

autumn conference

agenda

liverpool 18th – 22nd september 2010



delivering for Britain

conference rally

Yes to Reform! Winning the Battle

With Nick Clegg and very special guests

A rally with the Electoral Reform Society to launch Liberal Democrat support for the Yes campaign in next year's AV referendum

Saturday 18th September 6.30pm – 7.30pm

In the main auditorium ACC Liverpool

Conference photo pass required for entry



TO
FAIRER
VOTES

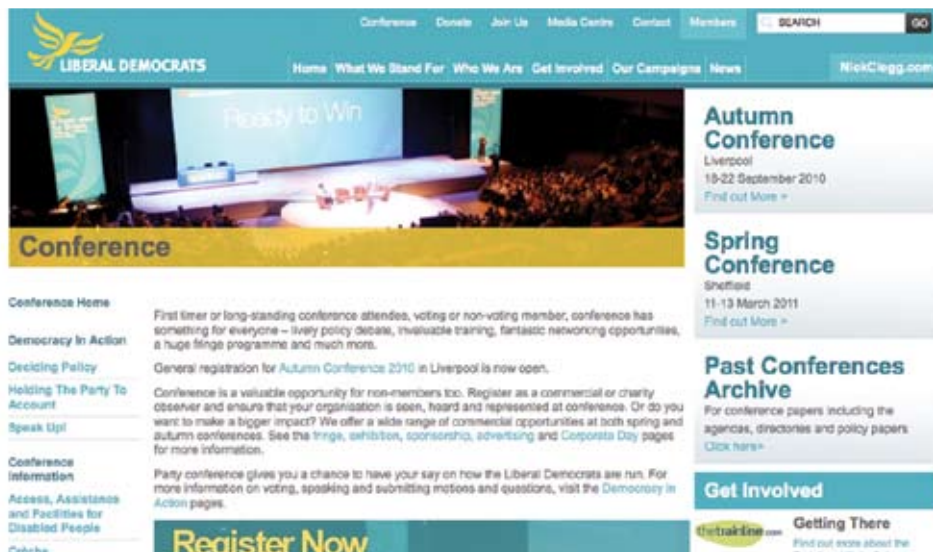


www.libdems.org.uk/conference

visit us online!

The conference pages of the party website contain all you need to know about conference – and will give you the most up-to-date information and any last-minute changes.

Visit: www.libdems.org.uk/conference.



introduction

It is my pleasure as the newly elected Chair of the Federal Conference Committee to welcome you to conference.

As you would expect with our party being in government, security will be tighter and the queues going through bag checks will be longer. Please

ensure you allow plenty of time to get through security so you can be in the conference hall in time for the range of interesting debates, set-piece speeches and question and answer sessions we have planned.

We are repeating the changes introduced last year. All the motions in this agenda are open to amendment; the deadline for amendments, emergency motions, and questions to reports is noon on 6th September.

We will advise you which we select before conference, rather than when you arrive. *Conference Extra* will be emailed to conference representatives and put on the party website on Tuesday 14th September. Once again we aren't publishing any times in this agenda. That's to allow us to adjust the timings when we know what the amendments are. *Conference Extra* will contain the final session timings, and these will be repeated in *Conference Daily* each day.

I look forward to seeing you in Liverpool.

Andrew Wiseman
Chair, Federal Conference Committee



Andrew Wiseman is
Chair of the Federal
Conference Committee

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For further feature articles, general conference information, exhibition, fringe and diary, see the separate *Conference Directory*.

For conference details and registration online:
www.libdems.org.uk/conference



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the federal conference committee is here to serve you!



Andrew Wiseman,
Chair



Justine McGuinness,
Vice Chair



Geoff Payne,
Vice Chair,
English rep



Robert Adamson



Qassim Afzal



Jon Ball



Dee Doocey



Susan Gaszczak,
FPC rep



Arnie Gibbons



Ros Gordon,
FE rep



James Gurling



Jeremy Hargreaves,
FPC rep



Jenni Lang,
Scottish rep



Chris Maines



Tessa Munt MP



Ruth Polling



Mohammed Shafiq



Ian Walton,
Welsh rep



Erlend Watson,
FE rep



Adrian Beavis,
Chief Steward,
co-opted

Ex officio:

Simon Hughes MP, Chief Whip's substitute.

Ros Scott, Party President.

Chris Fox, Chief Executive (non-voting).

If you need to find any of the members of the FCC throughout the weekend, you should be able to identify them easily by the larger photo pass holder with the words 'Federal Conference Committee' written on it.



delivering in government

by Nick Clegg MP

Welcome to Liverpool and the Liberal Democrat autumn conference 2010, the first ever Liberal Democrat conference with our party in government in Westminster.

I know this means that many visitors to conference will be coming for the first time – you are very welcome.

But I also know that many Liberal Democrats will be returning to conference after the General Election campaign and I would like to thank you again for all your hard work. Without your hard work and commitment we would not be in government today delivering on our manifesto pledges.

Last May our party asked the British people to vote for us and to vote for fairness – in education, in taxation, in political reform and in building a sustainable economy. It gives me huge pride to now be in government and delivering on all those promises.

We will introduce a fully funded pupil premium to give every child a fair start in life. We have already raised the income tax personal allowance by a thousand pounds, meaning nearly a million fewer people pay income tax. And we will continue to raise the point at which people pay income tax throughout the parliament, helping to ensure that many more of the lowest paid will pay no income tax at all.

I have announced that next May we will have a referendum on electoral reform – giving us a chance to end the unfair First Past The Post system for electing MPs. The coalition

government is committed to reform of the House of Lords leading to a directly elected second chamber, we will take big money out of politics, as well as increase regulation of lobbyists. Chris Huhne meanwhile is heading up the Department for Energy and Climate Change and taking a lead on delivering the government's green agenda.

But we haven't just stopped there – we've abolished the illiberal and wasteful ID card scheme, we are bringing an end to child detention for immigration purposes, we've scrapped the third runway at Heathrow and are introducing a Freedom Bill to scrap Labour's useless and illiberal laws. All things Liberal Democrats up and down the country have been campaigning on for years.

Not all the decisions we have taken in government have been easy or straightforward. We have had to face

Continued on page 4

It gives me huge pride to now be in government and delivering on all those promises



© David Angell

delivering in government continued from page 3

up to the ruinous economic legacy left behind by the Labour party. However I am proud that we have managed to put Liberal Democrat principles and ideas at the heart of government decision-making at this challenging time.

I hope you have a fantastic conference in this great city of Liverpool, whether it

is your first Liberal Democrat conference or the latest of many.



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

I am proud that we have managed to put Liberal Democrat principles and ideas at the heart of government decision-making at this challenging time

libdems.org.uk/act ACT - The online Lib Dem community

- Organise events
- Join discussion groups
- Connect with friends
- Campaign online



Conference Daily

Make sure you pick up a copy of *Conference Daily* from the Information Desk as you enter the ACC each morning.

Conference Daily contains information, updates and changes, including amendments and emergency motions, which is vital to your understanding of the day's business.

twitter

During conference week, we will be tweeting live from the auditorium.

For updates on who's speaking, when agenda items are about to start and how conference has voted, follow us at:

www.twitter.com/LibDemConf

Subscribe to *Liberal Democrat News* for just £30 a year

Liberal Democrat News gives you the whole picture, covering news about the party that you will not find in the national media. Keep abreast of news and policy and also join in party debates and gossip.

www.libdems.org.uk/ldn ldnsubs@libdems.org.uk

auditorium information

Everything you need to know concerning the main conference sessions in the auditorium at this year's autumn conference is listed below in alphabetical order. For general conference information, see the separate *Conference Directory*. If you have any questions onsite, please ask a steward or go to the **Information Desk** in the **Lower Galleria** of the **Arena and Convention Centre Liverpool (ACC)**.

access

Access to all areas of the **ACC** is possible **only with a valid, visible conference photo pass worn with the official lanyard**. You will be asked to show your

Services For The Blind And Visually Impaired

A range of electronic versions of the Conference Agenda and Directory, Training Schedule and policy and consultation papers are available for download online. These include PDF files, plain text files for blind computer users and clear print versions (designed in line with RNIB guidelines). Download from the conference papers page at: www.libdems.org.uk/autumnconferencepapers

If you are unable to access the Internet and would like any files emailed or posted to you, contact the Conference Office on 020 7227 1350 or at conferences@libdems.org.uk

For clear print copies of any papers whilst at conference (eg. Conference Daily), ask at the Information Desk.

pass when you enter the ACC and you are required to wear the pass with the lanyard visible **at all times** within the building.

Please allow time for security check queues at the ACC during key times – particularly after lunch and ahead of popular events.

amendments to motions

All motions are open to amendment.

Amendments must be signed by 10 voting representatives, or submitted by local parties, State Parties, Regional Parties in England, Federal Specified Associated Organisations or Federal Party Committees.

The deadline for amendments is **12.00 noon Monday 6th September**; they should be sent to the Policy Unit, preferably by email to motions@libdems.org.uk, or by post to 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB.

Please use the standard form included with the agenda mailing (or a photocopy) or download a form from the *conference papers* page at www.libdems.org.uk/autumnconferencepapers.

Those submitting amendments are encouraged to include a short explanation of the intended effect of the amendment. You are also encouraged to use our drafting advisory service; deadline for draft amendments is **12.00 noon Monday 23rd August**, to motionsadvice@libdems.org.uk.

All amendments accepted for debate will be detailed in *Conference Extra* – see **page 6**.

appeals

Appeals against non-acceptance of motions should:

- be typed clearly on one side of an A4 sheet;
- give a contact name and telephone number;
- include a copy of the original motion to which they relate; and
- specify the justification for the appeal and provide new information of which the Conference Committee was unaware when it made its original decision.

Appeals must be signed by ten voting representatives, or submitted by local parties, State Parties, Regional Parties in England, Federal

auditorium information continued

Specified Associated Organisations or Federal Party Committees.

The deadline for appeals is **12.00 noon Monday 6th September**. They should be sent to the Policy Unit, preferably by email to **motions@libdems.org.uk**, or by post to 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB.

applicability of motions

The Federal Conference makes policy for the Federal Party. However, the English Party has 'passed up' responsibility for policy-making to the Federal Party in all areas and the Welsh Party for some areas. The applicability of each motion is shown in the *agenda* on **pages 12–49**.

auditorium

The main conference sessions will take place in the auditorium in the **Arena** of the **ACC**. See the *Conference Directory* for a map of Liverpool and plan of the venue.

The **Speakers' Table** is located at the front of the auditorium, to the left of the stage.

Sign language interpretation will be provided during all sessions held in the auditorium. Please be aware of them when you are moving around the auditorium and ensure that you don't obstruct sightlines to them.

All areas of the ACC are non-smoking.

Please ensure that all mobile phones / pagers are switched off before entering the auditorium.

conference daily

Conference Daily will be published each day at conference and will include last-minute changes to the order of business, movers, amendments, emergency motions etc. (it replaces the old *Daily Announcements*). *Conference Daily* will be available at the start of the morning session from the **Information Desk** in the ACC.

Make sure you collect your copy of *Conference Daily* each morning, as the information it contains will always be vital to understanding the day's business.

You can place an advert in *Conference Daily* to give up-to-date information about your organisation or event to conference-goers. Contact

conferences@libdems.org.uk, or ask for a member of staff from the Conference Office via the **Information Desk** at conference.

conference extra

Conference Extra will give the timings of conference sessions and will contain amendments to motions, topical issues, emergency motions for debate or the ballot and questions to reports, plus last-minute changes to the order of business, movers etc. (it replaces the old *Advance Notice*). *Conference Extra* will be circulated by email to all party members and posted on the party website on **Tuesday 14th September**, and will be available in hard-copy for collection from the **Information Desk** at conference.

You can place an advert in *Conference Extra* to give up-to-date information about your organisation or event to conference-goers. Contact **conferences@libdems.org.uk**.

consultative sessions

Consultative sessions provide a less formal mechanism than the full-scale conference debates for conference representatives and other party members to participate in the party's policy- and decision-making process. Each session examines a particular topic and will be organised by the relevant Policy Working Group or other party body. Where appropriate, the conclusions of the sessions will be taken into account by the groups when drawing up their final policy papers.

Consultative sessions on health, on the voluntary sector and on IT and intellectual property take place on **Saturday 18th September** between **10.00 and 12.30** in the **Hilton Liverpool** – see **page 13**. Any member of the party may be called to speak at one of these consultative sessions and, with the approval of the chair, non-members with relevant expertise may also be called.

