to and including areas of Sudan and Eritrea.
- 34 I. That the UK's influence in the Horn of Africa, and therefore our
35 ability as an actor making the case for a diplomatic solution, has
36 been hampered by our exit from the European Union and the
37 Government's decision to abandon the international development
38 target of 0.7% of GNI.
- 39 J. The planned Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)
40 cut to Official Development Assistance (ODA) in Ethiopia, from £241m
41 in 2020-21 to £108m in 2021-22.
- 42 Conference reaffirms the fundamental liberal principles of equality,
43 human rights, peace, democracy and the rule of international law.
- 44 Conference therefore calls upon the UK Government to:
- 45 1. Redouble efforts to pursue a ceasefire in Ethiopia.
- 46 2. Work with permanent members of the UN Security Council, and other
47 international partners such as the African Union to:

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- 48 a) Push for negotiations to reach a sustainable peace.
49 b) Secure humanitarian access.
50 c) Investigate human rights abuses and war crimes.
- 51 3. Use Magnitsky sanctions against those who are perpetrating violence
52 or preventing humanitarian aid for getting to those who need it.
- 53 4. Work closely with neighbouring countries in an effort to prevent spill
54 over of ethnic violence to the wider region.
- 55 5. Urge all parties to provide safe passage to those fleeing the conflict
56 and to create humanitarian corridors.
- 57 6. Restore the 0.7% of GNI target for international development
58 spending including:
- 59 a) Urgently increasing funding for humanitarian relief, via
60 independent agencies, in Ethiopia in 2022/23.
61 b) Providing Official Development Assistance (ODA) support for
62 Ethiopian and Tigrayan refugees.
- 63 7. Prioritise the eradication of sexual violence in conflict, including by
64 increasing ODA funding for such initiatives.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 28 February; see page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Saturday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 11.00 Friday 11 March; see page 7.

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14.45 Question and answer session

Chair: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Aide: Belinda Brooks-Gordon.

F18 Sir Ed Davey MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Members may put questions on any topic to the Leader of the Liberal Democrats. Concise questions (maximum 25 words) may be submitted via the website until 17.00 on Friday 11 March or using the conference chat whilst the session is in progress. See Page 9.

15.50 Party business

Chair: Chris Maines. Aides: Cllr Joe Otten and Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC).

F19 Party Awards

The Leader's Award

Awarded to those who have shown exemplary leadership skills while working or volunteering for the Party.

The Bertha Bowness Fischer Award

Awarded to a new member of the Party (less than two years) who has shown outstanding energy and/or ingenuity in supporting their new-found political home.

The Albert Ingham Award

Awarded to those agents or campaigners whose most recent campaign, through its excellence, fastidiousness, tenacity or novelty has been a model for others to follow.

The Laura Grimond Award

The winner of this award will have shown exceptional commitment to their duties within the Party, going above and beyond to advance the cause. This award particularly aims to recognise the unsung work which enables our front-line campaigns to steal the show.

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F20 Revised Election Regulations

Federal Board

Mover: Duncan Brack.

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

Conference resolves to replace entirely "COMMITTEE ELECTION REGULATIONS", "LEADERSHIP ELECTION REGULATIONS" and "PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT (RESPONSIBLE FOR WORKING WITH ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES) ELECTION REGULATIONS" with the following:

Election Regulations

Common provisions for all elections

1. These regulations set out procedures for the election by all members of the federal party of the Leader, President, Vice President responsible for working with ethnic minority communities, and federal committee posts which are filled by ballots of all party members; and where a decision has been taken to use them for other elections. Paragraphs 2-25 apply to all such elections; subsequent sections apply as identified to specific individual elections.

Organisation of elections

2. The Federal Board shall appoint a Returning Officer to oversee all party elections conducted under these election regulations for a period of three years, or until their resignation, incapacity or death if any of these occur sooner. The Returning Officer shall be responsible for the efficient and timely conduct of these elections. The appointment shall be made at least three months before the Returning Officer's term of office begins.
3. The Chief Executive shall be the Deputy Returning Officer. The Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer may jointly appoint Deputy Acting Returning Officers from party members or staff with relevant experience.
4. The Returning Officer may delegate any of the responsibilities set out in these regulations to the Deputy Returning Officer or any Deputy Acting Returning Officer. In any cases of dispute within the Returning Officer team, the decision of the Returning Officer shall be final.
5. The Returning Officer shall ensure that comprehensive written guides and procedures for the use of the Returning Officer team, candidates and voters, are in place for each election at least one month before the opening

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of nominations in an election. These shall not, thereafter, be amended without good cause.

Timetables

6. The Federal Board shall agree and publicise a timetable for each election, including the publication of the notice of elections, the deadlines to be used for the opening and closing of nominations, submission of candidates' manifestos, despatch and return of ballot papers, and the date for the counting of votes. Once publicised, these shall not, thereafter, be amended without good cause.
 - a. For elections for the Leader, the Federal Board shall agree and publicise the timetable as soon as possible after the vacancy or impending vacancy is announced; and
 - b. For all other elections conducted under these regulations, the Federal Board shall where practicable agree and publicise the timetable no later than the spring conference before the elections are due.
7. Once the timetable for any election has been announced but before the opening of nominations, the Federal Board may postpone the election if the timetable conflicts with a general election or a referendum covering England, Scotland, Wales or any combination thereof, or any other situation, such as a public health crisis, that in the Board's view would unduly hinder the conduct of the election.
8. After the opening of nominations for any election, the Returning Officer may postpone or suspend the election if it would conflict with a general election or a referendum covering England, Scotland, Wales or any combination thereof, or any civil or public health emergency, that in the Returning Officer's view would unduly hinder the conduct of the election. If any votes have been cast, the Returning Officer has the power to cancel them and restart the election as soon as the Returning Officer considers practicable.

Conduct of elections

9. The electorate for the purpose of these elections shall be those members with paid-up membership of the Liberal Democrats on the closing date for nominations. Members who, at the closing date for nominations, are in the grace period following their membership subscription due date can be added to the electorate if they renew their membership at least three days prior to the close of voting.
10. All elections will be conducted electronically; this includes the submission

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of nominations, display of candidates' manifestos and casting of votes. The online voting system shall prompt voters to look at candidates' manifestos prior to voting and provide for the randomisation of the names on the ballot paper.

11. The Returning Officer shall make provision for voters who cannot vote electronically to vote by post upon a request in writing. Any such request shall only be valid for the specific election(s) being conducted at the time of the request.
12. Any official party publication whether in paper or electronic form shall give, as far as possible, equal coverage and a fair balance to all candidates. Coverage of activity by any candidate that is not related to the election may continue in a normal way.
13. Federal Party employees shall maintain strict neutrality from the opening date for declaration of candidacy. It is recommended that employees of state parties, Affiliated Organisations and any other relevant employing bodies shall also maintain such neutrality.
14. Party Officers, acting in their capacity as officers at federal, state, regional and local level, are expected, as far as possible, to give equal opportunities and fair balance to all candidates.

Manifestos and publicity material

15. Each candidate shall be entitled to a personal manifesto to be displayed electronically, in a format to be determined by the Returning Officer. Each candidate shall be responsible for verifying, to the satisfaction of the Returning Officer, any statement in their manifesto claiming that they are endorsed by any individual or organisation. Such material must accompany the candidate's manifesto.
16. In addition to candidates' manifestos, the Returning Officer may decide to require each candidate to provide answers to common questions about their suitability for the position(s) for which they are standing. The Returning Officer shall draw up these questions in consultation with relevant party staff, party officers or officers of federal committees.
17. No material published or circulated by or on behalf of a candidate shall defame by name or implication any other candidate and no candidate shall so defame any other candidate in the course of personal canvassing.

Counting of elections

18. All contested elections shall be conducted by secret ballot and the single

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transferable vote. Counts shall be conducted in accordance with the current edition of the Electoral Reform Society's publication How to Conduct an Election by the Single Transferable Vote, subject to the application of paragraph 53 below for federal committee elections.

19. The Returning Officer shall have the power to make rulings to facilitate the completion of the count.

Interpretation, complaints and appeals

20. In interpreting and applying these regulations, and in any case where the regulations are silent, the Returning Officer shall have the power to make all necessary decisions concerning the conduct of these elections, following the aims and principles of public election law.
21. The Returning Officer shall have the power to disqualify before declaration of the result, or unseat if declared elected any candidate who:
 - a. has brought the party into disrepute during the campaign or where the Returning Officer has clear evidence of this happening in the near future; or
 - b. is found to be in breach of any of these regulations,
 - c. but shall not exercise such power without first offering any such candidate the right to make representation, and having regard thereto.
22. Any party member may lodge, in writing in a format prescribed by the Returning Officer, a formal complaint of infringement of election regulations upon becoming aware of any alleged infringement and not more than 7 days after the declaration. The written complaint should be addressed to the Returning Officer and specify in detail the nature of the infringement. The Returning Officer shall then decide, in full consultation with the Returning Officer team, whether there is sufficient evidence and grounds to uphold the complaint, but shall not do so without offering any candidate concerned the right to make representations, and having regard thereto. Any party member who makes repeated and vexatious complaints may be referred to the party's disciplinary system.
23. If a complaint is made prior to the declaration of the result, the Returning Officer shall have the power to postpone such declaration until the determination of such complaint or, where an appeal is made against their decision, until the determination of such appeal. The Returning Officer shall have the discretion to use this power to suspend individual candidates from serving on any position they are elected to while any such complaint is investigated and/or subject to appeal.
24. Appeals against decisions of the Returning Officer must be referred to the

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Federal Appeals Panel within 14 days of the decision.

