

autumn conference

conference daily

monday september 19th 2011



Information from the Conference Committee for Monday 19th September and report back on the business of Sunday 18th. Please read in conjunction with the *Conference Agenda*.

	<i>Page No</i>
Report back for Sunday 18th September	3
Monday 19th September	
09.00–09.30 F21 Party business Membership Subscriptions and Federal Levy	5
09.30–10.40 F22a Emergency motion Phone Hacking	5
F22b Emergency motion Responding to the Riots	7
10.40–11.00 F23 Speech Edward Davey MP	
11.00–12.20 F24 Policy motion <i>Facing the Future</i> (Policy Development Agenda Policy Paper)	9
12.20–12.40 F25 Speech Rt Hon Dr Vincent Cable MP	10
12.40 Deadline for questions to F27, Q&A session with Nick Clegg MP	
14.30–15.15 F26 Policy motion Tackling Violence Against Women	11
15.15–16.00 F27 Q&A session Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP	
16.00–17.10 F28 Policy motion <i>Preparing the Ground: Stimulating Growth in the Digital Economy</i> (Information Technology Policy Paper)	11
17.10–17.30 F29 Speech Norman Baker MP	
17.30–18.00 F30 Party business Recognition of Specified Associated Organisations and Associated Organisations	13
18.00 Close of session	

Please note that timings are approximate only. Some items of business may occur earlier than indicated. Conference representatives wishing to speak in any of the debates are requested to fill in and submit a speaker's card as soon as possible.

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Conference Daily and other conference documents are available in plain text, large/clear print and as pdf files – ask at the Information Desk in The ICC in Birmingham or go to www.libdems.org.uk/autumnconferencepapers



Social Market Foundation

Liberal Democrat Party Conference Fringe Programme

MONDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

13.00-14.00

Success by degrees? Social mobility and higher education

Chamberlain Suite, Council House

SPEAKERS: Baroness Sharp; Professor Julia King, Aston University; Professor Nick Barr, London School of Economics; Phil Collins, The Times

CHAIR: Ian Mulheirn SMF



18.15-19.30

Routes to success: improving skills to encourage social mobility

Executive Room 8, ICC (secure zone)

SPEAKERS: Simon Hughes MP, Access to University Tsar (tbc); Heather McGregor, Taylor Bennett Foundation; Adam Hopley, a recent graduate from the Career Academies programme; Paul Johnson, Institute for Fiscal Studies; Tom Clark, The Guardian

CHAIR: Mary Ann Sieghart, SMF



20.00-21.15

No NEET solution?

Room 105, Jury's Inn

SPEAKERS: Stephen Lloyd MP, Work and Pensions Select Committee; Graham Hoyle OBE, Association of Employment and Learning Providers; Katja Hall, CBI; Rafael Behr, New Statesman

CHAIR: John Springford, SMF



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report back for sunday 18th september

F9	Party business	Accreditation for Party Conference	Passed (Amendments One and Two defeated)
F10	Party business	Report of the Campaign for Gender Balance	Approved
F11	Report	Diversity Engagement Group	Approved
F12	Party business	Report of the Parliamentary Parties of the Liberal Democrats	Received
F15	Policy motion	Higher Education Fees for Part-Time Students	Passed (Amendment One defeated)
F17	Policy motion	Education Credit	Passed (Amendments One and Two passed, line 15 deleted, lines 51–56 retained)
F20	Policy motion	Protecting Individuals and Communities from Drug Harms	Passed (Amendments One and Two passed)



Britain's Got Talent?

Higher Education and the music industry:
developing talent, entrepreneurship
and employability

Speakers:

- Simon Hughes MP, Advocate for Access to Education
- Stephen Maddock, *Chief Executive*, CBSO
- Darren Henley, *Managing Director*, Classic FM
- Dan Howard, *Executive Dean, Performance, Media and English*, Birmingham City University
- Ian Grosvenor, *Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor for Cultural Engagement*, University of Birmingham
- Louise Teboul, *Operations Director*, Common Purpose

Monday 19 September, 1pm
CBSO Centre, Berkley Street,
Birmingham B1 2LF



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THE **LIVE!** INDEPENDENT



STEVE RICHARDS IN CONVERSATION WITH VINCE CABLE

plus a Q&A with the audience

**Monday 19 September
18.15-19.30
Hall 5, The ICC**

in association with 
RSA Insurance Group

Broadband: Is 100% coverage possible?