Consultative sessions on the Federal Executive's strategy review (**F15**) and the Federal Policy Committee's Facing the Future policy review (**F22**) take place on **Sunday and Monday morning** respectively in the **auditorium** in the **ACC**. See pages **23** and **30**. Any conference representative or day visitor is eligible to speak at one of these consultative sessions, and **must submit a consultation card** if they wish to be called.



disabled access and facilities

The seating area in the auditorium (in the **Arena** of the **ACC**) will be mostly on the flat. Ramped access to the stage is available to the right of the stage.

An **induction loop** is available in specific seating areas within the auditorium. Please ask a steward to direct you to these seats if you require use of the system.

Sign language interpretation will be provided during all sessions held in the auditorium. A number of seats are reserved in front of the right of the stage for representatives using this service.

For those representatives who would benefit from being closer to the stage due to a visual impairment, a small number of seats are reserved at the front of the auditorium.

Royal National Institute of Blind People's Transcription Unit are providing information, advice and a free on-site transcription service for conference or exhibition materials into large print, audio or braille. Visit them at stand A11b in the exhibition hall.

emergency motions

The slots at **F39** and **F44** have been reserved for emergency motions or topical issues (see also *topical issues* on **page 11**).

Emergency motion debates are debates with a vote, which make formal party policy like any other policy motion, but which refer to a development since the **30th June** deadline for motions. Emergency motions must be signed by 10 voting representatives, or submitted by local parties, State Parties, Regional Parties in England, Federal Specified Associated Organisations or Federal Party Committees.

The deadline for emergency motions is **12.00 noon on Monday 6th September**; they should be sent to the Policy Unit, preferably by email to **motions@libdems.org.uk**, or by post to 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB.

Please use the standard form included with the agenda mailing (or a photocopy) or download a form from the *conference papers* page at **www.libdems.org.uk/autumnconferencepapers**. You are encouraged to use our drafting advisory service; deadline for draft amendments is **12.00**

noon Monday 23rd August, and they should be sent to **motionsadvice@libdems.org.uk**.

Emergency motions may be the subject of priority ballots among voting representatives. Ballot papers and the ballot box will be available at the **Speakers' Table** in the auditorium. The poll will be held, if necessary, between **09.00 and 13.00 on Sunday 19th September**. If there is a simple choice between two motions, a card vote will be held in the auditorium at **12.20 on Sunday 19th September**.

The emergency motions accepted for debate or the ballot will be detailed in *Conference Extra*.

flash photography

Representatives vulnerable to epilepsy should note that flash photography is frequently used in the conference auditorium.

interventions

There will be interventions during debates **F21, F25, F32, F34, F35** and **F45**. This procedure offers voting and non-voting representatives the opportunity to make concise (one-minute) speeches from the floor during the debate on the motion. Eligibility to make an intervention is the same as for making a speech (see *speaking at conference* on **page 8**).

Those wishing to speak during interventions should complete the form available from a steward in the auditorium. Speakers will be chosen by the Chair by random ballot, and called to one of the two **intervention microphones** in the body of the auditorium facing the stage. Three lights will be visible on either side of the stage: the green light comes on at the start of the intervention; the amber light will show after 40 seconds; the red light will come on at the end of one minute and the intervention must stop immediately.

question and answer sessions

This conference features four Q&A sessions, with the party leader (**F18**), on public services and benefits (**F37**), on crime and justice policy (**F47**) and with Liberal Democrat Cabinet Ministers (**F50**). Any voting or non-voting representative may submit a concise question (maximum 25 words) to any of these sessions and, if selected by the chair of the session,

will be asked to put the question from one of the **intervention microphones** in the auditorium.

Questions may be submitted using a form which should be collected from and returned to the **Speakers' Table** in the auditorium up until shortly before each session (see *agenda* on **pages 12–49** for times). Questions may also be emailed to **questions@libdems.org.uk** until **17.00 on Thursday 16th September**.

During the Q&A with the party leader (**F18**), supplementary questions may also be asked by other voting or non-voting representatives, to follow up the original question. Anyone wanting to ask a supplementary question must sit in the floor of the auditorium, and should put their hand up when asked to do so; if chosen, they will be passed a hand-held microphone.

questions to reports

Any elected representative can submit a question to any of the reports of the Federal Committees and the Parliamentary Parties, included in the separate reports document.

The deadline for receipt of questions to the reports of the Federal Committees is **12.00 noon Monday 6th September**; they should be sent to the Policy Unit, preferably by email to **questions@libdems.org.uk**, or by post to 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB. Please use the standard form included with the agenda mailing (or a photocopy) or download a form from the *conference papers* page at **www.libdems.org.uk/autumnconferencepapers**.

Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the **Speakers' Table** in the auditorium on speaker's cards up until **one hour before the start of the session**.

The deadline for questions to report of the European Parliamentary Party (**F10**) is **13.30 on Saturday 18th September** and the deadline for questions to reports of the UK Parliamentary Parties (**F41**) is **12.40 on Tuesday 21st September**. Questions may also be emailed to **questions@libdems.org.uk** until **17.00 on Thursday 16th September**.

Concise questions (maximum 25 words), on any aspect of Liberal Democrat activities in the UK or European Parliaments, may be submitted on a form collected from and returned to the **Speakers' Table**.

The chair will select which questions will be asked.

separate votes

Requests for separate votes on parts of motions may be submitted in writing by any voting representative to the **Speakers' Table** in the auditorium.

Requests for separate votes must be submitted by the **commencement of the first conference session on the day before the debate is scheduled**, or, for debates scheduled for the first day of conference, by **12.00 noon Monday 6th September** to the Policy Unit, preferably by email to **motions@libdems.org.uk**, or by post to 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB.

speaking at conference

Only three categories of people are entitled to speak in a debate at conference:

- Voting representatives (or substitutes), elected by their local parties or appointed ex-officio (eg. MPs, PPCs, council group leaders, etc.), who have paid the full registration fee for conference.
- Non-voting representatives who have paid their full registration fee for the conference (this does not include day visitors).
- Persons who have been given permission to speak by the Federal Conference Committee.

No other person may be called to speak in debates, including during interventions.

Anyone who is entitled and wishes to speak **must complete a speaker's card** to speak in the debate.

Speakers' cards can be obtained from the **steward** overseeing the block of seats in the auditorium in which you are sitting, from the **Information Desk** from 13.00 on Saturday and from the **foyer** of the **Jurys Inn Liverpool** from Friday evening.

You must complete all sections of the speaker's card legibly. Hand the completed card to a steward in the auditorium before the beginning of the morning or afternoon in which the debate occurs. If this is not possible, hand it in well in advance of the debate.

Lengths of speeches for each debate are shown in the *agenda* – **pages 12–49** – after each motion.

Continued on page 11



speaking in conference debates

Debates are the heart of federal conference: they're where the party sets its policy and decides its future direction. Unlike in the other parties, the Liberal Democrat conference is sovereign, and what it decides really matters.

Any party member can speak in debates: all you need is to be registered as either a voting or a non-voting representative. Then fill in and submit a speaker's card and wait to see if you're called in the debate.

Speaker's cards are available from the Speakers' Table and from the stewards in the auditorium. They can also be collected from the Information Desk in the ACC or the foyer of the Jurys Inn.

There are three key points to remember to maximise your chances of being called:

1 submit your card well in advance

If you hand your card in late, in a popular debate you're virtually guaranteeing you won't be called. The chair and aide team for the debate always meet well in advance to plan the debate – sometimes the previous day.

2 fill in your card completely

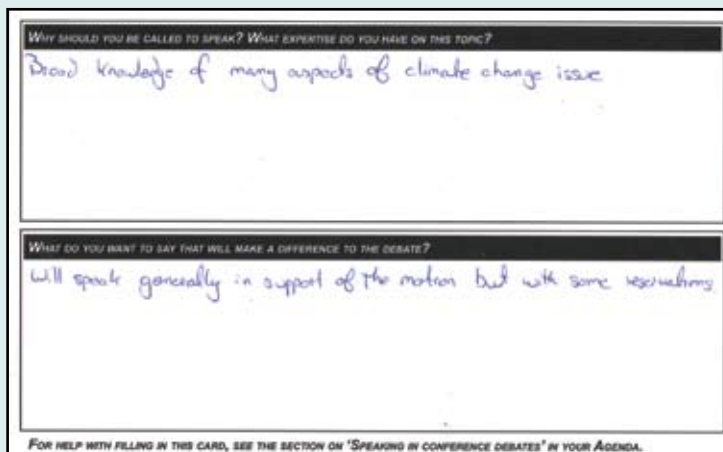
The second major mistake potential speakers make is not to fill in their card completely. As well as the information on the front of the card (name, local party, for or against the motion, etc.), there are two sections on the back, for relevant background (professional or consumer experience, party background, etc.) and for a brief outline of what your speech is going to be about.

These sections are needed for the chair and aide to balance the debate – to make sure that people with relevant experience are called (not necessarily to the exclusion of others, but professional or user backgrounds are always valuable), and to make sure that they don't call a whole string of people who'll make the same point.

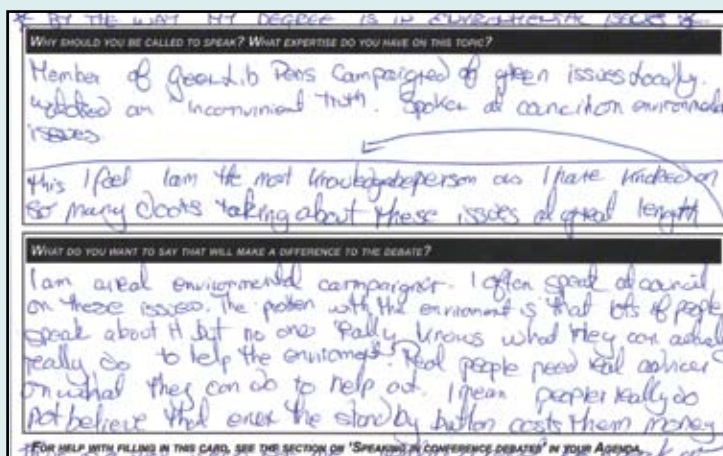
3 make sure it's readable!

Don't take this as an invitation to fill every square centimetre of the card; and don't write illegibly, or in very small letters, or in green ink ... the easier you make it for the chair and aide to read your card the more likely you will be to be called.

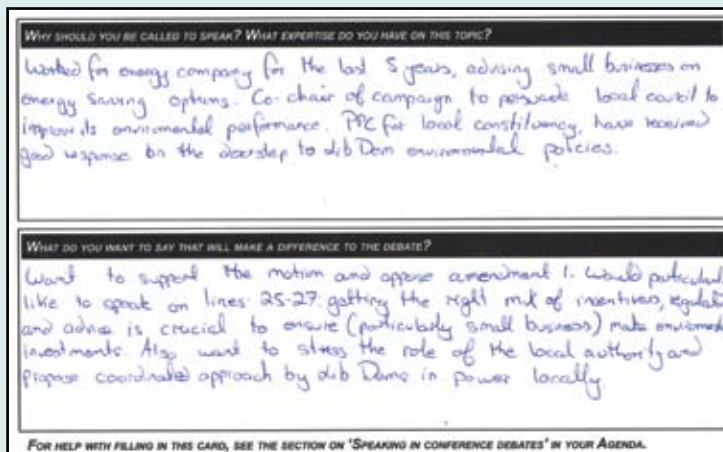
The wrong way to fill in a speaker's card (1): no useful information



The wrong way to fill in a speaker's card (2): too much information, but mostly neither helpful nor easily readable!