Review

25. The relevant sections of these regulations will be reviewed by the Federal Board based on a report from the Returning Officer no later than six months after the completion of any election. The report must include a report on any diversity measures taken as a result of any requirement under the federal constitution, potential data protection breaches and any changes or clarifications required by rulings made by the Returning Officer or the Federal Appeals Panel.

Common provisions for leadership, presidential and vice presidential elections

26. The provisions set out in paragraphs 27–42 are common to the elections for the Leader, President and Vice President responsible for working with ethnic minority communities, except where otherwise specified.

Leadership, presidential and vice presidential elections: timetables

27. The timetable for the election shall be no shorter than 7 weeks and no longer than 13 weeks.

Leadership, presidential and vice presidential elections: nominations

28. A candidate for office of Leader of the Liberal Democrats must be a Member of the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons, and must be nominated by not less than 10 percent of other members of the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons, not including the candidate themselves, supported by not less than 200 party members in aggregate in not less than 20 Local Parties.
29. A candidate for the office of President must be a member of the Liberal Democrats and must be nominated by not less than 200 party members in not less than 20 Local Parties.
30. A candidate for the office of Vice President responsible for working with ethnic minority communities must be a member of the Liberal Democrats and must be nominated by any Local Party, any Regional Party, any State Party, any Affiliated Organisation, or any 10 party members.
31. Local parties include, for the purposes of paragraphs 28–30, the Affiliated Organisation or Organisations representing youth and/or students.
32. Nominations must be accompanied by the written consent of the candidate.

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33. A nominator may not nominate more than one candidate for any one position.
34. After acquiring the necessary nominations for candidacy, each candidate may nominate an agent for their campaign. A candidate who fails to nominate an agent will be deemed their own agent.

Leadership, presidential and vice presidential elections: manifestos and publicity material

35. All publicity material produced in paper or electronic form for or on behalf of a candidate shall bear their agent's imprint, including a full postal address.
36. Any email messages sent out for or on behalf of a candidate for the purposes of publicising their candidacy shall also include a standard form of words provided by the Returning Officer specifying how the recipient of the message may opt out of future messages.

Leadership, presidential and vice presidential elections: conduct of election

37. The sections of the membership register containing the names, addresses and telephone numbers of members will be released in electronic version to each candidate subject to the candidate signing a data protection statement agreeing to abide by the party's data protection policies and providing evidence to the Returning Officer's satisfaction that they are able to ensure compliance with them. Any candidate or supporter of a candidate facilitating a breach of this clause will be deemed to be in breach of the party's data protection policies. Candidates should also have due regard to their own data protection responsibilities when collecting and using any data of their own in the election.
38. The Returning Officer shall coordinate arrangements for official party member hustings events with a view to balancing the competing demands for media coverage of the campaign, parliamentary and other duties and the desirability of party members to have a chance to attend or watch a hustings. Any of the official hustings may take place partly or wholly online. Other party bodies may only hold hustings-type events if they invite all candidates to attend, but they do not require the agreement of all candidates to attend or send a representative in order to proceed. Events designated as official hustings by the Returning Officer shall take precedence over any other arrangements a candidate may have made.
39. Official party communications channels may only be used to promote hustings designated as official hustings by the Returning Officer.

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Responsibility for organising and paying for any hustings event shall lie with the hosting organisation, but the Returning Officer will publicise in good time official hustings events via the party's website, social media channels and email communications.

40. Treating is not allowed but the reasonable provision of food and drink to campaign helpers or event attendees is permissible.

Leadership, presidential and vice presidential elections: expenses

41. For the elections for the Leader, President and Vice President of the Liberal Democrats:
- a. The Federal Board shall set a spending limit for election expenses, not including travel or subsistence, for each candidate, when they set the timetable for the election. No candidate, or their agent, shall exceed this limit in the production of publicity material and all other expenditures connected with the campaign. This shall include any expenditure (or the relevant proportion of any expenditure) incurred before an individual becomes a candidate if the property, services or facilities are used for the purposes of the candidate's election. All donations above £500 must comply with the provisions of Schedule 7 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.
 - b. Each candidate and their agent shall complete and lodge with the Returning Officer an election expenses return form. The form must have attached receipts or invoices for all expenditure and must be lodged with the Returning Officer by midday on the 35th day after the declaration of the election result. The Returning Officer will hold the expenses returns of each candidate on file and these may be examined by any party member. The expenses form shall also contain the necessary information to prove compliance with schedule 7 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.
 - c. Any candidate who needs to make a report to the Electoral Commission shall do so in consultation with the Party's Compliance Department in order to ensure they meet the statutory deadlines.

Leadership, presidential and vice presidential elections: election count

42. The election count may be scrutinised by the candidate, their agents and one other personal representative and shall be open to any party member, subject to the capacity of the venue and at least 48 hours notification to the Returning Officer.

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Committee elections

43. The provisions set out in paragraphs 44–53 shall apply to elections which are to be conducted under these election regulations for federal committee posts which are filled by ballots of all party members or where a decision has been taken to use them for other elections.

Committee elections: nominations

44. A candidate for membership of a federal committee must be a member of the Liberal Democrats and must be nominated by any Local Party, any Regional Party, any State Party, any Affiliated Organisation (including the Affiliated Organisation or Organisations representing youth and/or students) or any 10 party members.
45. Nominations must be accompanied by the written consent of the candidate. In order to be covered by one of the minimum representation requirements under Articles 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7 of the constitution, a candidate must submit information with their nomination paper as to which of the protected characteristics apply to themselves.

Committee elections: manifestos

46. In addition to candidates' personal manifestos and answers to any questions (see paragraphs 15–17), the Returning Officer shall ensure that a committee meeting attendance list, in a common format, is published. The list shall also include a report of the consecutive number of years each candidate has served on that committee, regardless of the route by which they have become a member of the committee.
47. The Returning Officer shall ensure that candidates' manifestos and answers to questions, and the committee attendance lists, shall be available to view online at least seven days before voting opens.

Committee elections: conduct of election

48. No candidate may incur, or directly or indirectly authorise or cause to be incurred any expenses on campaigning at any time before or after the close of nominations. Candidates must not carry out any activities during the election period which may be viewed as treating.
49. The names and addresses of party members are confidential and shall not be released for the purposes of the election. Any candidate or supporter of a candidate facilitating a breach of this clause will be deemed to be in

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breach of the party's data protection policy. Candidates should have due regard to their data protection responsibilities when collecting and using any data of their own in the election.

50. No official party publication whether in paper or electronic form may accept advertisements in support of or in opposition to candidates.

Committee elections: counting

51. The committees shall be counted in the order they are listed in the constitution. Once a candidate has been elected to a committee, if Article 8.3 of the constitution concerning candidates being elected for more than one committee applies, they will be withdrawn from all subsequent elections for which they were nominated.
52. If the specified proportions of candidates with protected characteristics in Articles 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7 of the constitution are not elected by the operation of the above rules, the Returning Officer shall conduct such further counts as they consider necessary and declare elected those members of the under-represented characteristics and declare not elected those members of the over-represented characteristics who would or would not have been elected to committees with such larger and smaller numbers of members as would cause the correct number of that characteristic to be elected.
53. Casual vacancies occurring shall be filled by recounting the original ballot papers in the election, passing over any preferences for any candidate causing a vacancy. If necessary, further counts shall be conducted using the principles set out in paragraph 53 to ensure that all candidates originally elected so remain and that the specified proportions of protected characteristics are maintained.

Committee elections: principal councillor representatives on Federal Board and Federal Policy Committee

54. The regulations set out in paragraphs 2–25 and 44–53 shall apply to elections for the principal councillor representatives on the Federal Board and the Federal Policy Committee, with the following exceptions:
- a. The electorate is members of the Liberal Democrats who are also councillors on principal local authorities, directly elected Mayors or Police and Crime Commissioners; and
 - b. Candidates for any such position must be a member of the Liberal Democrats and a councillor on a principal local authority, directly elected Mayor or Police and Crime Commissioner, and must be

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nominated by any other two principal councillors, directly elected Mayors or Police and Crime Commissioners with valid membership of the party.

Other elections: Liberal Democrat members of the council of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE)

55. Following the resolution of the federal conference, the regulations set out in paragraphs 2–25 and 45–53 shall apply to elections for the Liberal Democrat members of the Council of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) with the following exceptions:
- a. The requirements for the elections of the minimum proportions of candidates with protected characteristics in Articles 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7 of the constitution are replaced by the requirement that those elected shall include a minimum of one person from each state party and one person under the age of 26 at the time of the election.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card.

The Federal Board is empowered by Article 9.6C of the Constitution to make and from time to time vary rules as to party elections, after appropriate consultations and subject to ratification by conference. This motion is therefore not open to amendments or separate votes.

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16.20 Auditorium break

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

18.45 Policy motion

Chair: Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC). Aides: Paul McGarry and Carl Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC).

F21 Fixing the Ambulance Crisis

13 members

Mover: Helen Morgan MP.

Summation: Dan Widdon.