Monday 19th September

13:00 – 14:00

Dods Marquee 1

ICC Birmingham

Lunch provided

Chair:

Paul Waugh, Editor, PoliticsHome

Speakers:

Simon Blagden, Associate Director, Fujitsu UK

Cllr Heather Kidd, LGA's Economy and Transport Policy Board

Access to Justice – A privilege for the few?

Tuesday 20th September

07:30 – 08:45

Room 112, Jurys Inn

Birmingham (Outside Secure Zone)

Breakfast provided

Chair:

Paul Waugh

Editor, Politics Home

Confirmed Speakers:

Rt Hon Lord McNally

Minister of State for Justice

Nick Fluck

Deputy Vice President, The Law Society

James Sandbach

Citizens Advice (Justice for All Coalition)

monday 19th september

F21 Membership Subscriptions and Federal Levy

Mover: Alison Goldsworthy
Summation: Tim Farron MP

Amendment One

Western Counties, Devon & Cornwall and South East Regions

Mover: Peter Ellis
Summation: Brian Orrell

1 *In line 22, delete '44%', and insert '37%'.*

09.30 Emergency motion

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

F22 a Emergency Motion: Phone Hacking

13 conference representatives

Mover: Don Foster MP (Co-Chair, Parliamentary Party Committee on Culture, Media and Sport)
Summation: Dr Evan Harris

1 Conference believes that:

- 2 a) While a free press is at the core of a liberal and democratic society, plays a crucial role in
3 holding public figures and institutions to account, and is vital to healthy national debate; it
4 must be subject to, and held accountable for the adherence to, high ethical and editorial
5 standards.
6 b) Significant media outlets should be owned only by those people and organisations who are fit
7 and proper to do so, and that plurality of ownership is essential to ensuring a diverse media.
8 c) Ethical and legitimate investigative journalism in the public interest needs to be protected from
9 our existing chilling and punitive libel laws.
10 d) There is an obvious tension between freedom of expression and personal privacy, with the key
11 factor being the public interest, and final judgements regarding the validity of claims of public
12 interest overriding personal privacy should be made by appropriate regulators and the courts
13 and not by politicians or editors.

14 Conference deplores:

- 15 I. The illegal and intrusive behaviour of those journalists and private investigators who have been
16 complicit in phone-hacking, especially where the bereaved or victims of crime have been
17 targeted.
18 II. The offering of illegal payments to police officers and the acceptance of those payments.
19 III. The inappropriate and non-transparent relationships between the media and some politicians.
20 IV. The gradual erosion of safeguards on media plurality and independence over the last
21 thirty years, and the failure of previous governments, the police and the Press Complaints
22 Commission to take effective action to address this.

monday 19th september continued

Conference notes:

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- A. That the Liberal Democrats, alone of the major parties, have a long and proud history of standing up to vested interests in the media, including our call for a full judicial inquiry into phone-hacking in 2009
- B. Our earlier calls for major reform of the Press Complaints Commission, and our work to improve the 2003 Communications Act on cross-media ownership.

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Conference therefore welcomes:

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- i) The establishment of the Leveson Inquiry into the extent of unlawful or improper conduct in News International and other media organisations; the media's relationship with the police and politicians; and the culture, practices and ethics of the press.
- ii) The investigations by the Culture, Media and Sport and Home Affairs Select Committees.
- iii) The changes recently made to the Ministerial Code which requires the quarterly disclosure of meetings with all newspaper and other media proprietors, editors and senior executives.

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Conference urges the Government to:

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1. Insist on an overhaul of the PCC to establish a more effective press regulator, independent of editors and government, with powers to:
 - a) Establish an ethical and editorial code and a "kitemark" which may be used by all organisations that abide by the code.
 - b) Require all relevant media organisations to comply with the code and to include the need to adhere to the code in the contracts of all relevant staff.
 - c) Investigate all alleged breaches of the code by relevant media organisations or their staff.
 - d) Impose appropriate sanctions against proprietors, editors and journalists guilty of breaching the code; such as financial penalties that are large enough to act as a deterrent, and the power to ensure that apologies and retractions are given due prominence.
2. Strengthen rules on 'fit and proper' ownership, and ensure corporations as a whole are held to account and not just senior individuals within them.
3. Introduce custodial sentences, commensurate with the seriousness of the offence, for breaching section 55 of the Data Protection Act (unlawful obtaining of data).
4. Widen and strengthen the powers of relevant independent regulators to investigate and adjudicate on all circumstances (whether by acquisitions, mergers or gradual accretions of shares) where media plurality may be eroded.
5. Re-invigorate legitimate investigative journalism in the public interest by providing affordable and effective defence in defamation cases on matters of legitimate public interest, based on a requirement to issue a suitably prominent correction or retraction of untrue defamatory statements, made without malice or recklessness.
6. Support the existing law on privacy, as determined by our courts under the Human Rights Act, and respect the independence of the judiciary in their upholding of the balance, based on legitimate public interest, between the Article 8 right to privacy of individuals and the Article 10 right to free expression of the media.