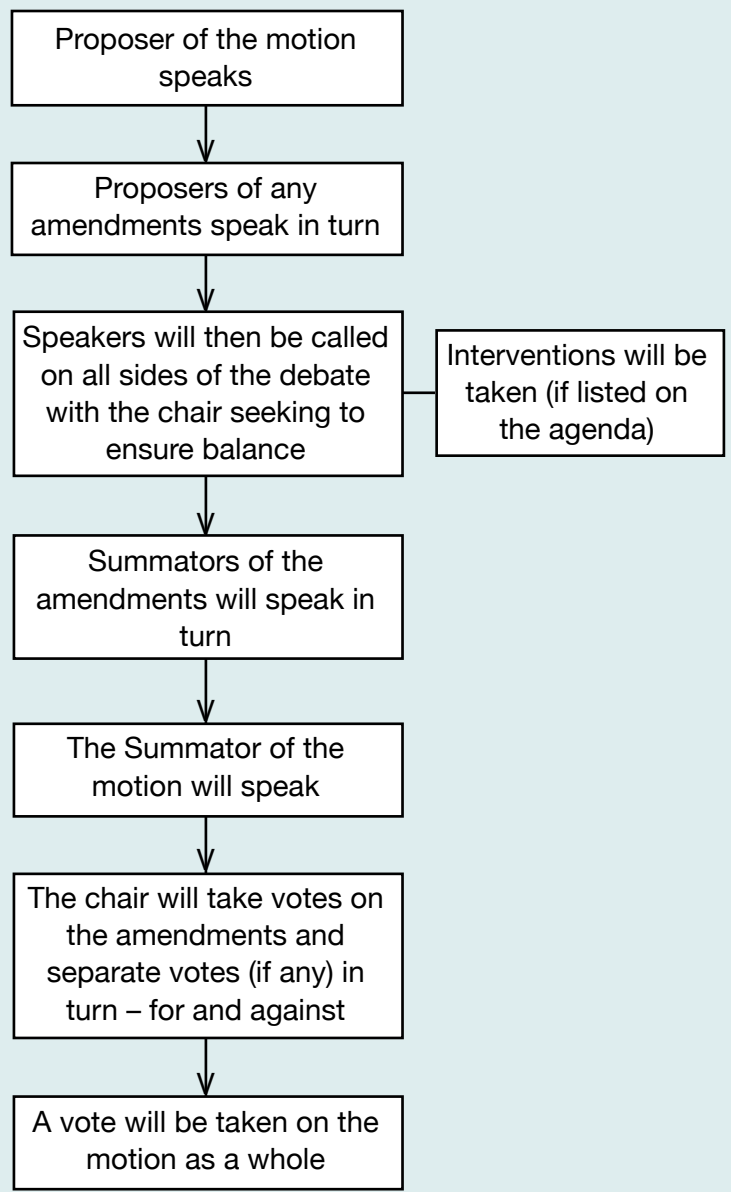


The right way to fill in a speaker's card: clear, concise, to the point, and probably different from anyone else's



the order of debate at conference

Policy and business motions: generally, conference will consider a motion in the following way:



Voting: decisions on the motion, on amendments and separate votes are by simple majority of those voting.

Separate vote: any voting representative can submit a request for a separate vote – for procedure and deadlines see page 8. When a separate vote is taken, the chair shall ask conference to vote on whether to delete or retain the specified words or section.

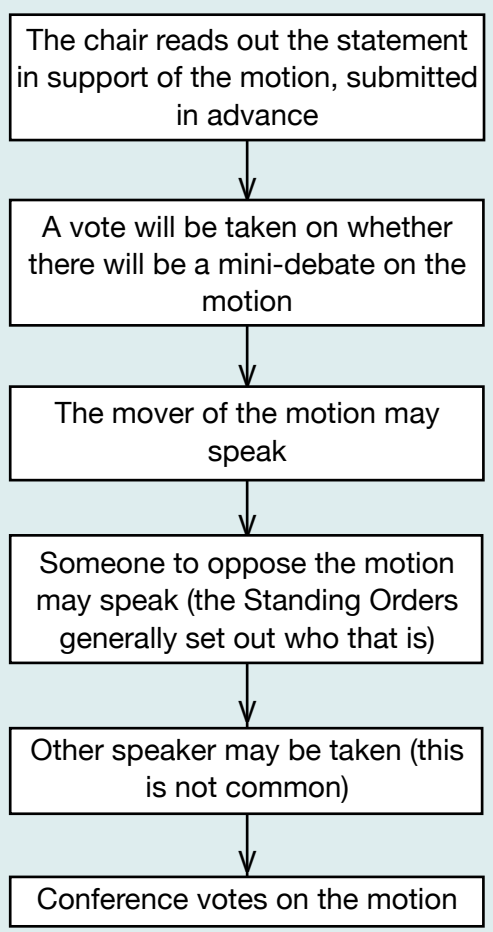
Counted vote: the chair of the session may decide that a vote is so close that it needs to be counted. Alternatively, if any voting representative wants a counted vote, they may request one from the floor; if fifty other voting representatives stand and show their voting cards in support, a count will be taken.

Procedural motions concern the procedure by which conference operates. They are:

- Reference Back (to stop debate and send the motion to a specified body for more work);
- Next Business (to stop debate and move to the next item of business on the agenda);
- Suspension of Standing Orders (to lift one or more of the rules governing the operation of conference).

They may be submitted by voting representatives in writing at the Speakers' Table together with a statement of reasons of 75 words or less.

They generally work in the following way (there are some exceptions – see Standing Orders on page 50 for specific guidance):



Voting: decisions on procedural motions are made by simple majority of those voting, except for the suspension of standing orders, which requires the support of two-thirds of those voting.



The speaker's rostrum in the auditorium has three lights. The green light is switched on at the beginning of the speech. The amber light is switched on 60 seconds before the end of the speech. The red light is switched on when all the time is used up, and speeches must stop immediately. Duplicate lights will be visible to the audience on either side of the stage.

topical issues

The slots at **F39** and **F44** have been reserved for topical issues or emergency motions (see also *emergency motions* on **page 7**).

Topical issue discussions, unlike other debates at conference, will not make party policy, but are intended to allow representatives and spokespeople an opportunity to discuss and comment on a political issue live at the time of conference, but where it might be premature to move to formal policy-making.

Suggestions for topical issues may be submitted by any voting representative, and should be emailed to motions@libdems.org.uk by **12.00 noon on Monday 6th September**. Emails should include full contact details of the submitter and may include up to 100 words explanatory background.

The title of the issue should be no more than ten words, and should not include an expression of opinion. For example, 'The Chaos on the Railways' would be acceptable, 'The Chaos on the Railways can be solved by Renationalisation' would not.

The topical issue to be discussed is chosen by officers of the Federal Conference Committee and Federal Policy Committee and will be detailed in *Conference Extra* – see **page 6**.

The person submitting an issue that has been chosen may speak for five minutes to introduce the discussion. The relevant Parliamentary spokesperson will be invited to respond. At the end of the debate a member of the Federal Policy Committee will sum up and suggest any further actions.

twitter

During conference week, we will be tweeting live from the auditorium. For updates on who's speaking, when agenda items are about to start and how conference has voted, follow us at

www.twitter.com/LibDemConf

voting status and voting / non-voting photo passes

You will only be able to register as a voting representative if the party's Membership Department:

- 1 **has already received** written notification from the Returning Officer of your local party that you have been elected as a voting representative*; or
- 2 **has already received** written notification from the Returning Officer of your local party that you are a substitute elected by your local party Executive after a voting representative has informed them that s/he is unable to attend*; or
- 3 receives at the **Membership Desk** at conference written notification from the Returning Officer of your local party that you have been elected as a voting representative or as a substitute.

* For a voting photo pass to be sent out before conference this information must have been received by **Friday 6th August 2010**. Otherwise you will be sent a non-voting photo pass.

If you have received a non-voting photo pass and believe you are a voting representative, you need to get an officer of your local party to inform **Membership Services** (see below) in writing of the elected representatives of your local party. Your voting status cannot be changed over the phone.

If you have received a non-voting photo pass but are attending conference as a substitute voting representative, you need to get an officer of your local party to write to **Membership Services** with the name, address and membership number of the representative you are substituting for, as well as your own full details, before **12.00 noon on Friday 10th September**, and bring a copy of this letter to the **Membership Desk** at conference.

You may then collect the appropriate pass from the **Membership Desk** in the **registration area**.

Write to: **Membership Services**, 4 Cowley Street, London SW1P 3NB or email membership@libdems.org.uk.

website

For conference details online, please see www.libdems.org.uk/conference.



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F36 Speech: Simon Hughes MP	40

Tuesday 21st afternoon

F37 Question and Answer Session: Public Services and Benefits	41
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Wednesday 22nd morning

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Wednesday 22nd afternoon

F49 Speech: Don Foster MP	49
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Consultative sessions on Saturday morning will start at 10.00 and end by 12.30.

Consultative Sessions

Health

Grace Suite 1 Hilton Liverpool	Chair: Rapporteur:	Paul Burstow MP To be announced
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Voluntary Sector

Grace Suite 2 Hilton Liverpool	Chair: Rapporteur:	Baroness Barker of Anagach To be announced
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IT and Intellectual Property

Grace Suite 3 Hilton Liverpool	Chair: Rapporteur:	Dr Julian Huppert MP To be announced
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Consultative sessions provide a less formal mechanism than the full-scale conference debates for conference representatives and other party members to participate in the party's policy- and decision-making process. Each session examines a particular topic and hears contributions from party members and in some cases outside speakers.

The sessions will be organised by the relevant Policy Working Group or other party body. Where appropriate, the conclusions of the sessions will be taken into account by the groups when drawing up their final policy papers. Consultative papers for the sessions are included with the Agenda mailing. You may need to show a conference photo pass or party membership card for entry.

Note: there will also be a consultation session for the Federal Executive's strategy review (F15) on the morning of Sunday 19th September and a consultation session for the Federal Policy Committee's Facing the Future policy review (F22) on the morning of Monday 20th September, in the main auditorium in the ACC. See page 23 and 30.

Saturday afternoon sessions will start at 14.20 and end at 17.30. The sessions listed will take place in the order shown; the precise times will be published in *Conference Extra* and *Conference Daily* – see page 6.

Party Business

Chair: Baroness Scott of Needham Market (President of the Liberal Democrats)
Aide: Justine McGuinness (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F1 Formal Opening of the Federal Conference by Baroness Walmsley of West Derby in the County of Merseyside

Party Business

Chair: Dee Doocey AM
Aide: Justine McGuinness (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F2 Report of the Federal Conference Committee

Mover: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

The deadline for questions to this report is 12.00 noon, Monday 6th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See page 8 for further information. Questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 13.30 on Saturday 18th September.

F3 Report of the Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Norman Lamb MP (Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

The deadline for questions to this report is 12.00 noon, Monday 6th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See page 8 for further information. Questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 13.30 on Saturday 18th September.

Policy Motion

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

F4 The Award of a UK National Defence Medal to Service Veterans

New Forest

Mover: Colonel Terry Scriven
Summation: Bob Russell MP

- 1 Conference notes that during the past sixty-five years, millions of personnel have taken the oath
- 2 of allegiance or affirmation to Her Majesty the Queen, accepting either through compulsion in



3 the case of National Service personnel or voluntarily in the case of regular and reserve forces the
4 obligation to place their lives on the line to ensure the United Kingdom and its interests are kept
5 safe and secure.

6 Conference condemns the last Labour Government which, while priding itself on its support to
7 our armed forces, refused to provide the commitment and recognition by recommending to Her
8 Majesty the Queen the award of a UK National Defence Medal to veterans.

9 Conference further notes:

10 a) The need to support and display public recognition to all those who serve or have served
11 their country as a member of the Armed Forces.

12 b) The disruption to the lives of millions of men and women, conscripted into National Service,
13 without appropriate recognition; many are now deceased and the tens of thousands surviving
14 are in their 70s and 80s.

15 c) The service of those who took part and gave their lives in the Berlin airlift; the demands of the
16 Cold War which saw hundreds of service men and women killed in North West Europe on
17 duty and thousands more injured; and the servicemen and women who served through the
18 murder and maiming by the IRA of colleagues and the threat of such attacks against them
19 and their families on the streets of England, Germany and Holland in terrorists bombings and
20 shootings.

21 d) The 'Armed Forces Veterans Badge', originally issued by the MOD to Second World War
22 veterans to commemorate the 60th Anniversary celebrations for the ending of the Second
23 World War has been made available for all veterans; it was not designed for and is considered
24 inappropriate as the only form of recognition for those who gave service to this nation in the
25 Armed Forces.

26 e) Her Majesty the Queen, at the request of the Australian Government, has already awarded a
27 medal of official recognition of service to all Australian veterans and is about to do the same
28 for New Zealand veterans at the request of the New Zealand Government.

29 Conference therefore calls for:

30 1. Acknowledgement of the significant personal sacrifice our Armed Forces personnel make in
31 their service to the Nation once they take the oath or affirmation of allegiance to Her Majesty
32 the Queen.

33 2. Acknowledgement of the failure to recognise officially the commitment and sacrifices made
34 by service veterans who have contributed to the safety and security of the United Kingdom
35 since the ending of the Second World War.

36 3. The coalition government to rescind the decision made by the previous Labour Government
37 to refuse to recommend the award of a National Defence Medal to our armed service veterans
38 and instead, establish a working group to work with the Committee on the Grant of Honours
39 Decorations and Medals, with a view to implementing the award as soon as possible.