- 1 Conference notes with concern that:
 - 2 i) All of England's ambulance services declared that they were at
 - 3 their highest level of alert, REAP level 4 this winter, meaning that
 - 4 ambulance services have been under "extreme pressure".
 - 5 ii) Average Ambulance response times in October 2021 were at their
 - 6 longest since records began in 2017.
 - 7 iii) The Care Quality Commission's (CQC) State of Care 2020/21 report
 - 8 gave a stark warning that overstretched ambulance services are
 - 9 putting patients at risk.
 - 10 iv) The Association of Ambulance Chief Executives found that 160,000
 - 11 people a year are coming to harm, of whom 12,000 have experienced
 - 12 'severe harm', because of the issues impacting ambulances.
 - 13 v) The Royal College of Emergency Medicine described the system
 - 14 overall as being under "intolerable pressure".
 - 15 vi) The Government has made no assessment of the potential impact
 - 16 that closures of community ambulance stations have in rural areas.
- 17 Conference believes that:
 - 18 a) Longer waiting times for ambulances have a severe knock-on effect
 - 19 on people's health, especially in emergency cases.
 - 20 b) A well-functioning ambulance service is not only vital for
 - 21 emergencies, so that those who need immediate attention get life-

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- 22 saving care, it is also key to the operations of the wider health and
23 social care system.
- 24 c) The Government has failed to act on warnings that ambulance
25 services are struggling to maintain a safe and timely service.
- 26 d) Ambulance staff are working flat out to keep us safe and healthy.
- 27 e) Fully staffed health and care services are key to reducing waiting
28 times and ensuring safety.
- 29 f) Everyone should be confident that when they ring 999 they will get
30 the emergency treatment they need, when they need it.

31 Conference calls for:

- 32 1. The Secretary of State for Health and Social care to commission the
33 CQC, under powers laid out in Section 48 of the Health and Social
34 Care Act 2008 to carry out any review to conduct an investigation into
35 the causes and impacts of ambulance service delays.
- 36 2. Daisy Cooper MP's Ambulance Waiting Times Bill to be passed into
37 law requiring accessible, localised reports of ambulance response
38 times to be published.
- 39 3. Emergency funding to be made available to ambulance trusts to
40 reverse closures of community ambulance stations and cancel
41 planned closures where desirable.
- 42 4. A campaign to retain, recruit and train paramedics and other
43 ambulance staff.

Applicability: England only.

Mover: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 28 February; see page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Saturday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 11.00 Friday 11 March; see page 7.

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19.20 Policy motion

Chair: Duncan Brack. Aides: John Bridges and Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC).

F22 Back British Farmers*10 members*

Mover: Tim Farron MP (Spokesperson for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs).

Summation: Helen Morgan MP.

- 1 Conference affirms the importance of free trade, as a tool for cooperation,
- 2 for building closer ties with other countries, and for creating shared
- 3 prosperity, but that such trade must be fair as well as free.

- 4 Conference notes that in October 2021 the UK Government agreed in
- 5 principle a trade deal with New Zealand, and in December 2021 the UK
- 6 Government finalised a trade deal with Australia.

- 7 Conference believes that both deals sell UK farmers and consumers
- 8 down the river, allowing food produced with lower animal welfare and
- 9 environmental standards to be sold in British supermarkets, for little
- 10 economic benefit.

- 11 Conference is particularly concerned by the significant impact of the
- 12 trade deals on the farming sector due to the prospect of imported food
- 13 produced to lower standards of animal welfare and environmental
- 14 protection, and notes that:
 - 15 A. Australian farming methods include growth hormones, antibiotics
 - 16 and pesticides that are banned in the UK, as well as cruel animal
 - 17 welfare practises including mutilating the rear end of sheep to avoid
 - 18 the concentration of flies, and washing chicken with chlorine.
 - 19 B. The Government's own impact assessment highlights the "adjustment
 - 20 costs" facing the agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors of close to
 - 21 £100 million, and states the "potential for the deal to result in lower
 - 22 output from some agricultural sectors".
 - 23 C. Voices have been raised across the sector as to the detrimental
 - 24 impact of both trade deals, including by the NFU which warned of an
 - 25 "un-level playing field".

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- 26 D. These changes come at a time when farmers are facing considerable
27 financial uncertainty due to the Government's poor handling of the
28 transition to the Environmental Land Management Scheme, with
29 many farmers facing reductions in their income now despite the new
30 scheme not being ready until 2028.
- 31 Conference is further concerned by the failure of the Australia trade
32 deal to reference explicitly the commitment to limit global heating to 1.5
33 degrees as set out in the Paris Agreement.
- 34 Conference notes with concern that the potential economic benefits of
35 such deals for the UK are small, with the Australia trade deal forecast to
36 increase the size of the UK economy by just 0.08% over a 13-year period (a
37 figure which is most likely an exaggeration of the potential impact).
- 38 Conference is highly concerned by the precedent that these agreements,
39 which are the first post-Brexit deal negotiated from scratch, might set for
40 future trade deals, particularly in regards to the agricultural sector given
41 the access to the UK market which the Conservative Government has
42 allowed.
- 43 Conference therefore calls upon the UK Government to:
- 44 1. Reopen the terms of the Australia trade deal, to:
- 45 a) Prevent low-quality, low-cost Australian agricultural products
46 from undercutting British standards and the UK's agricultural
47 industry.
- 48 b) Insert explicit language on climate change commitments,
49 including references to our obligations to limit global heating to
50 1.5 degrees.
- 51 2. Delay the final agreement of the New Zealand trade deal, until
52 concerns about the undermining of the UK's animal welfare practice
53 have been resolved.
- 54 3. Publish official impact assessments on the effect of the Australia and
55 New Zealand deal on the agricultural sector, and commit to doing so
56 for future trade deals.

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- 57 4. Introduce legislation to ensure that future trade deals and imported
58 food does not undermine the UK's animal welfare and environmental
59 standards.
- 60 5. Improve the ability of Parliament to scrutinise trade deals, including
61 by giving Parliament a meaningful vote on any deals and future
62 negotiating mandates.
- 63 6. End the phase-out of current farm payments until the new ELMs
64 scheme is fully ready.

Applicability: Federal; except D. (lines 26–30) and 6. (lines 63–64), which are England only.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 28 February; see page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Saturday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 11.00 Friday 11 March; see page 7.

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F23

20.05 Policy motion

Chair: Jennie Rigg. Aides: Bex Scott and Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC).

F23 Swift Justice for Victims and Offenders*12 members*

Mover: Wera Hobhouse MP (Spokesperson for Justice and Women & Equalities).

Summation: Lord Marks (Lords Spokesperson for Justice).

- 1 Conference notes with concern that:
 - 2 A. The backlog of outstanding criminal cases in the Crown Court has
 - 3 risen to 59,928, 13,202 of which are more than a year old.
 - 4 B. Although the backlog has been exacerbated by Covid, it already stood
 - 5 at 41,015 cases in March 2020, having grown by 23% in the year
 - 6 before the pandemic when the Government cut the number of court
 - 7 sitting days.
 - 8 C. A Crown Court case now takes an average of 23 months from offence
 - 9 to completion.
 - 10 D. Long delays can lead to victims and witnesses withdrawing, making it
 - 11 more likely that the case collapses.
 - 12 E. Court backlogs have increased the number of people being held
 - 13 in prison on remand by 48% since 2018, to 12,990 at the end of
 - 14 September 2021.
 - 15 F. The independent Chief Inspectors of Constabulary, the Crown
 - 16 Prosecution Service, Prisons, and Probation have identified the
 - 17 “unprecedented and very serious court backlogs” as “the greatest
 - 18 threat to the proper operation of the criminal justice system”.
 - 19 G. The criminal justice system is facing a workforce crisis: the number
 - 20 of full-practice criminal barristers fell by 11% between 2016-17 and
 - 21 2019-20, the permanent courts staff has shrunk by 10% since 2015,
 - 22 and the Government is failing to recruit enough judges.
 - 23 H. The National Audit Office has highlighted the lack of shared objectives
 - 24 across the criminal justice system and long-standing data limitations
 - 25 as key risks to the recovery of the criminal courts.
 - 26 I. 72 ‘Nightingale’ courtrooms were opened between July 2020 and
 - 27 July 2021 to increase capacity, 38 of them serving the Crown Court,
 - 28 but the Chancellor has refused to fund the 33 extra Nightingale

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- 29 courtrooms requested by the Ministry of Justice.
- 30 J. Suggestions for tackling the backlog have included removing the right
31 to a jury trial in certain cases and reducing the number of jurors.
- 32 K. The Government aims to reduce the Crown Court backlog to 53,000
33 by March 2025, which would still leave it 59% larger than at the end of
34 2018.

35 Conference believes that:

- 36 I. Justice delayed is justice denied.
- 37 II. The Conservative Government's failure to get to grips with the backlog
38 in the criminal courts is letting down victims and their families,
39 witnesses, and defendants.
- 40 III. These long delays undermine public confidence in the criminal justice
41 system and allow too many criminals to get away with it.
- 42 IV. Police officers, court staff, judges and lawyers have worked tirelessly
43 to keep our criminal justice system going through the Covid
44 pandemic, but they have been let down by the Government's failure
45 to provide adequate support and resources.
- 46 V. Trial by jury has been a fundamental part of the British justice system
47 for more than 800 years, and is integral to upholding an individual's
48 right to a fair trial.

49 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitments to:

- 50 a) Restore community court buildings where still available, and invest in
51 new user-friendly premises where required and justified.
- 52 b) Reduce the number of people in prison on remand.
- 53 c) Make the legal aid system simpler and more generous for both
54 criminal and civil cases, with everyone in receipt of means-tested
55 benefits automatically eligible.
- 56 d) Establish a new right to affordable, reasonable legal assistance with a
57 new, independent Justice Commission to monitor and enforce it.