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monday 19th september continued

Applicability: Federal.

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes.

Background briefing

This motion creates new policy in response to the recent phone hacking revelations. It also restates existing policy on an effective public interest defence in defamation cases for investigative journalists set out in conference motion *Standing Up for Civil Liberties* (2009). Existing policy on the reform of the Press Complaints Commission is set out in the conference motion *Press Complaints Commission* (2010).

F22 b Emergency Motion: Responding to the Riots

Guildford, Glasgow North and 12 conference representatives

Mover: Sue Doughty

Summation: Brian Haley

1 Conference:

- 2 I. Condemns the August riots as unjustified and outright criminality and understands and regrets
3 the deep trauma caused to the residents and businesses affected, particularly the families of
4 those who died.
- 5 II. Appreciates with gratitude the effective nationally co-ordinated actions taken by police and
6 emergency services who put themselves in harm's way to protect lives and livelihoods.
- 7 III. Notes the use of private networks and social media not only by those set on rioting, but, also
8 in a more effective way, by those getting help to people at risk, and mobilising the clean-up
9 operations.
- 10 IV. Recognises that it was the threat of arrest and prosecution due to CCTV images and higher
11 police concentration, rather than interventions by politicians, that brought the disturbances to
12 an end.

13 Conference notes with concern:

- 14 A. The temporary loss of control by the forces of law and order to gangs of looters and arsonists,
15 suggesting a shortage of deployable officers with appropriate training and equipment.
- 16 B. The large number of lengthy custodial sentences and remands handed down by the courts
17 which put much more pressure on our overcrowded prisons, when research clearly shows that
18 prison is not an effective way of rehabilitating non-violent offenders or preventing re-offending.
- 19 C. The proposal that social housing eviction be extended, beyond a sanction for causing a
20 nuisance to other tenants and the immediate local community, to one for criminal behaviour
21 generally; and that this would not only be unfair to innocent family members but would also
22 discriminate against social housing tenants compared with private housing tenants or owner
23 occupiers.

24 Conference believes that:

- 25 i) Sentencing is a matter for the courts, taking into account the crime, deterrence, and the
26 impact on the defendant and their family, but not calls by the media or politicians for tougher
27 sentences.
- 28 ii) The way communities responded to the disturbances demonstrates that society is not broken,
29 but that there are examples of a lack of respect for the law and rights of others to be found at

monday 19th september continued

- 30 the top and bottom of the socio-economic scale.
- 31 iii) Additional powers to censor, restrict access to or close public social networking sites beyond
- 32 existing arrangements are neither justified nor practical.
- 33 iv) The reduction in the provision and funding of Youth and Connexions Services, especially at a
- 34 time of high youth unemployment, and the increase in gang culture leaves young people more
- 35 vulnerable to an antisocial way of life.
- 36 v) The imposition of curfews and over-use of dispersals would be counterproductive and breed
- 37 resentment among young people.
- 38 vi) The removal of benefits from those involved in the disorder and their families will simply create
- 39 more deprivation and encourage more criminality.
- 40 vii) More needs to be understood about the causes of the riots, and also the actual impact on the
- 41 communities concerned in order to ensure that government responses are based on evidence
- 42 and not knee jerk reaction.

43 Conference also reaffirms its policies outlined in policy paper 96, *Free to be Young*, and policy

44 paper 99, *Taking Responsibility*, which would focus on effective ways of preventing young people

45 from being drawn into gang culture and lead more productive lives.

46 Conference supports the actions taken by the Deputy Prime Minister to:

- 47 a) Establish a Grassroots Communities and Victims Panel to listen to the views of those affected
- 48 by the riots.
- 49 b) Implement a 'riot payback scheme' using restorative justice to make offenders build up their

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monday 19th september continued

50 local communities and be confronted by those that their offending harmed, and calls for the
51 inclusion of people released from imprisonment post-conviction to ensure that as many as
52 possible do not re-offend.
53 c) To undertake an urgent review of the causes of the riots, together with the implementation of the
54 proposed programme of research and community liaison to identify lessons to be learned.