Applicability: Federal.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion, and for requests for separate votes, is 12.00 noon, Monday 6th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 5 and 'separate votes' on page 8. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

Party Business

Chair: Susan Gaszczak
Aide: Jenni Lang

F5 Report of the Federal Finance and Administration Committee

Mover: Duncan Greenland (Chair, Federal Finance and Administration Committee)

The deadline for questions to this report is 12.00 noon, Monday 6th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See page 8 for further information. Questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 15.00 on Saturday 18th September.

Chair: Arnie Gibbons
Aide: Jenni Lang

F6 Membership Subscriptions and Federal Levy

Federal Executive

Mover: To be announced
Summation: To be announced

1 Conference notes that:

2 i) Moving from a party in opposition to a party of government provides an opportunity to
3 put Liberal Democrat policies and reforms into practice, but it also raises new financial
4 challenges.

5 ii) In 2011 there are elections for the Welsh Assembly and Scottish Parliament; and the largest
6 single round of local elections takes place, with 1,881 Liberal Democrat councillors up for
7 election.

8 iii) We can make a significant contribution to maintaining our distinctive campaigning and policy
9 voice, and delivering success in the elections next year, through raising our recommended
10 subscription to £5 per month and our minimum subscription to £1 per month which will
11 increase party revenue by approximately £100,000.

12 iv) The Federal Executive is proposing that there be no change in the Concessionary, Youth and
13 Student SAO or Freshers Fair subscription rates, and no change in the Federal Levy; so only
14 those who are able to pay the increase do so, whilst those who cannot are protected.



- 15 v) The Federal Executive is proposing that the recommended rate should rise from £52 to £60.
16 Nearly all members paying the recommended subscription do so by direct debit and this
17 represents a subscription of £5 per month, or an extra 70p per month for those paying the
18 recommended amount.
- 19 vi) At rate of £12, or £1 per month, the proposed new minimum rate will still be the lowest for
20 a UK political party and that, together with our concessionary rate of £6 for those entitled
21 to receive state benefits, we are maintaining our position of offering access to the widest
22 possible proportion of society.
- 23 Conference resolves that for the year 2011:
- 24 1. Membership Subscription
- 25 a) The recommended subscription rate shall be £60.
26 b) The minimum subscription rate shall be £12.
27 c) The concessionary subscription rate for those in receipt of, or entitled to, state benefits
28 other than child benefit or state pension shall be £6.
29 d) Those paying their subscription through the Youth and Student SAO shall pay a minimum of
30 £6 or, where a new member joins at a Freshers Fair event, a special introductory rate of £1.
31 e) Nothing in this motion prevents a State Party from setting a recommended rate or rates
32 of subscription by its internal procedures which is higher than that agreed by the Federal
33 Conference.
- 34 2. Federal Levy
- 35 The Federal Levy on new members shall be 0% of the subscription paid and the Federal Levy
36 on renewal subscriptions shall be 44%.

Applicability: Federal.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion, and for requests for separate votes, is 12.00 noon, Monday 6th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 5 and 'separate votes' on page 8. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

Policy Motion

Chair: Cllr Chris Maines
Aide: Cllr Jon Ball

F7 Transactions Transparency and Conflicts-of-Interest in Government

Fourteen conference representatives
Mover: Paul Reynolds
Summation: Jo Hayes

saturday 18th september afternoon continued

saturday

1 Conference notes that while much of the public debate on conflicts of interest in UK governance
2 – and cases where private interests have trumped public policy – have focused on Members of
3 Parliament, the bigger problem of conflicts of interests and pursuit of private gain in government
4 amongst public servants has been neglected, despite the multi-billion pound sums involved in
5 state sector transactions and procurement.

6 Conference further notes that key areas of concern include:

- 7 A. Public servants leaving their posts to take up highly rewarded roles with suppliers to
8 government or organisations which have benefited from decisions taken by such public
9 servants, where links between such rewards and regulatory and procurement decisions
10 cannot be ruled out.
- 11 B. Public servants having direct or indirect financial interests in organisations that benefit from
12 the activities of such public servants, while in office, including the ownership of shares in
13 companies from which major government purchases are being made.
- 14 C. The purchase of public assets, including property and commercial undertakings, by ‘insider’
15 public servants responsible for the management of such assets, at non-market prices set at
16 levels subject to influence by those public servants purchasing such assets.
- 17 D. The tendency of such practices to create monopolistic relationships between suppliers and
18 government, to the extent that the public interest is damaged by the government facing only
19 small numbers of very large suppliers in key sectors such as defence, IT, PFI, larger scale
20 general outsourcing and major public works.
- 21 E. The permissive legal and regulatory framework for such behaviours among public servants,
22 the lack of prohibition in direct cases, and the culture of self-regulation by those benefiting
23 from such financial relationships – in particular the lack of clarity in the role of public servants
24 in the wake of the absence of a UK civil service law, and the reliance on informal guidelines
25 and discretionary decision-making powers among the public servants themselves.
- 26 F. The further permissive environment created by the lack of disclosure rules for the interests of
27 public servants, the use of government secrecy rules, and the excessive use of commercial
28 confidentiality.

29 Conference expresses deep concern at:

- 30 i) The numerous cases where the scope has existed for public servants to be rewarded for
31 decisions taken when in office, and the potential impact on those decisions of future rewards
32 – in IT procurement (eg. NHS, DoT), defence procurement (helicopters, armaments), Revenue
33 & Customs, BIS (outsourcing) for example.
- 34 ii) Cases which have come to light of procurement officers having shares in the companies they
35 are purchasing goods and services from, and the lack of action on this problem following
36 recommendations made by the former head of the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

37 Conference welcomes:

- 38 a) Commitments by the coalition government to publish more fully the details of contracts
39 awarded, as an aid to integrity, competition and transparency – and a reduction in
40 monopolistic procurement relationships.
- 41 b) Continuing commitments to ensure a better flow of employment between the public and
42 private sectors (two-way), which better rules will facilitate.

43 Conference calls for:



- 44 1. A set of rules passed by Parliament for published disclosure of financial interests by public
45 servants, properly enforced, including the prohibition of public servants having financial
46 interests in companies from which they are purchasing goods and services.
47 2. Independent scrutiny by Parliament of outside appointments and other rewarded relationships
48 taken by public servants, to eliminate the scope for links between decisions taken and
49 subsequent financial rewards.
50 3. The passing of a public service law which clarifies the role, parameters, obligations and
51 responsibilities of public servants, both in general and in relation to Parliamentarians and
52 elected bodies.
53 4. Parliamentary scrutiny of the procurement performance of government departments,
54 including monopoly and competition aspects, and the ability of scrutiny bodies to table
55 reports in full sessions of the UK parliament.
56 5. Further limitations on the use of secrecy laws and commercial confidentiality to mask conflicts
57 of interest.

Applicability: Federal.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion, and for requests for separate votes, is 12.00 noon, Monday 6th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 5 and 'separate votes' on page 8. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

Party Business

Chair: Justine McGuinness (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: Tessa Munt MP

F8 Report of the Campaign for Gender Balance

Mover: Ros Gordon (Chair of the Campaign for Gender Balance)

The deadline for questions to this report is 12.00 noon, Monday 6th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 8. Questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 16.00 on Saturday 18th September.

F9 Report of the Diversity and Equality Group

Mover: Rt Hon Vince Cable MP (Chair of the Diversity and Equality Group)

The deadline for questions to this report is 12.00 noon, Monday 6th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 8. Questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 16.00 on Saturday 18th September.

F10 Report of the European Parliamentary Party

Mover: Fiona Hall MEP (Leader of the Liberal Democrat European Parliamentary Party)

The reports will be moved briefly, and voted on at the end of the session. Conference representatives will be able to put questions on any aspect of Liberal Democrat activities in the European Parliament to the panel. Conference representatives may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on a form collected from and submitted to the Speakers' Table by 13.30 on Saturday 18th September. Questions may also be emailed to questions@libdems.org.uk until 17.00 on Thursday 16th September. The Chair will select which questions shall be asked during the session. See 'questions to reports' on page 8.



Sunday morning sessions will start at 09.00 and end at 12.40. The sessions listed will take place in the order shown; the precise times will be published in *Conference Extra* and *Conference Daily* – see page 6.

Party Business

Chair: Chris Gurney
Aide: Arnie Gibbons

F11 Report of the Federal Executive

Mover: Baroness Scott of Needham Market (President of the Liberal Democrats)

The deadline for questions to this report is 12.00, Monday 6th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'questions to reports' on page 8. Questions selected will be detailed in Conference Extra. Questions on events occurring after the deadline may be submitted at the Speakers' Table on speaker's cards up until 17.30 on Saturday 18th September.

F12 Appointment of Federal Appeals Panel 2010–2015

Federal Executive

Mover: To be announced
Summation: To be announced

- 1 Conference confirms the reappointment of the following members to the Panel for a second five-
2 year term of office:
- 3 a) Paul Carter.
4 b) Mark Soady.
- 5 Conference confirms the appointment of the following new members to the Panel for a five-year
6 term of office:
- 7 1. Judy Broadway – Cambridgeshire County Councillor 1997-2009; Vice-Chairman,
8 Cambridgeshire Police Authority 2007–2009; Member of Standards Committee, Cambs
9 CC, 2006–2009; Member of Professional Standards Committee, Cambs Police Authority,
10 2001–2005; Independent Panel member, Education Admission Appeals, County of Suffolk
11 2009–present.
- 12 2. Margaret Kyrle – Eastleigh Councillor for 30 years including Leader of the Council; magistrate
13 for 29 years; two periods as a member of the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee
14 interviewing prospective new magistrates; trained as a member of the Youth Offending Team
15 (YOT) Referral Panel.
- 16 3. Alan Masters – Currently Chair of the Welsh Appeals Panel.
- 17 4. Paul Roberts – Chester Councillor for 13 years; Appointed to Chartered Institute of
18 Management Accountants Conduct Committee 2009; 2005 to date: Member, Wales
19 Committee, Consumer Council for Water.
- 20 5. Alan Sherwell – Aylesbury Vale District Councillor; Former Chair of the Conference Committee;
21 15 years in Regulatory Affairs in BT, retiring as Head of Consumer Regulation.
- 22 6. Jenny Shorten – Conciliator for the English Candidates Committee; dealt with disciplinary
23 cases for Western Counties Regional Party.

- 24 7. Monica Whyte – Currently a serving barrister in personal injury and housing law and a
25 Haringey Councillor.

Note: Under Article 14.1 (a) of the Federal Constitution, members of the Federal Appeals Panel are elected by the Federal Executive, subject to confirmation by conference. There will therefore be separate votes on each nominee. This motion is not open to amendment.

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

Policy Motion

Chair: Sal Brinton

Aide: Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

F13 Press Complaints Commission

Truro & Falmouth

Mover: To be announced

Summation: To be announced

- 1 Conference reaffirms its belief in the freedom of the British press and the valuable role it can play
2 in holding people, politicians and businesses, to account.
- 3 However, conference believes that the freedom of the press should be exercised with greater
4 responsibility and higher standards; and that this responsibility should respect not only the
5 subject of an article but also the readership, who rely on the press to provide them with the facts
6 of current events.
- 7 Conference notes a report by the Commons Culture Media and Sport select committee,
8 published in February this year, that the Press Complaints Commission is widely viewed as
9 'lacking credibility and authority' among the public.
- 10 Conference further notes that:
- 11 a) Of the 17 members of the PCC, seven are serving editors or editorial directors.
12 b) A clear conflict of interest arises if a complaint is made against a publication whose editor is a
13 PCC member, particularly if that editor is the PCC chair, as in 2008–09.
14 c) The PCC received more than 37,000 complaints from members of the public in 2009 – a
15 sevenfold rise on the previous year.
- 16 Conference believes that for the Press to retain the confidence of the public, it is vital to have an
17 effective and independent regulator that can deal robustly with any breaches of its own Code of
18 Conduct.
- 19 Conference asserts that such a regulator should be entirely independent of serving editors, and
20 should have the power to take disciplinary action, including financial penalties, against editors
21 who breach the Code.
- 22 Conference affirms its support for a free and independent Press and believes that a stronger,



23 more independent PCC will encourage better standards in the Press and help to protect both the
24 public from unwarranted media intrusion, and the Press itself from a potential privacy law which
25 could restrict Press freedom.

26 Conference therefore calls on the government to:

- 27 1. Make a clear commitment to reforming the PCC to make it independent of serving editors and give
28 it more powers to take disciplinary action against editors whose publications breach the code.
29 2. Support the recommendation by the CMS select committee that the PCC should be renamed the
30 Press Complaints and Standards Commission, and appoint a deputy director for standards.
31 3. Affirm their opposition to a privacy law that would restrict press freedom in Britain.

Applicability: Federal.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion, is 12.00 noon, Monday 6th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 5. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 14.30, Saturday 18th September, see 'separate votes' on page 8.