58 Conference further calls on the Government to:

- 59 1. Set a clear target of halving the time from offence to sentencing for
60 all criminals, and implement a properly funded strategy across the
61 criminal justice system to achieve it.

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- 62 2. Fund the extra Nightingale courtrooms needed to increase capacity
63 and tackle the backlog.
- 64 3. Reject any proposals to weaken the right to trial by jury.
- 65 4. Provide extra funding for victims' services, to ensure all victims get the
66 support they need.
- 67 5. Implement a new data strategy across the criminal justice system to
68 ensure that capacity meets demand, and to understand the needs of
69 all users, especially victims, vulnerable people and those from ethnic
70 minority backgrounds.
- 71 6. Work with the Bar Council and the Criminal Bar Association to
72 develop a workforce strategy to ensure there are enough criminal
73 barristers, including a significant increase in funding for the
74 Advocates' Graduated Fee Scheme.

Applicability: England and Wales.

Mover: 5 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 3 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card.

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The deadline for requests for separate votes is 11.00 Friday 11 March; see page 7.

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F24

20.35 Policy motion

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

F24 Democracy and Public Debate*Federal Policy Committee*

Mover: Dr Christine Cheng.

Summation: Martin Dickson (Chair of the Policy Working Group).

- 1 Conference notes the importance of high-quality public debate:
- 2 I. In enriching democracy, delivering better political, social and
- 3 economic outcomes for all.
- 4 II. In delivering the Liberal Democrats' aim of safeguarding a fair, free
- 5 and open society in which no one shall be enslaved by poverty,
- 6 ignorance or conformity.
- 7 Conference believes that:
- 8 i) The current state of public debate is damaging to our democracy with
- 9 growing political polarisation, hostility and misinformation alongside
- 10 declining trust in politics.
- 11 ii) Whilst online communications have been positive for society overall,
- 12 they have helped facilitate these changes, by providing a platform for
- 13 them to spread.
- 14 iii) Addressing the global challenges to public debate will require an
- 15 international effort.
- 16 Conference calls for concerted reform of human rights law, education,
- 17 digital and media regulation, and our electoral processes in order to:
- 18 A. Enhance the quality of public debate.
- 19 B. Ameliorate the impact of misinformation.
- 20 C. Safeguard democracy, both at home and abroad.
- 21 Conference therefore endorses policy paper 145, *Democracy and Public*
- 22 *Debate*, and in particular its proposals to:

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- 23 1. Uphold our rights online by passing a Digital Bill of Rights, comparable
24 in scope to the Human Rights Act for the online age, which will be
25 upheld by a new regulator and a new specialist court. The rights will
26 include:
- 27 a) The right to knowledge, including education, about the online
28 world in its complexities.
- 29 b) The right to participate in debate online, on clear and just terms.
- 30 c) The right to access the internet, through Citizens' Wifi in the
31 public realm.
- 32 d) The right to privacy online, including appropriate anonymity.
- 33 e) The right to the ownership and control of our personal data.
- 34 f) The right to free expression and participation online without
35 being subjected to harassment and abuse.
- 36 2. End the 'regulatory wild west' of social media by:
- 37 a) Splitting Ofcom into two regulators – The Communications
38 Standards Authority and the Office for Communications
39 Infrastructure, with a new Communications Court to provide
40 judicial oversight.
- 41 b) Giving the Communications Standards Authority powers that will
42 cover:
- 43 i) Ofcom's existing powers in respect to broadcast media.
- 44 ii) Regulating all online platforms in their observance of the
45 Digital Bill of Rights and compliance with a statutory duty
46 of care to secure the safety of their users and redress the
47 imbalance of power between platforms and their individual
48 users.
- 49 iii) Auditing very large social media platform's governance
50 procedures, data privacy policies, content moderation policies
51 and deplatforming rules, which will include ensuring large
52 platforms have robust processes in place to provide that
53 users are treated fairly, prevent the dissemination of illegal or
54 legally specified harmful content, and to protect the privacy
55 of individuals and their ability to modify content ranking
56 mechanisms.
- 57 iv) Monitoring very large social media platforms' activity in

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- 58 responding to infringement of online harms legislation,
59 including the power to require social media companies to
60 exercise a full range of sanctions exercised proportionately,
61 depending of the seriousness and persistence of the abuse
62 or harm suffered, including deletion of content, restrictions
63 on sharing, affixing warnings against content, and temporary
64 or permanent suspension of membership while enforcing a
65 robust complaints systems for individuals and groups who
66 feel their rights have been violated.
- 67 v) Administering a mandatory 'UK kitemark' scheme for all very
68 large social media platforms that want to operate in the UK.
- 69 vi) Overseeing the content of life-long digital learning materials
70 and online transparency.
- 71 vii) Monitoring the digital world for emerging threats and
72 publicising these.
- 73 c) Giving the Office for Communications Infrastructure powers that
74 will cover communications infrastructure, such as broadband
75 infrastructure, mobile networks, spectrum licensing and
76 regulation, and the Post Office's universal delivery requirement.
- 77 d) Introducing a levy on large social media companies, to fund
78 policies to combat societal harms stemming from the misuse of
79 online platforms.
- 80 3. Improve the quality of our traditional media by:
- 81 a) Enacting the recommendations of the Leveson Inquiry and
82 commissioning the Leveson 2 Inquiry into press and police
83 relations.
- 84 b) Requiring social media platforms to pay news providers for their
85 content, in a manner similar to EU regulations.
- 86 c) Providing financial support for local journalism and fact checking
87 websites, funded through a levy on very large social media
88 companies.
- 89 d) Applying the same rules to online news outlets as print ones.
- 90 e) Reviewing copyright laws to see if they are fit for purpose in the
91 digital age.

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- 92 4. Enhance our education system by:
- 93 a) Reforming parts of the school curriculum in England to make
94 critical thinking and media studies part of the core curriculum,
95 modelled on Finland's reforms.
- 96 b) Introducing lifelong learning for every individual in England
97 about the digital public square and how to navigate it, with adult
98 education receiving priority.
- 99 c) Introducing public awareness campaigns about emerging threats
100 and misinformation campaigns online.
- 101 5. Increase competition and reduce the concentration of power in the
102 social media market by:
- 103 a) Reviewing and re-negotiating the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation
104 Agreement, with a view to closer cooperation and regulatory
105 alignment.
- 106 b) Proactively working with the U.S. authorities to find a common
107 position for global issues.
- 108 c) Enhancing the powers of the Digital Markets Unit within the
109 Competition and Markets Authority to implement both ex-ante
110 regulation and ex-post competition law.
- 111 d) Passing legislation to further facilitate data portability, network
112 interoperability and transparency in social networks, including
113 standard file formats for moving data.
- 114 6. Ensure higher quality elections and safeguard democracy at home
115 and abroad by:
- 116 a) Enhancing transparency in our elections, through accessible
117 information on party manifestos, spending and social media
118 adverts.
- 119 b) Revising and clarifying the powers of the Electoral Commission
120 and police, to ensure fairness in our democratic processes and
121 issue meaningful sanctions when the rules are broken.
- 122 c) Pushing for a global convention or treaty to combat
123 disinformation and electoral interference, supplemented by an
124 annual conference and Global Counter-Disinformation Fund, to
125 safeguard and promote democracy at home as well as abroad.

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Applicability: Federal; except 4. (lines 92–100), which is England only.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 28 February; see page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Saturday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 11.00 Friday 11 March; see page 7.

21.15 Close of session

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F25

09.30 Emergency motions or topical issue discussions

F25 Emergency motions or topical issue discussions

Chair: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC). Aides: James Gurling and Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC).

This slot has been reserved for the debate of emergency motions and / or discussion of topical issues. The deadline for emergency motions and for suggestions for topical issues is 13.00 on 28 February. See pages 8 and 10.

The motions selected for debate or the motions proposed for the ballot will be published in the Conference Extra and Friday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.

Emergency motion timing – mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

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

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card.

Sunday 13 March

F26

10.50 Party Business

Chair: Jennie Rigg. Aides: Matt McLaren and Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC).

F26 Reports of the Parliamentary Parties

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

See notes to F28.

11.20 Party Business

Chair: Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC). Aides: Jennie Rigg and Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC).

F27 Federal Board Report: questions and accountability

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

The Federal Board report is the chance for party members to hear how the party is being run and what is being done to implement the election review, and to put questions direct to the Party President. The Board report is in the Reports to Conference booklet and includes a report to conference on the complaints process rules made under Article 23.3 of the Federal Constitution.

See notes to F28.

F28 Campaign for Gender Balance Report: questions and accountability

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

The deadline for questions for F26, F27 and F28 is 13.00 on 28 February. Questions selected will be published in the Conference Extra and Sunday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda. These questions will be guaranteed an answer, either in the session or in writing thereafter.

Questions may also be submitted online until 17.00 on Saturday 12 March, or through the chat function in Hopin during the session, but they will only be called if time allows and at the discretion of the chair of the session.

See page 9 for further information.

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F29

11.50 Speech

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

**F29 Sir Ed Davey MP,
Leader of the Liberal Democrats**

@EdwardJDavey, #LDConf

13.00 Auditorium break

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

14.15 Policy motion

Chair: James Gurling. Aides: Jennie Rigg and Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC).