55 Conference also calls for:

- 56 1. The imposition of custodial sentences only where no other sentence is justified but encourages,
57 wherever justice permits, the use of non-custodial measures that allow the offender to carry
58 out productive work, retain their livelihoods, homes and family ties, and thereby not be driven
59 to future reliance on the state.
- 60 2. Recognition of the important work of the Probation Service in promoting rehabilitation,
61 especially in the context of the cuts it faces.
- 62 3. The continued separation of politicians and police operational control and for there to be
63 stronger checks and balances on any elected police commissioners by locally elected
64 representatives than are currently set out in legislation.
- 65 4. A full inquiry into the riots following the publication of the findings of the Grassroots,
66 Communities and Victims Panel in Spring 2012 should this be necessary.

Applicability: England and Wales.

Mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 4 minutes.

Background Briefing

This motion sets out a Liberal Democrat response to the recent riots based on existing Liberal Democrat principles and policies. In particular it reaffirms existing policies on youth justice set out in policy paper 99, *Taking Responsibility* (2010). It develops new policy in certain areas including opposition to restrictions on social networking sites and the removal of benefits.

F24 Facing the Future (Policy Development Agenda Policy Paper)

Mover: Dr Julie Smith

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

Federal Conference Committee has accepted the following drafting amendments to the motion:

In k) (line 46) delete 'post-18' and insert 'post-16'.

At end (line 52), add:

In the light of the recent riots, conference calls on the Federal Policy Committee to consider what additional policy development may be needed following the outcome of the Grassroots Communities and Victims Panel.

Amendment One

16 conference representatives

Mover: Linda Jack

Summation: To be announced

monday 19th september continued

1 *After A. (line 8), insert:*

2 B. Reducing Poverty.

3 *After viii) (line 33), insert:*

4 ix) Tackle poverty – in particular the scourge of child poverty.

5 *Delete q) (line 52) and insert:*

6 q) Mutualisation, Employee Ownership and Workplace Democracy.

Amendment Two

12 conference representatives

Mover: Stephen Williams MP (Co-Chair, Parliamentary Party Committee on the Treasury)

Summation: Lord Newby (Co-Chair, Parliamentary Party Committee on the Treasury)

1 *At end (line 52), add:*

2 Conference also calls for further work to develop proposals for a public distribution of government-
3 owned shares in RBS and Lloyds Banking Group, in order to empower the public and give them
4 something back in return for bailing out the two banks.

Background briefing

This motion and the accompanying policy paper set out a programme of future policy development work.

12.20 Speech

Aide: Justine McGuinness

F25 Speech by Rt Hon Dr Vincent Cable MP, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills

Fringe cancellations

The following fringe events have been cancelled:

Monday early evening 18.15 – 19.30

Birmingham City Centre Partnership

Monday mid evening 20.00 – 21.15

Holocaust Educational Trust

left luggage

A left luggage facility will be available on Wednesday 21st September from 08.00–17.00, at House of Sport, Broad Street (across the road from The ICC – see map in the Directory).

All luggage is left at owners risk; any luggage not collected by 17.00 may be destroyed. There will be a charge of £1 per item.

Do not bring large bags or luggage to The ICC on Wednesday morning – either leave items at your hotel or use the left luggage facility.

monday 19th september continued

F26 Tackling Violence Against Women

Amendment One

Glasgow North and 18 conference representatives

Mover: Dr Evan Harris

Summation: Jo Swinson MP

1 *Delete 1. (lines 41–43) and insert:*

2 1. Seeking to prevent violence happening in the first place through work towards culture change,
3 including:

4 a) Using all means available to raise awareness of the issues including through the education
5 of children in relationships and consent, and training of teachers.

6 b) Tackling the projection of women as sex objects to children and adolescents by restricting
7 sexualised images in newspapers and general circulation magazines to the same rules
8 that apply to pre-watershed broadcast media.

Background Briefing.

This motion develops new policy on the specific issues of women who have retracted evidence in domestic violence cases because of intimidation, and the Council of Europe Convention on Violence Against Women. It also reiterates existing policy on a number of issues relating to violence against women. Existing policy is set out in policy paper 91, *Real Women* (2001). Existing policy on the Corston Review is set out in conference motion *Prisons and Criminal Justice Policy* (2009).