Speech

Chair: Jane Smithard
Aide: Ros Gordon

F14 Speech by Tavish Scott MSP, Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats

Consultative Session

Chair: Justine McGuinness (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: Susan Gaszczak

F15 FE Strategy Consultation Session

A consultative session to discuss the Liberal Democrats' political positioning, involvement of our members, growth and strategy for success over the next period of our party's development. Conference representatives and day visitors wishing to speak should submit a consultation card.

Speech

Chair: Ros Gordon
Aide: Qassim Afzal

F16 Speech by Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury

sunday 19th september afternoon

Sunday afternoon sessions will start at 14.30 and end at 18.00. The sessions listed will take place in the order shown; the precise times will be published in *Conference Extra* and *Conference Daily* – see page 6.

Party Business

Chair: Ian Walton
Aide: Mohammed Shafiq

F17 Presentation by Welsh Liberal Democrats

Party Business

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

F18 Question and Answer Session with Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats and Deputy Prime Minister

This session allows conference representatives to put questions, on any topic, to the leader of the Liberal Democrats in a 'Townhall' style event. Conference representatives may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on a form collected from and submitted to the Speakers' Table by 12.40 on Sunday 19th September. Questions may also be emailed to questions@libdems.org.uk until 17.00 on Thursday 16th September. See 'question and answer sessions' on page 7.

Supplementary questions may also be asked by other voting or non-voting representatives, to follow up the original question. Anyone wanting to ask a supplementary question must sit in the floor of the auditorium, and should put their hand up when asked to do so; if chosen, they will be passed a hand-held microphone.

Policy Motion

Chair: James Gurling
Aide: Dee Doocey AM

F19 Human Rights and the 'War on Terror'

Mole Valley

Mover: To be announced
Summation: To be announced

- 1 1. Conference notes the widespread public concern about the human rights abuses that have
- 2 taken place since 11th September 2001 under the guise of the so-called 'War on Terror'
- 3 initiated by the Bush Government and backed by the Labour Government in the UK. The
- 4 abuses have included enforced disappearance, rendition and torture.

- 5 2. Conference further notes that there has been a lack of transparency as to whether and to
- 6 what extent the UK has been involved in these abuses and that such lack of clear information



- 7 is both detrimental to Britain's reputation and damaging to public confidence in our security
8 services.
- 9 3. Conference believes that abuses of suspects' rights are unacceptable and that such
10 behaviour should be neither practised nor condoned by the UK Government.
- 11 4. Therefore conference welcomes the decision of the coalition government to hold an inquiry
12 into whether, and if so to what extent, the UK Government and its agencies were involved in
13 improper treatment of detainees or were aware of such improper treatment in operations in
14 which the UK was involved.
- 15 5. Conference calls for the terms of reference of the inquiry to be clarified to ensure that they
16 include:
- 17 a) The UK Government's policy and practice on grave violations of human rights
18 perpetrated by the United States and other states against people, including UK
19 nationals, held overseas since 11th September 2001 and the extent to which this policy
20 changed after 11th September 2001.
- 21 b) The UK Government's policy and practice on seeking, receiving and using information
22 extracted under torture or otherwise obtained unlawfully and the extent to which this
23 changed after 11th September 2001.
- 24 c) The steps taken by the UK when the International Committee of the Red Cross first
25 raised concerns, in 2003, about grave human right abuses at the hands of the coalition
26 forces in Iraq, including torture at Abu Ghraib.
- 27 d) The terms of the agreement/s that the UK signed at the request of the US administration
28 after 11th September 2001, purportedly under the principle of collective defence under
29 Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty.
- 30 e) The terms of any other bi-lateral secret agreements between the UK and the US related
31 to the 'War on Terror'.
- 32 f) The adequacy of record keeping of counter terrorism policy and practice.
- 33 g) Actions overseas by the intelligence services authorised under Section 7 of the
34 Intelligence Services Act 1994.
- 35 h) The role of the security services in the treatment and interviewing of detainees held
36 overseas and any changes since 11th September 2001.
- 37 i) The role of lawyers, civil servants, military intelligence agencies and agents in all and any
38 of these matters.
- 39 6. Conference also believes that the purposes of the inquiry would be undermined if its
40 conclusions are not made public and therefore calls on the Prime Minister to commit to
41 publish all the inquiry's conclusions other than any whose publication would compromise the
42 working methods of the military or security services.

Applicability: Federal.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion, is 12.00 noon, Monday 6th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 5. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 14.30, Saturday 18th September, see 'separate votes' on page 8.

Speech

Chair: Jonathan Marks QC
Aide: Susan Gaszczak

F20 Speech by Jeremy Browne MP, Minister of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Policy Motion

Chair: Baroness Barker
Aide: James Gurling

F21 *Accountability to the Poor* (International Development Policy Paper)

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Tim Farron MP

Summation: David Hall-Matthews (Chair of the Policy Working Group)

1 Conference believes that in the context of multiple global challenges – including climate change,
2 rising and increasingly volatile prices of food and energy, population growth, more conflict, failing
3 trade talks and global recession – the UK must continue to play a leading role in delivering justice
4 and equity to poor people around the world.

5 Conference believes that barriers to people's empowerment are political and social as much as
6 economic. Sustainable development and poverty reduction require the strengthening of political
7 engagement and processes in developing countries.

8 Conference therefore endorses policy paper 97, *Accountability to the Poor*, as a distinctive
9 Liberal Democrat approach to International Development. In particular, conference welcomes its
10 proposals to:

11 1. Provide direct support to people in developing countries that will enable them to tackle
12 obstacles to development and benefit more from political processes by:

- 13 a) Supporting the consolidation of equitable justice systems, free and fair elections,
14 independent and well-qualified civil services and ombudsmen.
15 b) Monitoring government activity and holding it to account.
16 c) Providing direct funding for measurable, bottom-up democratic processes, especially in
17 local government.
18 d) Facilitating the work of independent media outlets.
19 e) Engaging UK citizens more directly in development debates.

20 2. Integrate the Department for International Development (DfID) much better with other
21 departments, and mainstream development objectives across the whole UK government by:



- 22 a) Working closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Ministry of Defence
23 (MoD), Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), Department for Energy and
24 Climate Change (DECC) and the Treasury to agree common overall and country-specific
25 development strategies under a Joint Agency Framework.
- 26 b) Ensuring it is a team player in the world, using its influence to make the case for poverty-
27 focused sustainable development and better aid harmonisation.
- 28 c) Taking the lead in sharing data with other development agencies.
- 29 d) Leading calls for structural reform of the United Nations system, World Bank,
30 International Monetary Fund and World Trade Organisation.
- 31 e) Calling for integrated country-specific strategies instead of new global issue-based
32 funds.
- 33 f) Being at the forefront in setting the terms for the emerging development strategy of the
34 European Union's External Action Service.
- 35 g) Refocusing on specific areas of expertise within the department.
- 36 3. Maintain our commitment to increasing development finance and making it more effective
37 by:
- 38 a) Delivering on our commitment to increase the UK's spending on Overseas Development
39 Aid (ODA) to 0.7% of GNI by 2013 and enshrining it in law.
- 40 b) Working towards our long-term goal that spending commitments for climate change
41 mitigation and adaptation measures and provision of security and stabilisation forces are
42 additional to this target.
- 43 c) Continuing to prioritise spending in line with the Millennium Development Goals until
44 2015.
- 45 d) Allocating aid to governments via Budget Support wherever practicable.
- 46 e) Taking the lead in piloting International Aid Transparency Initiative mechanisms and
47 pushing for their widespread implementation.
- 48 f) Making DfID more responsive to critical evaluations of its programmes.
- 49 g) Seeking out innovative mechanisms to raise capital for investment in development,
50 including a global Financial Transactions Tax to raise funds for the protection of material
51 human rights and global public goods.
- 52 h) Helping countries to reduce dependence on aid by further reducing debt and enhancing
53 domestic taxation and stopping financial aid to those countries that already have strong
54 tax bases, such as China and India.
- 55 4. Taking a people-centred and rights-based approach to welfare provision and social
56 protection, especially to people facing discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity, religion,
57 citizenship, sexual orientation, age, gender and disability, by ensuring that:
- 58 a) The needs of women, children and people with disabilities are mainstreamed in all
59 development, social protection and humanitarian programmes.
- 60 b) Funds are provided for research and awareness campaigns into all forms of
61 discrimination, including violence.
- 62 c) Support is given to build networks, such as the Global Partnership on Disability.
- 63 d) Efforts are made to reduce and underwrite risk via social insurance.
- 64 e) Safeguarding principles are applied more broadly, not just in fragile situations.
- 65 f) Particular recognition is given to the needs of young people.

- 66 5. Protect people's entitlements to security and justice, especially in fragile and conflict
67 situations, by:
- 68 a) Safeguarding the share of ODA spent on long-term poverty reduction by declaring
69 humanitarian spending as a separate item of ODA.
- 70 b) Using the National Security Council to formulate joint strategies between DfID, MoD and
71 the FCO, with a focus on developmental outcomes.
- 72 c) Scaling up the Conflict Prevention Pool.
- 73 d) Establish a Civilian Response Corps to contribute to people-centred security systems.
- 74 e) Prioritising the rebuilding of diverse accountability mechanisms in post-conflict
75 situations.
- 76 f) Demonstrating a willingness to engage combatants in peaceful dialogue.
- 77 g) Taking a global lead in pushing for a robust Arms Trade Agreement to be signed by
78 2012.
- 79 6. Help to meet the disproportionate challenge that developing countries face as a result of
80 environmental threats, including climate change, by:
- 81 a) Improving DfID's record on carbon emissions by climate-proofing all its programmes.
- 82 b) Seeking ways to increase global funding for climate change adaptation and funding
83 research to support communities in finding environmentally sustainable routes out of
84 poverty.
- 85 c) Building a successful low-carbon economy in the UK and EU, and transferring low-
86 carbon technologies.
- 87 d) Calling for the establishment of an International Leapfrog Fund to provide funds for
88 sustainable energy generation and development in poor countries.
- 89 e) Mitigating against food insecurity by prioritising investment in research into improved
90 crop productivity.
- 91 f) Calling for much more efficient global systems to support agriculture.
- 92 g) Working to develop an international labelling system for the environmental impact of
93 products.
- 94 7. Support governments in protecting their citizens against the volatility of global markets and in
95 securing long-term opportunities for exports through trade justice by:
- 96 a) Setting up a Joint Trade Unit between DfID and BIS with shared targets.
- 97 b) Increasing aid for trade with a focus on increasing nations' negotiating capacity in
98 international forums.
- 99 c) Calling for reforms of global trade governance, based on cooperation rather than
100 competition between rich and poor nations.
- 101 d) Supporting a new WTO Development Round, with a specific focus on export subsidies
102 and trade barriers in developed nations.
- 103 8. Stimulate and facilitate UK investments and the domestic private sector in developing
104 countries by:
- 105 a) Underwriting commercial uncertainty through increased collaboration between DfID,
106 BIS, the Treasury and UK businesses.
- 107 b) Using the International Financing Facility to help governments to bolster their legal and
108 regulatory institutions.



sunday 19th september afternoon continued

- 109 c) Seeking to influence CDC to refocus on stimulating growth where it is most needed.
- 110 d) Aligning the interests of UK companies operating in developing countries more closely
- 111 with development objectives by promoting responsible business conduct.
- 112 e) Clearing a path for legitimate business by taking a tough line against corruption, tax
- 113 evasion and money laundering.

Applicability: Federal.

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

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See 'interventions' on page 7 for further information.

The deadline for amendments to this motion is 12.00 noon, Monday 6th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 5. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 14.30, Saturday 18th September, see 'separate votes' on page 8.

Monday morning sessions will start at 09.00 and end at 12.40. The sessions listed will take place in the order shown; the precise times will be published in *Conference Extra* and *Conference Daily* – see page 6.

Consultative Session

Chair: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: Chris Gurney
Rapporteur: Christian Moon

F22 Facing the Future

Federal Policy Committee

Consultative sessions provide a less formal mechanism than the full-scale conference debates for conference representatives and other party members to participate in the party's policy- and decision-making process.

The session will be organised by the Facing the Future Working Group which is conducting an overall review to plan the party's policy development work for the rest of this Parliament. Conference representatives and day visitors wishing to speak should submit a consultation card. The conclusions of the session will be taken into account by the group when drawing up their final report.

Policy Motion

Chair: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: Dee Doocey AM

F23 Free Schools and Academies

Huntingdon

Mover: Cllr Peter Downes
Summation: John Howson

- 1 Conference is concerned by the establishment of academies and free schools under coalition
- 2 government policy.