F30 Tackling the Cost-of-Living Crisis*10 members*

Mover: Christine Jardine MP (Spokesperson for the Treasury).

Summation: Sarah Olney MP (Spokesperson for Business).

- 1 Conference believes that:
 - 2 I. Households across the UK, and especially working households, are in
 - 3 the midst of a cost-of-living crisis driven by the continuing economic
 - 4 impact of Covid-19, soaring energy bills, stagnating wages, rising
 - 5 inflation and unfair tax rises.
 - 6 II. The Government must continue to offer targeted support to the most
 - 7 vulnerable households during this crisis.
 - 8 III. The Conservative Government has betrayed people's trust by
 - 9 breaking key manifesto commitments and putting a huge economic
 - 10 burden on the shoulders of working families.
 - 11 IV. The public finances must be managed responsibly, but taxes must be
 - 12 fair and not threaten people's wellbeing.
- 13 Conference notes with concern that:

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- 14 i) The Conservative Government is worsening the cost-of-living crisis by:
- 15 a) Raising National Insurance by 1.25% from April 2022 – breaking
16 its manifesto commitment.
- 17 b) Suspending the Pensions Triple Lock for one year from April 2022
18 – breaking its manifesto commitment.
- 19 c) Freezing the Income Tax Personal Allowance from April 2022 until
20 April 2026 – effectively raising income tax for millions.
- 21 d) Cutting Universal Credit by £1,000 a year and only partially
22 offsetting it through the reduction of the taper rate to 55%.
- 23 ii) Soaring prices – especially energy prices – drove the inflation rate to
24 5.1% in November 2021 – its highest point in 10 years; and the Bank
25 of England forecasts that inflation will reach 6% in April 2022 – a 30-
26 year high.
- 27 iii) The energy price cap reached an all-time record £1,277 in October
28 2021 and is expected to rise by another £600 in April, threatening to
29 leave countless families unable to heat their homes.
- 30 iv) Households are facing the highest tax burden in 70 years, and the
31 typical family will see a hit of £1,200 a year through a combination
32 of Conservative tax rises and soaring energy prices according to the
33 Resolution Foundation.
- 34 v) The typical household will lose £600 a year through a combination of
35 the freeze of income tax thresholds and the National Insurance rise;
36 and for middle-class families in the top 50% of incomes, the NI rise
37 alone will cause a £750 hit on average.
- 38 vi) The Government's 'high wage, high skill' economy is an empty slogan:
- 39 a) Real pay fell in the second half of 2021 due to inflation.
- 40 b) Real wages are set to be £740 a year lower in 2024 compared to
41 where they would have been under pre-pandemic wage growth
42 levels.
- 43 c) Nearly half the minimum wage rise will be clawed back by the
44 Government through the National Insurance rise.

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- 45 vii) The Government's decision to uprate pensions by a mere 3.1% –
46 despite inflation being expected to reach 6% – will cost pensioners up
47 to £270 a year.
- 48 viii) Rising inflation and bank interest rates are pushing up mortgage
49 costs, with the OBR forecasting mortgage interest payments will rise
50 by 14.8% by the middle of 2023 – leading to an estimated £510 a year
51 for the typical mortgage holder.
- 52 ix) Despite the reduction of the Universal Credit taper rate to 55%, the
53 Government's £1,000 cut to UC will leave 3.6 million working families
54 worse off.
- 55 x) Whilst raising taxes on working families and cutting benefits, the
56 Conservative Government cut taxes on big banks and presided over
57 highly questionable uses of public funds, including:
- 58 a) Lowering the Global Minimum Corporation Tax rate from 21%
59 under Joe Biden's plans to 15% – depriving the UK exchequer of
60 £6.8 billion a year.
- 61 b) Cutting the Corporation Tax surcharge on big banks from 8% to
62 3% at a cost of £4 billion over five years.
- 63 c) Wasting £2 billion on unsuitable PPE that couldn't be used.
- 64 d) Spending £3 billion on un-accounted Covid contracts.
- 65 e) Spending £37 billion over two years on a test-and-trace
66 programme with a number of its professed aims "overstated or
67 not achieved", according to the Public Accounts Committee.
- 68 f) Spending £100 million on 'Get Ready for Brexit' advertisements.
- 69 Conference reaffirms Liberal Democrat commitments to:
- 70 A. Insulate all Britain's homes by 2030, cutting emissions and fuel bills,
71 and aim to end fuel poverty by 2025 by providing free energy retrofits
72 for low-income homes.
- 73 B. Put 1p on the basic, higher and additional rates of Income Tax, with
74 the proceeds ring-fenced for the NHS and social care.
- 75 C. Taxing income from capital more fairly compared to income from
76 work by abolishing the separate Capital Gains Tax-free allowance and
77 instead taxing capital gains and salaries through a single allowance.

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- 78 D. Backing President Biden's proposal for a global minimum rate of
79 corporation tax at 21%, and persuade other countries to do the same.
- 80 E. Explore the benefits of a Windfall Tax on the super-profits of large
81 corporations that profited from public health restrictions during the
82 pandemic.
- 83 Conference further calls on the Government to:
- 84 1. Scrap the unfair National Insurance hike which disproportionately
85 impacts low earners.
- 86 2. End the unfair freeze of the Income Tax personal allowance, which is
87 a stealth tax falling disproportionately on low earners.
- 88 3. Protect pensioners from rising prices, including the 1.5 million low-
89 income people on pension credit, by uprating pensions in line with
90 the Bank of England's inflation forecast of 6%.
- 91 4. Reinstate the £1,000 boost to Universal Credit, to ensure that the
92 most vulnerable households get proper support.
- 93 5. Implement the government's proposed permanent £10 increase
94 in the Warm Home Discount to £150 and double it to £300 to help
95 people with soaring gas prices this winter – and extended it to
96 everyone on Pension Credit and Universal Credit.
- 97 6. Double the Winter Fuel Allowance payment paid to all pensioners for
98 this year.
- 99 7. Introduce a year-long windfall tax on the record profits of gas
100 producers and traders, to help fund the doubling of the Warm Home
101 Discount and Winter Fuel Allowance, an emergency home insulation
102 programme, and to support small businesses in energy-intensive
103 industries in order to protect jobs and keep consumer prices low.
- 104 8. Support low-income households on Universal Credit with rising
105 mortgage costs by returning the Support for Mortgage Interest
106 scheme to its pre-2018 format – turning it from an interest-bearing
107 loan to a benefit payment; abolish the zero-earnings rule which
108 excludes from the scheme people with income from work; and reduce
109 the wait time for the first payment from 39 weeks to 13 weeks.
- 110 9. Reverse the 63% cut of the Corporation Tax Banking Surcharge, so
111 that big banks contribute fairly towards the UK's economic recovery
112 from the pandemic after a year of record banking profits.

Applicability: Federal; except A. and B. (lines 70–74), which are England only.

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Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card.

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The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Saturday 12 March; see page 7.

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F31

15.20 Speech

Chair: James Gurling.

F31 Cllr Shaffaq Mohammed MBE, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group on Sheffield City Council



@shaffaqmohd, #LDConf

15.40 Policy motion

Chair: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Aides: John Bridges and Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC).

F32 Criminal Records

Young Liberals

Mover: Thom Champion.

Summation: Alexandra Kimmons.

- 1 Conference notes that:
 - 2 I. There are over 11 million people residing in the United Kingdom who
 - 3 have a criminal record.
 - 4 II. Currently, no criminal record information is deleted, including crimes
 - 5 committed by those under 18.
 - 6 III. Criminal record information remains on both the Disclosure and
 - 7 Barring Service (DBS) system and the Police National Database (PND).
 - 8 IV. Criminal records can negatively affect job prospects, travel, the ability
 - 9 to adopt, the ability to access domestic violence shelters, and many
 - 10 other parts of civil life.
 - 11 V. Liberty, a civil rights organisation, has called for a “flexible system,
 - 12 which considers individual circumstances in cases involving old and
 - 13 minor convictions”.
 - 14 VI. The Lammy Review (2017) concluded “the records disclosure
 - 15 regime hampers people with convictions from starting lives” and
 - 16 recommended “a system which involves looking favourably on
 - 17 those who committed crimes as children or young adults, and can
 - 18 demonstrate that they have changed since their conviction”.

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19 Conference believes that:

- 20 a) Rehabilitation should be central to any system of justice.
- 21 b) Continued retention of information hinders the process of
22 rehabilitation.
- 23 c) Public interest in retention of criminal records must be balanced with
24 the harm done to the individual by the existence and disclosure of
25 such information.
- 26 d) The current policy of holding on to all information does significant
27 harm to individuals whilst, in the vast majority of cases, providing no
28 public benefit.
- 29 e) Disclosure to potential employers of criminal records can be a serious
30 barrier to social mobility and social justice.

31 Conference calls for:

- 32 1. An end to the blanket policy of retention of all criminal records.
- 33 2. No personal information or criminal record to be retained by the
34 police following an absolute discharge.
- 35 3. All criminal cautions, conditional discharges, and associated personal
36 information to be deleted from police databases after six years if no
37 re-offence is committed.
- 38 4. The government to develop guidance for the length of retention of
39 criminal records of sentenced crimes and crimes where re-offences
40 have occurred.
- 41 5. Permanent retention of criminal records to only be permitted for
42 serious crimes and matters of national security.
- 43 6. Length of retention of records for sentenced crimes to be determined
44 by the judiciary at point of sentencing according to this governmental
45 guidance.
- 46 7. A system of removal of records to be provided for all other dealings
47 with the police, including previously tried crimes and alleged criminal
48 activity not resulting in charge, with retention only permitted in cases
49 where the police determine there is a public interest in holding the
50 record.