F28 *Preparing the Ground: Stimulating Growth in the Digital Economy (Information Technology Policy Paper)*

Amendment One

Glasgow North and 21 conference representatives

Mover: Neville Farmer

Summation: Mary Reid

1 *After E. (line 9), insert:*

2 Conference notes that successive Governments have failed to recognise the critical significance
3 of IT in maintaining security, democracy and a healthy economy, and that this lack of focus
4 has resulted in patchy policy development, inefficient procurement and poor utilisation of the
5 opportunities available.

6 *Delete 5 a) and 5 b) (lines 47–49) and insert:*

7 5. Taking IT seriously by establishing a new Government Department, under Ministerial control,
8 with responsibility for:

9 a) National and international IT infrastructure.

10 b) Security, including cyber-terrorism, data security and protection, citizen's rights, Freedom
11 of Information, and online privacy.

monday 19th september continued

- 12 c) Open standards and innovation.
13 d) IT support services and Communications Technology policy for all government
14 departments, agencies and, where practicable, organisations receiving government
15 funding.
16 e) Promoting business, supporting research and protecting copyright.
17 f) E-democracy.

18 *In existing 5 b) (line 51), delete 'office' and insert 'Department'.*

Amendment Two

Greater Reading

Mover: Jonathan Walls

Summation: To be announced

1 *Delete 1 a), Option A, (line 12) and insert:*

- 2 a) Recognising the importance of and protecting the intellectual property rights of creators.

Amendment Three

Glasgow North and 46 conference representatives

Mover: Dr Evan Harris

Summation: To be announced

1 *In 2 a) (line 28), after 'speech' insert:*

2 including:

- 3 i) Additional protection in libel law for those merely hosting the content of others.
4 ii) Amendment of section 127 of the 2003 Communications Act which is used to prosecute
5 innocent users of social media for non-intentional remarks taken out of context and has a
6 chilling effect on free expression.
- 7 b) Oppose the granting of any additional powers for the police or the Government to restrict
8 access to the internet or social media or to order its suspension.

Amendment Four

Hazel Grove

Mover: Viv Binhgam

Summation: To be announced

1 *At end (line 69), add:*

- 2 Accepting all the above, the conference nevertheless upholds the right of individuals particularly
3 in their private or community lives to use long established methods of communication – the postal
4 system, the telephone, books and papers traditionally printed and in particular:
- 5 a) Applauds the decision not to abolish cheques.

monday 19th september continued

- 6 b) Encourages the Press Complaints Commission to issue guidelines to those placing articles or
7 advertisements not to restrict responses to email addresses but also show telephone numbers
8 and/or postal addresses.
9 c) Encourages TV and radio channels to adopt similar guidelines.

Background Briefing:

This motion and the accompanying policy paper substantially develop and update policy on information technology and some related aspects of intellectual property policy. Existing policy on the Digital Economy Act is set out in conference motion *Freedom, Creativity and the Internet* (2010). Existing Policy on information technology in general is set out in policy paper 54, *Making IT Work* (2003).

F30 Recognition of SAOs and AOs

Mover: Brian Orrell
Summation: Jo Shaw

Federal Conference Committee has accepted the following drafting amendment to the motion:

In 2 a) (line 16), delete 'DELGA (Liberal Democrats Lesbian & Gay Association)' and insert: 'LGBT+ Liberal Democrats (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender + Liberal Democrats)'.

Amendment One

Walthamstow

Mover: To be announced
Summation: To be announced

- 1 *Delete 6. (lines 50–55), and insert:*
- 2 6. The current organisations with AO status remain the same until all AOs are contacted to
3 request the relevant information and an investigation is carried out as to whether all AOs were
4 consulted about the review.

Open Road Running Club

invites you to join us for a 5k run!

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**Main entrance to the secure zone
of The ICC**

7.45am Tuesday 20th September
until 08.45am

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Ministerial Q&A sessions

There are a series of Ministerial Q&A sessions at conference in Birmingham. You can come along and ask questions of our Ministers on the issues relating to their responsibilities and their departments – a fantastic opportunity for members to find out more about what our Ministers are up to.

All sessions will take place in Hall 10b, The ICC.

Priority will be given to party members.

Places are limited so please arrive early to avoid disappointment.

Monday 19 September

10.30–11.30 Transport with Norman Baker

Tuesday 20 September

09.00–10.00 Equalities and Civil Liberties with Lynne Featherstone and Tom McNally

10.30–11.30 Education with Sarah Teather

14.30–15.30 Parliament and political reform with David Heath and Commons Whips

16.00–17.00 Welfare and Pensions with Steve Webb

Wednesday 21 September

09.00–10.00 Health and Social Care with Paul Burstow

10.30–11.30 Employment and consumer rights with Ed Davey