- 3 Conference re-asserts its commitment to the key principles agreed at the spring 2009 conference
- 4 in Harrogate in policy paper 89, *Equity and Excellence*, and specifically that:

- 5 i) Local Authorities should retain strategic oversight of the provision of school places funded by
- 6 the use of public money.

- 7 ii) Local Authorities should continue to exercise their arms-length support for all state schools
- 8 funded wholly or partially with public funds with particular emphasis on their work with
- 9 disadvantaged pupils.



monday 20th september morning continued

- 10 Conference calls on government to ensure that schools remaining within the Local Authority
11 family are not financially penalised by the creation of academies and specifically:
- 12 a) That academies should be required to pay the full cost including administrative overheads for
13 any services they buy back from the Local Authority.
- 14 b) That academies should have only observer status on the Schools Forum as they have placed
15 themselves outside the democratic system for the funding of education.
- 16 In relation to 'free schools', conference calls on all Liberal Democrats to urge people not to take
17 up this option because it risks:
- 18 1. Creating surplus places which is prejudicial to the efficient use of resources in an age of
19 austerity.
- 20 2. Increasing social divisiveness and inequity into a system which is already unfair because
21 of the multiple tiers and types of schools created by successive Conservative and Labour
22 governments and thus abandoning our key goal of a high quality education system for all
23 learners.
- 24 3. Depressing educational outcomes for pupils in general.
- 25 4. Increasing the existing complexity of school admissions and exclusions.
- 26 5. Putting at risk advances made in making appropriate provision for children with special
27 needs.
- 28 6. Putting in jeopardy the programme of improving school buildings.
- 29 7. Wasting precious resources, both human and material, at a time when all efforts should be
30 focused on improving educational outcomes by enabling effective teaching and learning to
31 take place in good local schools accessible to all.

Applicability: England only.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion, is 12.00 noon, Monday 6th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 5. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Sunday 19th September, see 'separate votes' on page 8.

Speech

Chair: Susan Gaszczak
Aide: Ian Walton

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

Monday afternoon sessions will start at 14.30 and end at 18.00. The sessions listed will take place in the order shown; the precise times will be published in *Conference Extra* and *Conference Daily* – see page 6.

Policy Motion

Chair: Arnie Gibbons

Aide: Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

F25 Green Taxation

Seventeen conference representatives

Mover: Paul Burall

Summation: Martin Horwood MP

1 Conference believes that a key step in creating an environmentally sustainable economy is to
2 establish a system of taxation which rewards activities which are non-polluting and resource-
3 efficient, achieved through a gradual switch from taxation on income and employment to taxation
4 on pollution and resource depletion.

5 Conference notes and approves the commitments in the Coalition Programme for Government
6 to:

- 7 a) Increase the proportion of tax revenue accounted for by environmental taxes.
8 b) Reform the taxation of air travel by switching from a per-passenger to a per-plane duty.
9 c) Introduce a floor price for carbon.

10 Conference applauds the inclusion in the June 2010 Emergency Budget of commitments to
11 reform the Climate Change Levy and to explore options for changes to aviation tax.

12 Conference calls on Liberal Democrat ministers in the coalition government to:

- 13 1. Press for rapid implementation of the reform of the Climate Change Levy so as to steadily
14 increase the price of fossil-fuel-consuming activities and to promote energy efficiency
15 measures and the development of renewable energy.
16 2. Ensure that any changes to the carbon price do not result in windfall benefits to the operators
17 of existing nuclear power stations.
18 3. Press for full and rapid implementation of the coalition's commitment to reform the taxation of
19 air travel.

Applicability: Federal.

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

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See 'interventions' on page 7 for further information.



The deadline for amendments to this motion, is 12.00 noon, Monday 6th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 5. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Sunday 19th September, see 'separate votes' on page 8.

Party Business

Chair: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)
Aide: Jenni Lang

F26 Party Awards

The Harriet Smith Awards
The President's Awards
The Penhaligon Awards
The Patsy Calton Award
The Albert Ingham Award

Speech

Chair: Baroness Scott of Needham Market (President of the Liberal Democrats)
Aide: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F27 Speech by the Leader of the Liberal Democrats, Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP

Party Business

Chair: Arnie Gibbons
Aide: Susan Gaszczak

F28 Standing Order Amendment: Day Visitors Speaking at Conference

City of Chester and WLD

Mover: Lizzie Jewkes
Summation: Cllr Bob Barton

1 *In SO 8.5 line 1, after 'members' insert: 'including voting and non-voting members who have*
2 *registered as day visitors'.*

3 *Amend Glossary to reflect this change.*

Applicability: Federal.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion, is 12.00 noon, Monday 6th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 5. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Sunday 19th September, see 'separate votes' on page 8.

The existing text of standing orders is given on pages 50–57 of this Agenda. A standing order amendment requires a two-thirds majority to pass.

F29 Standing Order Amendment: Questions to Parliamentary Party Reports

Federal Conference Committee

Mover: Andrew Wiseman (Chair of Federal Conference Committee)

Summation: To be announced

1 *In SO 1.5 (d), at end add:*

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

Applicability: Federal.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion, is 12.00 noon, Monday 6th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 5. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Sunday 19th September, see 'separate votes' on page 8.

The existing text of standing orders is given on pages 50–57 of this Agenda. A standing order amendment requires a two-thirds majority to pass.

F30 Standing Order Amendment: Summation Speakers

Federal Conference Committee

Mover: Andrew Wiseman (Chair of Federal Conference Committee)

Summation: To be announced

1 *In SO 8.3, delete fourth sentence and insert:*

2 The movers of amendments and options (or their nominees) shall have the right of reply in the
3 same order (except that where an amendment or option has not been opposed during the
4 debate, the chair of the session shall have the right to direct that its movers shall not exercise their
5 right of reply), after which the mover of the motion (or the mover's nominee) shall have the right of
6 reply.



Applicability: Federal.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion, is 12.00 noon, Monday 6th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 5. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Sunday 19th September, see 'separate votes' on page 8.

The existing text of standing orders is given on pages 50–57 of this Agenda. A standing order amendment requires a two-thirds majority to pass.

F31 Standing Order Amendment: Where to speak from

Federal Conference Committee

Mover: Andrew Wiseman (Chair of Federal Conference Committee)

Summation: To be announced

1 *Delete SO 8.9.*

Applicability: Federal.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion, is 12.00 noon, Monday 6th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 5. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Sunday 19th September, see 'separate votes' on page 8.

The existing text of standing orders is given on pages 50–57 of this Agenda. A standing order amendment requires a two-thirds majority to pass.

Tuesday morning sessions will start at 09.00 and end at 12.40. The sessions listed will take place in the order shown; the precise times will be published in *Conference Extra* and *Conference Daily* – see page 6.

Policy Motion

Chair: Sarah Boad

Aide: Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

F32 Localism

Federal Policy Committee

Mover: Cllr Chris White

Summation: To be announced

1 Conference deplores the way that power has been shifted away from local communities and
2 towards ever more centralised forms of government, public services and enterprise over the past
3 40 years.

4 Conference in particular regrets that these centralising trends in government have contributed to
5 the frustration of community voluntary activity, the erosion of local economies and the weakening
6 of local life and institutions more broadly.

7 It is a fundamental Liberal principle that power should be spread as widely as possible. Conference
8 therefore welcomes the announcement in the coalition government's first Queen's Speech that a
9 Decentralisation and Localism Bill will be presented to Parliament in the autumn.

10 Conference, however, calls on the coalition government to be more ambitious and take further
11 opportunities to revitalise neighbourhoods, by:

12 1. Empowering local democracy – Since local people are the experts in their own
13 neighbourhoods and their own needs, the role of existing local authorities needs to be
14 strengthened, and bodies representing smaller communities, local civil society and the
15 community voluntary sector need to be given much greater support.

16 2. Freeing up local administration – Frontline staff and public service professionals must be
17 freed from detailed central control so that they can match services to local needs. The
18 administration of health, the police and where appropriate the justice system must be
19 made more responsive and accountable to the communities they serve, with administrative
20 boundaries aligned to those of local authorities so as to promote effective coordination and
21 integration of local services.

22 3. Encouraging local economics and enterprise – Localism depends also on a diverse local
23 economy, less dependent on the direction and support of Whitehall, on the branches
24 of national and multinational companies or on City of London finance. In the long run,
25 successful local economies need a bedrock of local innovation, local enterprise, local energy,
26 and a lending network capable of providing the necessary capital for local business, social
27 enterprise and other endeavour.



- 28 4. Moving towards financial autonomy for local government – Central government control of local
29 government finance has been the mechanism through which detailed Whitehall management
30 of local government has been imposed. We set ourselves the long-term target of achieving
31 75% of local government spending being raised locally, with provision for equalisation. We
32 call for the immediate return of business rates to local government, for a transparent annual
33 process of negotiation between representatives of local authorities and the Treasury on the
34 allocation of central funding to local government, and for the coalition government to adopt
35 as a priority the transfer of other revenue streams to local authority control.

Applicability: England only.

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

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See 'interventions' on page 7 for further information.

The deadline for amendments to this motion, is 12.00 noon, Monday 6th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 5. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Monday 20th September, see 'separate votes' on page 8.

Speech

Chair: Marisha Ray
Aide: Ros Gordon

F33 Speech by Lord McNally, Leader of the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords and Minister of State for Justice

Policy Motion

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

F34 Ensuring Fairness in a Time of Austerity

34 conference representatives

Mover: James Graham
Summation: David Hall-Matthews

- 1 Conference notes:
- 2 i) The fragile state of the global economy.
3 ii) That the poor, the young and the vulnerable have historically suffered during periods of
4 austerity.

5 iii) The crucial role the Liberal Democrats must play in government to ensure that during this
6 downturn, those with the broadest shoulders carry the greatest burden, that the most
7 vulnerable are protected and that the economic recovery is both sustainable and leads to
8 greater fairness.

9 Conference welcomes the Liberal Democrat policies secured in the June Emergency Budget,
10 including:

- 11 a) The £1,000 increase in the Income Tax allowance, freeing 880,000 low paid workers from
12 Income Tax altogether.
- 13 b) A new tax on banks, ensuring that they help to pay to clear up the mess left by the financial
14 crisis.
- 15 c) Ensuring that top earners will pay a full 10% more in Capital Gains Tax.
- 16 d) Ensuring that pensioners get a fair deal with the 'triple lock', raising state pensions every year
17 in line with earnings, inflation, or by 2.5%, whichever is the highest.
- 18 e) Establishing a regional growth fund to ensure that regions, towns and cities that depend
19 heavily on the public sector will not be forgotten, getting meaningful support to help create
20 jobs and opportunities for all.
- 21 f) Cutting child tax credits for those who can most afford it, whilst increasing support for the
22 poorest families.

23 Conference also welcomes moves to put the Office of Budget Responsibility on a statutory
24 footing, siting it outside the Treasury and subjecting the appointment of its Chair to approval by
25 the Treasury Select Committee.

26 Conference calls for Liberal Democrats in government to continue to work to ensure that the most
27 vulnerable in society are not disproportionately affected by the government's austerity measures
28 and to ensure that the wealth and inequality gap does not widen. In particular, conference calls
29 for Liberal Democrats in government to:

- 30 1. Ensure that the Office of Budget Responsibility is genuinely independent of government by
31 having its committee appointed directly by Parliament, and expanding its remit to include
32 assessing the socio-economic impact of Treasury policy, as stipulated in the Equality Act
33 2010.
- 34 2. Insist that Liberal Democrat ministers are given the freedom and resources to commission
35 research to fully assess the viability and practicalities of increasing taxation on wealth
36 – including land values.
- 37 3. Prevent the emergence of a 'lost generation' by fostering a strong economy and adequate
38 investment in post-16 training, education, employment schemes and youth services. In light
39 of the crucial role higher education will play in assisting the economic recovery, the party
40 should explore the possibility of building cross party support around replacing tuition fees
41 and student loans with a graduate tax system.
- 42 4. Promote jobs, sustainability, good health and social mobility by introducing strong incentives
43 to encourage private investment in affordable, green housing stock and renovating empty
44 homes.
- 45 5. Encourage the establishment of credit unions, mutuals and regional stock exchanges to
46 revive the fortunes of the small and medium enterprises that have suffered as a result of the
47 recession.
- 48 6. Ensure that the banks that remain dependent on public support increase direct lending to
49 viable businesses.
- 50 7. Work towards ending child poverty in this Parliament.



Applicability: Federal, except 3, 4 and 5 (lines 37–47) which are England only.