Applicability: England and Wales.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

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F31

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 28 February; see page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Sunday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Saturday 12 March; see page 7.

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F33

16.20 Auditorium break

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

18.45 Policy motion

Chair: John Bridges. Aides: Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC) and Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC).

F33 Supporting Hospitality, Retail and Leisure in the Face of Omicron

10 members

Mover: Sarah Olney MP (Spokesperson for Business).

Summation: To be announced.

1 Conference believes that:

2 I. Small businesses across a range of sectors continue to be impacted
3 by the uncertainty caused by Covid-19, which has been made worse
4 by the new Omicron variant.

5 I. Supporting business and especially small business during the
6 Covid-19 pandemic is essential for the UK's economic recovery.

7 II. The hospitality, retail and leisure sectors are among the most
8 exposed to the unpredictable effects of the pandemic and require
9 special attention from the Government.

10 III. Hospitality, retail and leisure are sectors of strategic importance,
11 contributing massively to UK jobs and GDP, and forming the core of
12 our local communities.

13 IV. Creating a sense of certainty and security among all businesses and
14 workers during the pandemic requires clear messages and a cohesive
15 strategy from Government.

16 Conference notes with concern that:

17 A. Small businesses are already in a difficult position after a 21-month-
18 long pandemic, with one in three small employers now considering
19 major staff cuts by the middle of 2022.

20 B. The Omicron variant and the Conservative Government's protections

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- 21 damaged consumer confidence, leaving hospitality with a 40% drop in
22 sales over the Christmas period compared to 2019.
- 23 C. This risks longer-term damage to hospitality as the Christmas period
24 is essential for hospitality, accounting for about a quarter of the
25 sector's annual revenue, according to UK Hospitality.
- 26 D. Low consumer confidence and decreased footfall in high streets and
27 town centres had a huge impact on the retail sector, wiping nearly 4%
28 of sales compared to the month before.
- 29 E. Omicron and Plan B have hit businesses in the culture sector during
30 a key trading period, with the Society of Independent Theatres
31 reporting Christmas bookings down by 20% to 50%.
- 32 F. Four in five businesses depending on inbound travel and tourism –
33 such as tour operators, accommodation providers and attractions –
34 reported Christmas cancellations due to new travel restrictions.
- 35 G. Omicron is exacerbating the effects of the ongoing staff shortage
36 crisis, with hospitality businesses reporting mass staff absences due
37 to Covid infections and self-isolation requirements.
- 38 H. The Government didn't reopen the Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme
39 until the end of December, by which time many businesses were
40 already struggling with staff absences; and workers earning less than
41 £120 per week still don't qualify for SSP.
- 42 I. The Government issued conflicting health advice, further damaging
43 consumer confidence; allowed a situation where trading restrictions
44 were effectively in place without any business support; was late in
45 introducing new support; eventually made available just £1bn which
46 fails to match the disruption caused by Omicron and Plan B; and
47 has published no long-term economic plan to create certainty and
48 security.
- 49 J. Government failures opened previous Covid support to significant
50 levels of fraud, with the British Business Bank estimating that 11%
51 of emergency loan applications were fraudulent; and the Treasury
52 writing off £4.3 billion of the £5.8bn of Covid grants though to have
53 been claimed fraudulently or in error.
- 54 Conference reaffirms Liberal Democrat commitments to:
- 55 i) Provide financial assistance to small businesses that experienced loss
56 of revenue due to Coronavirus restrictions on their trading capacity or
57 ability to stay open.

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- 58 ii) Fix the broken Kickstart scheme and develop a strategy to tackle
59 unemployment among young people from a black and ethnic
60 minority background.
- 61 iii) Develop a long-term economic strategy, setting out how the UK will
62 invest in new industries, jobs and training, that will create a fairer,
63 greener, more regionally balanced economy after the pandemic.
- 64 iv) Raising Statutory Sick Pay and expanding it to the two million workers
65 earning less than £120 a week.

66 Conference calls on the Government to:

- 67 a) Reinstatement of the emergency 5% rate of VAT for hospitality,
68 accommodation and attractions, at least through June 2022.
- 69 b) Reintroduce 100% business rates relief for the retail, hospitality and
70 leisure sectors, at least through June 2022.
- 71 c) Urgently dispatch the £1.5bn Business Rates Relief fund for firms that
72 don't qualify for full business rates relief – to support those in the
73 hospitality and retail supply chains that will be indirectly impacted by
74 Omicron.
- 75 d) Consult with businesses in the culture, travel and tourism sectors
76 about the impact of Omicron and Plan B, to determine what further
77 tailored support is necessary.
- 78 e) Maintain the Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme at least until the end
79 of 2022, to support SME employers with the cost of SSP for workers
80 that are ill with Covid.
- 81 f) Explore innovative solutions to make hospitality, retail and
82 entertainment spaces safer, such as supporting businesses with the
83 installation of ventilation equipment.
- 84 g) Take serious actions to help firms with crippling staff shortages,
85 including fixing the kickstart scheme, boosting apprenticeships in the
86 worst-affected sectors, and removing arbitrary salary thresholds for
87 foreign workers.
- 88 h) Set out clear guidance on which activities are considered safe and
89 which aren't in light of Omicron, providing all necessary support to
90 the affected businesses; and commit that any additional restrictions
91 will come with commensurate support, such as the targeted re-
92 introduction of the furlough scheme.
- 93 i) Set out a long-term economic strategy on supporting businesses
94 through the pandemic and growing the economy beyond that.

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- 95 j) Take serious action to crack down on emergency loan fraud and
 96 furlough fraud, and invest in HMRC's capacity, in order to recoup as
 97 much misallocated money as possible.
- 98 k) Develop and publish via the National Risk Register an assessment of
 99 the potential impact of future crises on business (for example, natural
 100 disasters and cyber-attacks), as well as relevant emergency response
 101 strategies.
- 102 l) Publish a 'good practice' report on lessons learned from pandemic
 103 support schemes, to assist in quickly rolling out future support whilst
 104 minimising errors, fraud and the exclusion of key groups such as the
 105 self-employed.
- 106 Conference further calls on the Government to fix the broken Statutory
 107 Sick Pay system by:
- 108 1. Making SSP available to the estimated two million workers earning
 109 less than £120 per week.
 - 110 2. Increasing the rate of SSP so it's at least equivalent to the national
 111 minimum wage, allowing someone over 23 working seven hours a day
 112 to claim £62.37 per day (pro rata) rather than the current £19.27.
 - 113 3. Making SSP available from the first day of missing work rather than
 114 the fourth.
 - 115 4. Exploring how to support the smallest employers with SSP expenses.

Applicability: Federal; except b) and c) (lines 69–74), which are England only.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 28 February; see page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Sunday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Saturday 12 March; see page 7.

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19.35 Policy motion

Chair: Chris Maines. Aides: Bex Scott and Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC).

F34 COP27 and Climate Empowerment for Local Government*ALDC*

Mover: Cllr Pippa Heylings.

Summation: To be announced.

- 1 Conference notes that:
 - 2 A. The UK's net zero targets can only be achieved if Government and
 - 3 local authorities work seamlessly together. While local authorities
 - 4 have limited direct control over emissions, they have powers or
 - 5 influence over approximately a third of local area emissions.
 - 6 B. As place-shapers, only local government holds the wide range of
 - 7 delivery powers and assets – and the potential for market and non-
 - 8 market mechanisms to finance action at scale – that are necessary
 - 9 to decarbonise housing, transport, waste and generate nature-based
 - 10 solutions.
 - 11 C. As leaders of local communities, councils can mobilise the collective
 - 12 action to achieve net zero in our villages, towns, and cities.
 - 13 D. Local authorities will be particularly important in ensuring a just
 - 14 transition to net zero as no layer of government is closer to people
 - 15 or better able to tailor climate action to meet the needs of local
 - 16 communities and deliver a transition that benefits all communities.
- 17 Conference welcomes:
 - 18 I. The inclusion within the Preamble to the Glasgow Climate Pact
 - 19 of the UN COP26 recognising 'the urgent need for multilevel and
 - 20 cooperative action' throughout levels of government, as a result of
 - 21 Liberal Democrat leadership in and through the national cross-party
 - 22 Climate Change Task Group of the Local Government Association
 - 23 (LGA) working with partners in global advocacy and international
 - 24 coordination for local authorities.
 - 25 II. The obligation on all countries to report on an annual basis on climate

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- 26 commitments and increase their climate ambition through increased
27 targets at COP27 in November 2022.
- 28 Conference acknowledges with concern that:
- 29 a) Whilst the National Audit Commission's July 2021 report recognises
30 the importance of local government to net zero, it concludes that
31 "there are serious weaknesses in central government's approach to
32 working with local authorities on decarbonisation".
- 33 b) The UK's climate pledge to COP26, its National Determined
34 Contribution submitted in December 2020 was almost silent on the
35 role and details of local government contribution towards its net zero
36 targets.
- 37 c) In 2021, local government was not actively consulted in the
38 development of the UK's Net Zero Strategy.
- 39 d) Whilst the UK's Net Zero Strategy promises to support "all local
40 government in developing and delivering their net zero delivery
41 plans", it does not provide any clarity as to how action at national,
42 regional, local, and community levels fits together.
- 43 e) The Net Zero Strategy promises to establish a Local Net Zero Forum
44 to ensure direct input from local leaders, however, the Forum has yet
45 to be convened.
- 46 Conference therefore calls on the UK Government to:
- 47 1. Set a global example by providing the powers and resources
48 necessary for enhanced climate action by local government in the
49 UK's updated NDC for COP27.
- 50 2. Drive multilevel coordination by convening the Net Zero Forum.
- 51 3. Develop a fiscal and policy framework establishing the roles and
52 responsibilities of local and central government to deliver and report
53 on net zero and climate adaptation priorities.
- 54 4. Engage local government in the drafting of the National Adaptation
55 Plan (2023-2028), implementing recommendations from the National
56 Committee on Climate Change).
- 57 5. Establish a plan ahead of the Spending Review for funding local
58 authority climate action, simplifying and consolidating the number of
59 local net zero funding streams so that councils can plan and attract
60 investment longer-term.