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

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See 'interventions' on page 7 for further information.

The deadline for amendments to this motion, is 12.00 noon, Monday 6th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 5. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Monday 20th September, see 'separate votes' on page 8.

Policy Motion

Chair: Dee Doocey AM
Aide: Ros Gordon

F35 Equal Marriage in United Kingdom

DELGA

Mover: To be announced
Summation: To be announced

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 i) At present no two individuals of the same sex may enter into a marriage in the United Kingdom,
3 and that no two individuals of mixed sex may enter into a civil partnership.
4 ii) Under the terms of the Gender Recognition Act (2004) any individual seeking gender recognition or
5 to change their gender as legally recognised cannot remain in a marriage or civil partnership.

6 Conference recognises that:

- 7 a) The Deputy Prime Minister, and Leader of the Liberal Democrats, the Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP,
8 said in Pink News on 17th February 2010: 'I support gay marriage. Love is the same, straight
9 or gay, so the civil institution should be the same too. All couples should be able to make that
10 commitment to one another'.
11 b) The moves by the new coalition government to allow ceremonies for lesbian, gay, bisexual,
12 transgender couples to be performed in religious buildings are very much welcomed.
13 c) Whether someone believes in marriage, civil partnership or commitment, any religious organisation
14 or building whether a church, mosque or temple which chooses to have civil partnerships
15 celebrated at their religious places of worship will be in the future able to do so.
16 d) To grant rights to one group of individuals which are denied to others based on sexual orientation
17 and gender is unconscionable.
18 e) The current arrangements with regards to marriage are discriminatory in nature.
19 f) Non-UK same-sex marriages are currently equated to civil partnership in the UK, not
20 marriage.

21 Conference believes that as stated in the preamble to the party's constitution, we 'exist to build
22 and safeguard a fair, free and open society, in which we seek to balance the fundamental values
23 of liberty, equality and community' and 'reject all prejudice and discrimination' including those
24 issues which relate to gender and sexual orientation.

25 Conference therefore calls on the British government to:

- 26 1. Open both marriage and civil partnerships to both same-sex and mixed-sex couples.
- 27 2. To allow approved religious and humanist celebrants to legally solemnise and celebrate
28 same-sex marriage and civil partnerships in places of religious worship.
- 29 3. To allow those individuals who wish to seek gender recognition or change their legally
30 recognised gender to remain in their current marriage or civil partnership without changing
31 any legal requirements.
- 32 4. To establish a simplistic process by which any existing civil partnership may be converted
33 into a marriage or vice-versa without the need to dissolve the civil partnership or proceed
34 with a divorce.
- 35 5. To automatically recognise all non-UK same-sex marriages as marriage in the UK, and to
36 subsequently remove non-UK same-sex marriages from the current schedule which equates
37 them to civil partnerships in the UK.
- 38 6. To continue to maintain the schedule equating non-UK same-sex civil unions or registered
39 partnerships as civil partnerships in the UK.
- 40 7. To add non-UK opposite-sex civil unions or registered partnerships to the schedule equating
41 them to Civil Partnerships in the UK.
- 42 8. To openly promote and encourage recognition of same-sex marriage and civil partnerships
43 across the European Union, especially in countries where currently no laws exist.

Applicability: Federal.

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

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See 'interventions' on page 7 for further information.

The deadline for amendments to this motion, is 12.00 noon, Monday 6th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 5. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Monday 20th September, see 'separate votes' on page 8.

Speech

Chair: Jenni Lang
Aide: Mohammed Shafiq

F36 Speech by Simon Hughes MP, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats



*Tuesday afternoon sessions will start at 14.30 and end at 18.00. The sessions listed will take place in the order shown; the precise times will be published in **Conference Extra** and **Conference Daily** – see page 6.*

Party Business

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

F37 Question and Answer Session on Public Services and Benefits

Panellists will include:

- Paul Burstow MP Minister of State for Care Services
- Sarah Teather MP Minister of State for Children and Families
- Andrew Stunell MP Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Communities and Local Government
- Steve Webb MP Minister of State for Pensions

This session will allow conference representatives to put questions on any public services and benefits issue to a panel of party spokespeople. Conference representatives may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on a form collected from and submitted to the Speakers' Table by 12.40 on Monday 20th September. Questions may also be emailed to questions@libdems.org.uk until 17.00 on Thursday 16th September. The Chair will select which questions shall be asked during the session. See 'question and answer sessions' on page 7.

Speech

Chair: Tessa Munt MP
Aide: Chris Gurney

F38 Speech by Rt Hon Chris Huhne MP, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change

Policy Motion

Chair: Gareth Epps
Aide: James Gurling

F39 Emergency Motion or Topical Issue

*This slot has been reserved for an emergency motion or discussion of an important current political issue. The deadline for emergency motions and for suggestions for topical issues is 12.00 noon, Monday 6th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'emergency motions' on page 7 and 'topical issues' on page 11. Those selected for debate and/or proposed for the ballot will be printed in **Conference Extra**.*

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 'speaking at conference' on page 8.

Party Business

Chair: Erlend Watson
Aide: Robert Adamson

F40 Presentation by the Liberal Democrat Group on Fife Council

Party Business

Chair: Alan Sherwell
Aide: Erlend Watson

F41 Reports of the Parliamentary Parties of the Liberal Democrats

Commons: Alistair Carmichael MP (Chief Whip) and Lorely Burt (Chair of Parliamentary Party)
Lords: Lord McNally (Leader) and Lord Shutt (Chief Whip)

Each of the reports will be moved briefly, and voted on at the end of the session, but the bulk of the session will be used to allow conference representatives to put questions on any aspect of Liberal Democrat activities in the UK to the panel. Conference representatives may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on a form collected from and submitted to the Speakers' Table by 12.40 on Tuesday 21st September. Questions may also be emailed to questions@libdems.org.uk until 17.00 on Thursday 16th September. The Chair will select which questions shall be asked during the session. See 'questions to reports' on page 8.

Party Business

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball
Aide: Ian Walton

F42 Constitutional Amendment: Election of Local Authority Councillors to Federal Committees

Ten conference representatives
Mover: Cllr Chris White
Summation: Cllr Richard Kemp

1 *In Article 7.2(g), at end add: '(no councillor may serve as a representative both under section*
2 *7.2(g) and under 8.1(g)).'*

3 *In Article 8.1(g), at end add: '(no councillor may serve as a representative both under section*
4 *7.2(g) and under 8.1(g)).'*



The relevant text of the existing constitution is as follows:

7.2 The FPC shall consist of the following:

- (a) the Leader;
- (b) one other MP elected by and from the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons;
- (c) one MP each elected by and from members of the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons representing constituencies in England, Scotland and Wales respectively;
- (d) one Peer elected by and from the Parliamentary Party in the House of Lords;
- (e) one MEP elected by and from the Parliamentary Party in the European Parliament;
- (f) the President;
- (g) three principal local authority councillors, elected by principal local authority councillors of the party from among their own number;
- (h) one Representative of each State Party, elected by its internal procedures (State Parties may appoint a substitute member should the elected member be unable to attend a specific meeting of the FPC); and
- (i) one more person than the total number elected or appointed under paragraphs (a) to (h) above elected by the Federal Conference (which shall be filled in accordance with electoral regulations) except that persons who, at the date of close of nominations for election under this paragraph, are MPs shall not be eligible to be candidates for election under this paragraph.

...

8.1 There shall be a Federal Executive, which shall be responsible for directing, co-ordinating and implementing the work of the Federal Party. It shall consist of the following:

- (i) voting members:
 - (a) the President, who shall act as its chair;
 - (b) the Vice-Presidents;
 - (c) the Leader;
 - (d) two other MPs elected by and from the Parliamentary Party in the House of Commons;
 - (e) one Peer elected by and from the Parliamentary Party in the House of Lords;
 - (f) one MEP elected by and from the Parliamentary Party in the European Parliament;
 - (g) two principal local authority councillors elected by principal local authority councillors of the party from among their own number;
 - (h) one representative of each State Party, elected by its internal procedures (State Parties may appoint a substitute member should the elected member be unable to attend a specific meeting of the Federal Executive);
 - (i) one more person than the total number of voting members elected or appointed under paragraphs (a) to (h) above elected by the Federal Conference (casual vacancies shall be filled in accordance with the electoral regulations) except that persons who, at the date of close of nominations for election under this paragraph, are MPs shall not be eligible to be candidates for election under this paragraph.

Applicability: Federal.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion, is 12.00 noon, Monday 6th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 5. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Monday 20th September, see 'separate votes' on page 8.

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

F43 Constitutional Amendment: Substitution for the Leader on the Federal Policy Committee

Bermondsey and Old Southwark

Mover: Simon Hughes MP

Summation: To be announced

- 1 *In Article 7.2 (a), after the word 'leader' insert '(or nominee, who shall be a member of the*
- 2 *Parliamentary Party as defined in Article 9.1)'*

The relevant clause of the existing constitution is shown under F42 on page 43.

Applicability: Federal.

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

The deadline for amendments to this motion, is 12.00 noon, Monday 6th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 5. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Monday 20th September, see 'separate votes' on page 8.

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



Wednesday morning sessions will start at 09.00 and end at 12.40. The sessions listed will take place in the order shown; the precise times will be published in **Conference Extra** and **Conference Daily** – see page 6.

Policy Motion

Chair: Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)
Aide: Susan Gaszczak

F44 Emergency Motion or Topical Issue

This slot has been reserved for an emergency motion or discussion of an important current political issue. The deadline for emergency motions and for suggestions for topical issues is 12.00 noon, Monday 6th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See ‘emergency motions’ on page 7 and ‘topical issues’ on page 11. Those selected for debate and/or proposed for the ballot will be printed in Conference Extra.

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 ‘speaking at conference’ on page 8.

Party Business

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

F45 Diversity

Ethnic Minority Liberal Democrats

Mover: Lester Holloway
Summation: Baroness Hussein-Ece

- 1 Conference welcomes:
- 2 A. The party’s commitment to improving diversity within the Liberal Democrats, demonstrated
- 3 by various initiatives, including EMLD and the New Generation Programme.
- 4 B. The positive role played by black, asian or other minority ethnic (BAME), people with
- 5 disabilities and women candidates at the General Election in helping to increase support for
- 6 the party.
- 7 C. Women taking leadership positions across the party – as Party President, Leader in Wales,
- 8 Chair of our parliamentary party in the Commons, Leader of our European Parliament group,
- 9 Leader of our London Assembly group, Chair of the London Assembly and Leaders of
- 10 Council groups.
- 11 D. The Final Report of the Speaker’s Conference on Parliamentary Representation.

12 Conference notes that:

- 13 I. Notwithstanding one third of our most winnable seats and half our held seats with retiring
14 MPs at the last General Election had female candidates, the number and percentage of
15 Liberal Democrat women MPs has recently fallen.
- 16 II. Liberal Democrats have no ethnic minority MPs, MEPs, MSPs or AMs.
- 17 III. Limited personal wealth, socio-economic issues, caring responsibilities and other barriers
18 can be a significant deterrent to prospective candidates, particularly from under-represented
19 groups.
- 20 IV. There is already precedent for positive action in the party, namely gender 'zipping' previously
21 applied for European parliamentary selections, and a quota system that currently ensures
22 that Westminster parliamentary selections have at least one or two members of each gender,
23 depending on the length of the shortlist.
- 24 V. There is an urgent need to supplement existing initiatives, aimed at providing support to
25 BAME candidates, with additional positive action.

26 Conference believes that:

- 27 i) Achieving diversity in our parliamentary parties is an issue for the entire party, and must
28 urgently be addressed at every level.
- 29 ii) With Liberal Democrats in government and our Leader as Deputy Prime Minister leading
30 on political reform, there is now a once in a generation opportunity to re-shape politics and
31 significantly increase the representation of women, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities
32 and other under-represented groups.
- 33 iii) Further failure to make significant progress on BAME representation at all levels, and
34 particularly in the House of Commons, will continue to damage the reputation of the party
35 amongst BAME communities, making it more difficult to gain trust and support; and affect
36 the party's credibility when speaking about issues of race equality.

37 Conference therefore calls for:

- 38 1. Diversity to remain a priority in any further appointments to the House of Lords and in plans
39 for its reform, with the objective of achieving a balanced parliament, which reflects the
40 diversity of modern Britain.
- 41 2. The Federal Executive in consultation with the state parties to:
 - 42 a) Examine the issue of candidate diversity with utmost urgency and bring further proposals
43 to spring conference.
 - 44 b) Commission a wide-ranging review of political reforms aimed at removing structural and
45 other barriers to participation in politics.
- 46 3. State parties, with regard to BAME candidates, to ensure that:
 - 47 a) Reserved places, like the one London Region has in place for the GLA list, are extended
48 to other multi-member Assembly, MEP and council selections.
 - 49 b) State Candidates Committees set the appropriate proportion of reserved places for
50 each region in line with the latest available Office of National Statistics data.
 - 51 c) At least one BAME member is included on the shortlist whenever a sitting Liberal
52 Democrat MP retires or resigns, and in any parliamentary by-elections.