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- 61 6. Clarify what role DLUHC will play in supporting local authority
62 climate action given that the Net Zero Strategy establishes BEIS as
63 responsible for coordination.
- 64 7. Lead on climate empowerment (ACE), involving young people, local
65 communities and non-governmental actors in climate decision-
66 making, education programmes, and action.

Applicability: England only; except 1. (lines 47–49), 5. (lines 57–60) and 7. (lines 64–66), which are Federal.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a speaker's card go to: www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 28 February; see page 10. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Sunday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Saturday 12 March; see page 7.

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20.15 Constitutional amendments

Chair: Chris Adams (Vice Chair, FCC). Aides: Cllr Jon Ball and Cllr Nick da Costa (Chair, FCC).

F35 Constitutional Caretaking

Federal Board

Mover: Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, Federal Board).

Summation: Elaine Bagshaw (Vice Chair, Federal Board).

- 1 Conference notes that the Constitution does not give directly elected
- 2 Mayors and Police Crime Commissioners the rights enjoyed by Principal
- 3 Authority Councillors in terms of electing representatives to federal
- 4 committees.

- 5 Conference therefore resolves to amend the Constitution as follows:
 - 6 *In Article 9.2F, after 'elected by principal local authority councillors'*
 - 7 *insert', Police and Crime Commissioners and directly elected Mayors'.*

 - 8 *In Article 10.2E, after 'own number' insert '(including, for both purposes,*
 - 9 *Police and Crime Commissioners and directly elected Mayors)'.*

 - 10 *In the Committee election regulation 15b, after 'Principal Councillor'*
 - 11 *insert', Police and Crime Commissioner and directly elected*
 - 12 *Mayor', and after 'Principal Councillors' insert', Police and Crime*
 - 13 *Commissioners and directly elected Mayors'.*

- 14 Conference notes that the Constitution makes provision for by-elections
- 15 to the Federal Audit and Scrutiny Committee, but that its members are
- 16 appointed rather than elected.

- 17 Conference therefore resolves to amend the Constitution as follows:
 - 18 *In Article 16.3A, delete 'Casual vacancies amongst this group shall be*
 - 19 *filled in accordance with the election regulations' and insert 'Casual*
 - 20 *vacancies amongst this group shall be filled in the same way'.*

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21 Conference notes that the Constitution requires Federal Committees to
22 operate their own declaration of interest rules and registers, and that
23 this generates extra bureaucratic overheads compared with having one
24 system which they all participate in.

25 Conference therefore resolves to amend the Constitution as follows:

26 *Delete Article 8.8C and insert:*

27 8.8C a requirement for its members to fulfil obligations in relation to
28 a Conflicts of Interest policy agreed, and from time to time altered,
29 by the Federal Board and administered as one central register for all
30 Federal Committees by the Chief Executive. That policy shall require
31 any member and any other person attending a meeting to declare
32 any interest which might affect or be seen to affect their contribution
33 to the work of that body, and in particular to declare any actual or
34 potential conflict of interest or loyalty.

35 Conference notes that:

- 36 1. The Constitution only gives the Federal Board the power to indemnify
37 directors of Liberal Democrats Limited for risks they may face in the
38 legitimate execution of their roles on behalf of the party.
39 2. This does not extend to party staff or other party volunteers, and so
40 leaves people at potential risk of personal liability for carrying out
41 roles on behalf of the party.
42 3. Suitable wording for resolving this issue already exists in the Scottish
43 Constitution and the Federal Party should adopt best practice from
44 the States and others wherever possible.

45 Conference therefore resolves to amend the Constitution as follows:

46 *In Article 9.5, delete 'The Federal Board may by resolution indemnify*
47 *the directors from any liability arising from decisions by the Party'.*

48 *Insert new Article 9.6:*

49 9.6 The Federal Board shall have the power to grant indemnities
50 for the general purposes of the Party and to secure grants of

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51 indemnity given, in such a manner as it thinks fit upon the assets of
52 the Party; provided always that the total amount of the terms of the
53 indemnities, shall not exceed such amount as may from time to time
54 be determined by the Federal Board and approved by the Federal
55 Conference.

56 Conference further resolves that the initial indemnities limit shall be set at
57 £100,000.

58 Conference notes that in order to simplify the administration of Liberal
59 Democrats Limited and reduce the party's compliance overheads the
60 Federal Board has appointed specific party post holders as directors.

61 Conference therefore resolves to amend the Constitution as follows:

62 *In Article 9.5, delete 'The Federal Board shall have power from time*
63 *to time to appoint and remove the directors of such a company,*
64 *who will otherwise be appointed for a period of five years, provided*
65 *always that the Federal Board shall not so appoint any person holding*
66 *any public office or office in the Party which may be incompatible*
67 *therewith' and insert 'The Directors of any such Company shall be*
68 *the President, the Vice President responsible for working with ethnic*
69 *minority communities, and the Chair of the FFRC'.*

70 *In Article 16.3, delete 'Any company established under Article 9.5*
71 *shall also be entitled to make nominations for membership of the*
72 *Committee'.*

73 Conference notes that there is an inconsistency between the Preamble
74 and Article 3.1 in the grounds of discrimination prohibited.

75 Conference therefore resolves to amend the Constitution as follows:

76 *In the Preamble after 'gender' insert 'identity'.*

77 *In Article 3.1, after 'discrimination as to', delete the rest of the line and*
78 *insert 'race, ethnicity, caste, heritage, class, religion or belief, age,*
79 *disability, sex, gender identity or sexual orientation'.*

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80 In addition, conference resolves to amend the Constitution as follows:

81 *In Article 4.6D (on both occasions), 4.6E, 4.9, 9.6D, 20.3, 20.6 and 21.3A,*
82 *after 'Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000' insert 'and*
83 *as later amended'.*

84 *In Article 20.1, delete 'not less than' and insert 'not fewer than' on both*
85 *occasions.*

For the text of the existing Federal Constitution, see
www.libdems.org.uk/constitution.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 7. To submit a
speaker's card go to: www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 28 February; see page
10. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and
Sunday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00 Saturday 12 March; see page 7.

20.30 Close of conference

Standing orders

Standing orders – glossary of terms

Business motion

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

Business amendment

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

Committee

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

Constitutional amendment

A proposal to change the constitution of the Party.

Secondary constitutional amendment

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

Consultative session

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

Day visitor

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

Emergency motion

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

Emergency amendment

An amendment to a motion which relates to a specific event which occurred after the deadline for the submission

of amendments. It must be brief and uncontentious.

Full session

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

Point of order

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

Policy motion

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

Policy amendment

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

Policy paper

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

Procedural motion

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

Move to next business

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

Reference back

A proposal to refer a motion or

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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. *[Note: this does not apply to a virtual conference.]*

Separate vote

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

Suspension of standing orders

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

Special conference

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

Article 6.3 of the Federal constitution.

Standing order amendment

A proposal to change these standing orders.

Secondary standing order amendment

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

Topical issue discussion

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

Voting member

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

Standing Orders for a conference held remotely

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

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- of electronic speakers' cards; the chair shall have discretion to accept electronic speakers' cards after the deadline.
- v) Original Standing Orders 9.1, 9.2, 11.5 and Procedural motion 3 (Request for a Count) in the Glossary of Terms, shall not apply; instead, voting members shall, when appropriate, be directed by the chair to vote using the online voting tool made available to them. Standing Order 2.3 shall not apply.
 - vi) In original Standing Order 10.1, any voting member may signal to the Chair via the designated online channel that they are moving a point of order, in lieu of rising in their place.
 - vii) As, by necessity, all votes shall be counted votes, original Standing Order 11.5 shall not apply; instead, the chair shall ensure the result of the counted vote is publicised to members, via the appropriate online channel.

Standing orders for a conference held physically

1. The conference agenda

1.1 What is on the agenda

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

- a) One or more consultative sessions; save that the Committee may decide not to hold any consultative sessions at a spring conference.
- b) A business session or sessions for the consideration of reports from the Parliamentary Parties as listed in Article 17 of the Federal Party's Constitution, the Federal Board, 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, a motion accompanying the proposed strategy of the party, business motions, constitutional amendments and standing order amendments.
- c) Policy motions (including motions accompanying policy papers).
- d) Emergency motions.
- e) Topical issue discussions.
- f) Any other business which the

Committee thinks appropriate.

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

1.2 Conference or council of state parties

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

1.3 Right to submit agenda items

- a) Reports to conference may be submitted only by the bodies listed in paragraph 1.1(b).
- b) Business motions (including amendments and emergency business motions and amendments), constitutional amendments and secondary constitutional amendments, standing order amendments and secondary standing order amendments may be submitted by the Federal Board, Federal Policy Committee, state parties, regional parties in England, local parties, Affiliated Organisations and 10 party members. Business motions, standing

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order amendments and secondary standing order amendments may also be submitted by the Federal Conference Committee.

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

1.4 How motions and amendments are submitted

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

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

The Committee shall specify:

- a) The closing date for the receipt of policy motions (including motions accompanying policy papers), business motions, constitutional amendments and amendments to standing orders, which shall be at least eight weeks before the start of conference.
- b) The closing date for the receipt of amendments to motions published in the agenda and emergency motions, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference.
- c) The closing date for the submission of written reports from the bodies listed in paragraph 1.1(b), which will be set so as to enable their distribution with

the agenda. Any supplementary report submitted later than this deadline may only be tabled at conference with the permission of the Committee.

- d) The closing date for the submission of questions to any of the reports listed in the agenda, which shall be 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 publicised to party members and bodies entitled to submit motions. Publication in the party newspaper/magazine and website may be treated as notice for this purpose.

1.7 Later deadlines in special circumstances

In special circumstances the Committee 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

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available for an additional emergency motion or for a statement to be made on behalf of the Party or for additional questions to be submitted to reports.

2. Consultative sessions

2.1 The subjects for consultative sessions

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

2.2 Speaking at consultative sessions

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

2.3 Voting at consultative sessions

At the discretion of the chair a vote by show of hands may be taken to indicate the weight of opinion among members present on any issue that has been debated. *[Note: this Standing Order will NOT apply to a virtual conference; voting will be undertaken in a different way if needed.]*

3. The agenda

3.1 The shortlisting of motions

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

3.2 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders

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

3.3 Balance between State and Federal policy debates

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

4. Selection of motions and amendments

4.1 Compositing or otherwise altering motions

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

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

4.2 Selection of amendments

The Committee shall decide which of the 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

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scope of the motion, or tantamount to a direct negative of the motion.

4.3 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders

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

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

4.4 Emergency motions

The Committee may reject an emergency motion if:

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

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

4.5 Ballots for emergency motions

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

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

4.6 Emergency amendments

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

4.7 Topical issue discussions

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

5. Special meetings

5.1 Timetabling of special meetings

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

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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. *[Note: this Standing Order will apply with modifications to a virtual conference: the Chief Steward may designate people to act as lead moderators for the conference chat.]*

7. The chair

7.1 Who chairs conference

The President, if present, shall normally

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

7.2 The chair's aide

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

8. Conduct of debate

8.1 Variation in the order of business

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

8.2 Withdrawal of motions and amendments

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

8.3 The order of debate

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

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the amendments and options in the order in which they have been moved and, finally, on the substantive motion. The Committee may direct that part of any motion or amendment or groups of amendments may be the subject of a separate debate.

8.4 Topical issue discussions

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

8.5 Who may speak

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

8.6 The special rights of the Federal Committees

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

8.7 The selection of speakers

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

they wish to speak for or against an amendment, the motion or part of the motion. The chair shall be responsible for the choice of the speakers and shall attempt to provide a balanced debate between the different viewpoints in the conference, but may announce a departure from this rule if there is an overwhelming preponderance of members wishing to speak on the same side. The chair shall have the discretion to accept speakers' cards after the start of the debate. Save as provided for in these standing orders, no person may speak more than once in any debate. *[Note: this Standing Order will apply with modifications to a virtual conference: speaker's cards must be submitted electronically and by no later than 17.00 on the day before the relevant debate, although the chair has a discretion to accept cards submitted after the deadline.]*

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.

[Note: this Standing Order will NOT apply to a virtual conference if the new set of Standing Orders for a virtual conference is passed; instead a secure online poll or alternative shall be used.]

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.

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- 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.
[Note: this Standing Order will NOT apply to a virtual conference.]

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. *[Note: this Standing Order will apply with modifications to a virtual conference: the chair must be contacted via debates@libdems.org.uk.]*

11 Procedural motions

11.1 Next business

- a) A voting member may, during any full conference session, submit, in writing, a request that conference move to next business, giving the reasons to do so. The submission shall not exceed 75 words.
- b) The chair may either take the request immediately upon receipt, or at the end of any speech currently being made. If more than one request is received the chair shall decide which to take. No more than one request may be taken in respect to any motion or report.
- c) When the request is to be taken, the

chair shall read the statement of reasons and ask conference whether it wishes to consider the request to move to next business. If conference decides, by a simple majority of those voting, to do so, the person who made the request may speak. The chair may allow other speakers. All speeches under this standing order shall be limited to two minutes. If conference decides not to debate the proposal, it falls.

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

11.2 Reference back (moved by a voting member)

- a) A voting member, who has not already spoken in the debate, may, at any time before the chair has asked the first speaker in reply to stand by, submit, in writing, a request to refer back the motion under debate. The submission shall state to whom the motion is to be referred and shall include a statement of the reasons, including reasons why voting against the motion would not achieve a similar result, not exceeding 75 words.
- b) The chair may take the request to refer back at whatever stage of the debate they consider appropriate. If more than one request is received, the chair shall decide which to take. No more than one request may be taken with respect to any motion.
- c) When the request is to be taken, the chair shall read the statement of reasons and ask conference whether it wishes to consider the request to

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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 Board, the Federal Policy Committee or the Federal Conference Committee that body shall, in its report to the next meeting of the conference, state what action it has taken on the reference.

11.3 Reference back (moved by the Federal Policy Committee)

- a) The Federal Policy Committee may, at any time before the beginning of the debate on a motion, submit, in writing, a request to refer that motion to the next meeting of the conference. The chair shall announce the existence of such a request at the start of the debate.
- b) The chair may take the request to refer back at whatever stage of the debate they consider appropriate. A nominee of the Federal Policy Committee will speak and the mover of the substantive motion, or their nominee, may reply. The chair shall have discretion whether to allow other speakers on the request.
- c) The reference back shall require a simple majority of those voting to be

passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.

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

11.4 Separate vote

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

11.5 Counted vote

Any voting member may ask for a counted vote, which shall be taken if the request is supported by 50 members rising in their places and showing their voting cards. *[Note: this Standing Order will NOT apply to a virtual conference.]*

11.6 Suspension of standing orders

- a) A voting conference member may, during any full conference session, move a motion for the suspension of

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standing orders. The mover shall submit the motion together with a written statement of its purpose, not exceeding 75 words, to the chair, who shall read them to the meeting. The chair may either take the request immediately upon receipt, or at the end of the speech currently being made.

- b) No motion to suspend standing orders may suspend any requirement of the constitution, nor any part of these standing orders which govern:
 - i) The rights of, or timetable for, submission of motions and amendments.
 - ii) Consultative sessions.
 - iii) Procedural motions for next business or suspension of standing orders.
- c) No motion to suspend standing orders to introduce a motion or amendment on to the agenda can be taken unless the motion or amendment has been submitted to the Committee in accordance with the published timetable and, where a right of appeal against non-selection exists, the right has been exercised.
- 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

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

14 The Chair and Vice Chairs of the Committee

14.1 Chair and Vice Chairs

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

The Federal Party

Officers of the Federal Party

Leader – Rt Hon Sir Ed Davey MP
 President – Dr Mark Pack
 Vice President (England) – Alison Rouse
 Vice President (Scotland) – Jenni Lang
 Vice President (Wales) – Paula Yates
 Chair of FFRC – Anthony Harris
 Chair of FPDC – Mary Regnier-Wilson
 Treasurer – Tilly McAuliffe
 Chief Executive – Mike Dixon

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 venues, registration rates and other organisational matters. It works within a budget set by the FFRC.

The FCC has 22 voting members: the Party President; the party's Chief Whip in the House of Commons; three state party representatives; one representative from the FB, two from the FPC, one from the Federal Communications & Elections Committee (FCEC), one from the Federal People Development Committee (FPDC); and fifteen directly elected members. It elects its own chair, who must be one of the directly elected representatives.

Federal Policy Committee (FPC)

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

The FPC has 29 voting members: the Party Leader and six other parliamentarians, the Party President; two local councillors, three state party representatives, one member of the FCEC and 15 members directly elected by members. It must be chaired by the Leader.

Federal Board (FB)

The FB is responsible for directing, co-ordinating and overseeing the implementation of the Party's strategy and the work of the Federal Party. The FB also has responsibility, at least once per Parliament, for preparing a document outlining the Party's Strategy, for submission for debate and agreement by Conference.

The FB has 35 voting members: the Party President (who chairs it), the Party Leader and three other parliamentarians; the chairs of the three state parties; the chairs of each of the Federal Committees including a vice-chair of the FPC; a local councillor; a Young Liberals representative; three state party representatives; and 15 directly elected members.

Federal Finance and Resources Committee (FFRC)

The FFRC is responsible for planning and administering the budget and finances of the Federal Party, overseeing its administration and ensuring compliance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, as well as overseeing the Party's risk management operations and its Risk Register.

The FFRC has 14 voting members: the Registered Treasurer (who chairs it); the Registered Treasurers of the three state parties; five other members (elected by the FB); the Party Treasurer; the Party President; one representative of the Parliamentary Office of the Liberal Democrats; the Chief Executive; and one member of Federal staff.

SPRING CONFERENCE

11th - 13th March • Online

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