- 53 d) At least one BAME member is on the shortlists for Westminster constituencies where
54 the Liberal Democrats require a swing of five percent, or less, to win the seat.
- 55 4. The Federal Executive and the parliamentary parties to:
- 56 a) Strengthen the party's policies and processes to include positive action around
57 recruitment, retention and promotion of BAME talent; set targets for BAME
58 representation in line with national and regional Office of National Statistics data; and
59 decide on outcomes within agreed timescales.
- 60 b) Make sufficient resources available for the effective recruitment, retention, promotion,
61 training and mentoring of BAME candidates.
- 62 c) Support enabling legislation for all-BAME shortlists and introduce the measure in at least
63 two top target seats.

Applicability: Federal.

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

In addition to speeches from the platform, it will be possible for conference representatives to make concise (maximum one-minute) interventions from the floor during the debate on the motion. See 'interventions' on page 7 for further information.

The deadline for amendments to this motion, is 12.00 noon, Monday 6th September, to the Policy Unit, Liberal Democrat HQ. See 'amendments' on page 5. Those selected for debate will be printed in Conference Extra.

The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.00, Tuesday 21st September, see 'separate votes' on page 8.

Speech

Chair: Baroness Garden
Aide: Arnie Gibbons

F46 Speech by Lynne Featherstone MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Equalities

Party Business

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

F47 Question and Answer Session on Crime and Justice Issues

Panellists will include:

- Lord McNally Leader of the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords and Minister of State for Justice

wednesday 22nd september morning continued

- Tom Brake MP Co-Chair of the Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Committee on Home Affairs, Justice and Equalities
- Cllr Duwayne Brooks Member of Lewisham Community Police Consultative Group

Chair: Dee Doocey AM

Chair of the London Assembly

This session will allow conference representatives to put questions on any crime and justice issue to a panel including party spokespeople and outside experts. Conference representatives may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on a form collected from and submitted to the Speakers' Table by 18.00 on Tuesday 21st September. Questions may also be emailed to questions@libdems.org.uk until 17.00 on Thursday 16th September. The Chair will select which questions shall be asked during the session. See 'question and answer sessions' on page 7.

Speech

Chair: Qassim Afzal

Aide: Justine McGuinness (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F48 Speech by Rt Hon Vince Cable MP, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills



wednesday 22nd september afternoon

Wednesday afternoon sessions will start at 14.30 and end at approximately 15.45. The sessions listed will take place in the order shown; the precise times will be published in *Conference Extra* and *Conference Daily* – see page 6.

Speech

Chair: Mohammed Shafiq
Aide: Jeremy Hargreaves (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

F49 Speech by Don Foster MP, Co-Chair of the Liberal Democrat Culture, Olympics, Media & Sport Parliamentary Committee

Party Business

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

F50 Question and Answer Session with Liberal Democrat Cabinet Ministers

Panellists will include:

- Rt Hon Vince Cable MP Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills
- Rt Hon Chris Huhne MP Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change
- Rt Hon Michael Moore MP Secretary of State for Scotland

Conference representatives may submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on a form collected from and submitted to the Speakers' Table by 12.40 on Wednesday 22nd September. Questions may also be emailed to questions@libdems.org.uk until 17.00 on Thursday 16th September. The Chair will select which questions shall be asked during the session. See 'question and answer sessions' on page 7.

Party Business

Chair: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

F51 Formal Close of the Federal Conference by Baroness Scott of Needham Market, President of the Liberal Democrats

standing orders for federal conference

glossary of terms

Business motion

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

Business amendment

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

Committee

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

Constitutional amendment

A proposal to change the constitution of the Party.

Secondary constitutional amendment

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

Consultative session

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

Day visitor

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

Elected representative

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

Emergency motion

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

Emergency amendment

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

Full session

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

Non-voting member

A party member who has paid the appropriate registration fee, but, because they are not an elected representative, is not entitled to vote at conference. A non-voting member is, however, entitled to submit a speaker's card for any item on which voting members may submit a speaker's card.

Point of order

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

Policy motion

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

Policy amendment

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

Policy paper

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

Procedural motion

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

Move to next business

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

Reference back

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

Request for a count

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

Separate vote

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

Suspension of standing orders

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



Special conference

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

Standing order amendment

A proposal to change these standing orders.

Secondary standing order amendment

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

Topical issue discussion

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

Voting member

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

standing orders

1. The conference agenda

1.1 What is on the agenda

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

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

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

1.2 Conference or council of state parties

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

1.3 Right to submit agenda items

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

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

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

1.4 How motions and amendments are submitted

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

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

The Committee shall specify:

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

motions, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference.

- c) The closing date for the submission of written reports from the bodies listed in paragraph 1.1(b), which will be set so as to enable their distribution with the agenda. Any supplementary report submitted later than this deadline may only be tabled at conference with the permission of the Committee.
- d) The closing date for the submission of questions to any of the reports listed in the agenda, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference.
- e) Notwithstanding 1.5(d), questions may always be submitted to any of the reports listed in the agenda arising from events occurring after the deadline specified in 1.5(d). The deadline for these questions shall be one hour before the start of the business session at which the report is due to be considered.
- f) The closing date for proposals for topical issue discussions, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference

1.6 Notification of deadlines

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

1.7 Later deadlines in special circumstances

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

2. Consultative sessions

2.1 The subjects for consultative sessions

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

2.2 Speaking at consultative sessions

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

2.3 Voting at consultative sessions

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

3. The agenda

3.1 The shortlisting of motions

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

3.2 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders

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

3.3 Balance between State and Federal policy debates

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

4. Selection of motions and amendments

4.1 Compositing or otherwise altering motions

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

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

4.2 Selection of amendments

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

4.3 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders

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

- a) Similar in effect to another motion which has been selected for debate or ballot at the same meeting of



conference.

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

4.4 Emergency motions

The Committee may reject an emergency motion if:

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

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

4.5 Ballots for emergency motions

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

4.6 Emergency amendments

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

4.7 Topical issue discussions

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

5. Special Meetings

5.1 Timetabling of special meetings

The Committee shall, as soon as practicable after the requisitioning of a special meeting of the conference,

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

5.2 Preferred timescales for special meetings

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

6. Appeals

6.1 Appeals against rejection of motions

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

6.2 Appeals against exclusion from conference

Any person excluded from conference by a decision of the Chief Steward shall have the right of appeal to the Committee at the next of its regular meetings. The exclusion shall remain in force pending the appeal. If the person who is excluded is a voting member of conference, their local party or SAO shall be contacted immediately and invited to appoint a substitute for the remainder of the conference.

7. The Chair

7.1 Who chairs conference

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

7.2 The chair's aide

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

8. Conduct of Debate

8.1 Variation in the order of business

The Committee may propose to the conference a variation in the order of business as set out in the agenda. Such

standing orders continued

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, after which the mover of the motion (or the mover's nominee) shall have the right of reply. Votes shall then be taken on the amendments and options in the order in which they have been moved and, finally, on the substantive motion. The Committee may direct that part of any motion or amendment or groups or amendments may be the subject of a separate debate.

8.4 Topical issue discussions

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

8.5 Who may speak

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

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

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

8.6 The special rights of the Federal Committees

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

shall be called to speak for the same length of time as the person replying on behalf of the mover of the motion.

8.7 The selection of speakers

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

8.8 The length of speeches

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

8.9 Where to speak from

All speeches shall be made from the rostrum, save that speeches by the President or Leader of the Party, except when participating in debate, or by a guest invited by the Committee, or on the occasion of the opening or the closing of the meeting, may be made from the platform.

9. Voting at Conference

9.1 The method of voting

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

9.2 Counting of votes

A vote by show of voting cards shall be counted:

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

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

9.3 Separate votes

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

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



10 Points of Order

10.1 Making a point of order

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

11 Procedural Motions

11.1 Next business

- a) A voting member may, during any full conference session, submit, in writing, a request that conference move to next business, giving the reasons to do so. The submission shall not exceed 75 words.
- b) The chair may either take the request immediately upon receipt, or at the end of any speech currently being made. If more than one request is received the chair shall decide which to take. No more than one request may be taken in respect to any motion or report.
- c) When the request is to be taken, the chair shall read the statement of reasons and ask conference whether it wishes to consider the request to move to next business. If conference decides, by a simple majority of those voting, to do so, the person who made the request may speak. The chair may allow other speakers. All speeches under this standing order shall be limited to two minutes. If conference decides not to debate the proposal, it falls.
- d) The proposal shall require a two-thirds majority of those voting being to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.

11.2 Reference back (moved by a representative)

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

mover of the substantive motion, or their nominee, may reply. The chair may allow other speakers. All speeches under this standing order shall be limited to two minutes. If conference decides not to debate the reference back, it falls.

- d) The reference back shall require a simple majority of those voting to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.
- e) If the substantive motion is referred to the Federal Executive, the Federal Policy Committee or the Federal Conference Committee that body shall, in its report to the next meeting of the conference, state what action it has taken on the reference.

11.3 Reference back (moved by the Federal Policy Committee)

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

11.4 Separate vote

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

11.5 Counted vote

Any voting member may ask for a counted vote, which shall be taken if the request is supported by 50 members rising in their places and showing their voting cards.

11.6 Suspension of standing orders

- a) A voting conference member may, during any full conference session, move a motion for the suspension of standing orders. The mover shall submit the motion together with a written statement of its purpose, not exceeding 75 words, to the chair, who shall read them to the meeting. The chair may either take the request immediately upon receipt, or at the end of the speech currently being made.
- b) No motion to suspend standing orders may suspend any requirement of the constitution, nor any part of these standing orders which govern:
 - i) The rights of, or timetable for, submission of motions and amendments.
 - ii) Consultative sessions.
 - iii) Procedural motions for next business or suspension of standing orders.
- c) No motion to suspend standing orders to introduce a motion or amendment on to the agenda can be taken unless the motion or amendment has been submitted to the Committee in accordance with the published timetable and, where a right of appeal against non-selection exists, the right has been exercised.
- d) The chair shall read the statement of purpose and, if the suspension is allowable in the terms of this standing order, ask the conference whether it wishes to debate the request for suspension. If the conference decides not to debate the request, it falls. If the conference decides, by a majority of those present and voting, to hear the request the mover may speak and a representative of the Committee may reply. The chair shall have the discretion to allow other speakers. All speeches on the motion to suspend standing orders will be limited to two minutes.
- e) A motion to suspend standing orders shall only be carried if supported by at least two-thirds of the conference members voting. If the procedural motion is carried all standing orders shall remain in force except only for the purposes set out in the motion.

11.7 No procedural motions during votes

No procedural motion can be moved during a vote.

12 Reports

12.1 Which reports are tabled

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

12.2 Submission and selection of questions

A voting member may submit questions to any report

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

12.3 Whether questions are in order or not

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

12.4 How questions and supplementary questions are put and answered

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

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

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

12.6 Receipt of reports from other bodies

Any report tabled by a body other than a Federal Party committee or sub-committee must be submitted for receipt by the conference and must be voted upon accordingly. A voting member may move not to receive the report, by submitting a speaker's card prior to the commencement of the consideration of the report. A move not to receive a report must be debated (except that the chair shall have discretion to choose between more than one move not to



standing orders continued

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

the federal party

officers of the federal party

Leader	Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP
President	Baroness Scott
Chair of FFAC	Cllr Duncan Greenland
Treasurer	Lord Clement-Jones
Vice President (England)	Brian Orrell
Vice President (Scotland)	Audrey Findlay
Vice President (Wales)	John Last CBE
Chief Executive	Chris Fox

(elected by the FE); the Party President; three state party reps; and the Chief Executive and two other members of Federal (HQ and Parliamentary) staff.

federal policy committee

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

federal executive

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

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

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

federal conference committee

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 reps, local, regional and state parties, specified associated organisations and Federal committees, and taking decisions on topics such as venues, registration rates and other administrative and organisational matters. It works within a budget set by the FFAC.

federal finance and administration committee

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

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

The FFAC has 14 voting members: the Chair (Cllr Duncan Greenland), Party Treasurer and five other members

The members of the FCC are shown on page 2.



autumn
conference

agenda

liverpool 18th – 22nd september 2010