

Conference Daily

Sunday 5th October

Autumn Conference 2014

Glasgow



Information from the Conference Committee for Sunday 5th October and report back for Saturday 4th October. Please read in conjunction with the *Agenda* and *Conference Extra*.

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If no page number is indicated next to a session or item of business, there are no changes or additional information to that in the Conference Agenda or Conference Extra.

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.

Please keep hold of your copy of *Conference Extra* throughout conference, and make sure you pick up a copy of *Conference Daily* from the literature collection points in the SECC each morning – it will be vital to your understanding of the day's business.

Conference Daily and other conference documents are available to download from www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers, or ask at the Information Desk in the SECC.





TEAS Jazz Reception:

Sabina Rakcheyeva
with Deco Ensemble

Refreshments provided

Venue:

Crown Plaza, Argyll 2&3

Date:

Sunday 5th October

Time:

21:30–23:00



www.teas.eu

Report back for Saturday 4th October

F2	Report: Federal Conference Committee	Approved
F4	Policy motion: Reducing Poverty and Discrimination	Passed (Amendment One passed)
F6	Party business: Expanding the Democracy of our Party with 'One Member, One Vote'	Passed (lines 10–11 retained, Amendment One passed, Amendment Two defeated)
F7	Constitutional amendment	Withdrawn
F8	Standing order amendment	Withdrawn
F9	Policy motion: Towards Safer Sex Work	Passed (lines 62–67, 77–79 and 104–105 retained, Amendment One defeated)

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WHY AREN'T YOUNG LIBERALS VOTING LIB DEM?

Sunday Oct 5th 13:00-14:00 - Crowne Plaza, Shuna

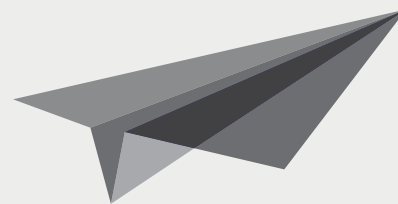
Generation Y: Orange Bookers, but not Lib Dems?

Young people are instinctively liberal in almost every way. But large numbers don't support the Lib Dems. Our panel will look at the polling, and give us their view on how we can become the natural home for Generation Y.



LIBERAL REFORM

A recent ONS survey found that 59 per cent of the British public supported the building of new runways, with 57 per cent of people agreeing that new terminals and runways should be built in order to boost the economy.



LET BRITAIN FLY

Let Britain Fly is campaigning for politicians of all parties to make a public commitment to build vital new runways in order to build a stronger economy and fairer society.

For years, politicians have failed to make a decision, leaving British businesses and passengers grounded, while other countries are taking off.

A positive, bold decision to build more runways would support British trade and tourism, giving everyone the opportunity to travel the world, whilst generating future jobs and growth. The leaders of the UK's main political parties must:

- Make a public pledge to build more runway capacity and commit to this in their 2015 election manifestos.
- Ensure a Parliamentary vote on airports expansion in 2016 at the latest.

Want to find out more? Visit us at stand F5, sign up to our public pledge and take part in our party conference prize draw.

 @LetBritainFly

letbritainfly.com/sign-up

Sunday 5th October

Additions and updates to the Agenda and Conference Extra for Sunday 5th October.

F10 First Aid in Schools

Aide: Sandra Gidley
Hall Aide: Shas Sheehan

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

- 1 *In 1. (line 23) delete 'emergency life-skills' and insert 'and emergency life-saving skills'.*

Background briefing

This motion creates new policy.

F11 Reforming the Welfare System

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

- 1 *After E. (line 22) insert:*
- 2 F. There are 6,000 destitute refugees and asylum seekers in the UK supported by British Red Cross
- 3 each year who are entitled to no benefits or housing but are not allowed to work, and the Liberal
- 4 Democrats' clearly stated in policy paper 116, *Making Migration Work for Britain (March 2014)*, that
- 5 destitution for those who came to the UK to seek sanctuary is unacceptable.
- 6 *After 4. (line 41) insert:*
- 7 5. Liberal Democrats in Government to commit to ensuring that no one residing in the UK suffers
- 8 destitution, to use their influence to change the law to require asylum seekers to seek work after 6
- 9 months and to make Section 95 support available to those who cannot work, and to support charities
- 10 working in the field of ending destitution in the UK.
- 11 *After 5. (line 51) add:*
- 12 6. All changes in DWP (or any relevant successor department) policies to be reviewed annually for five
- 13 years after implementation.

Ministerial Q&A sessions Sunday

Business with Vince Cable & Jo Swinson
11.30–12.30, SECC, Carron 1

Home Affairs & Justice with
Simon Hughes & Norman Baker
15.00–16.00, SECC, Carron 1

Treasury with Danny Alexander
16.30–17.30, SECC, Carron 1

See *Conference Extra* for details of all sessions

Pastoral Care Surgery

Who: Jeanne Tarrant, Pastoral Care Officer, is running a surgery at Conference; there's also an opportunity for you to discuss any issues with Helena Morrissey.

Where: Egg Suite at Glasgow Science Centre, directly across the river from the SECC.

When: Monday 6th October.

Time: There will be 8 one-to-one sessions by appointment only, to held between 11am and 1pm, if you would like one contact Jeanne on 07884 733 262 to arrange.

1pm –2pm open discussions.

You can also arrange to speak to Jeanne by calling her on 07884 733 262 to arrange a suitable time.

Sunday 5th October

Amendment One

11 conference representatives

Mover: Joshua Dixon

Summation: To be announced

1 After E. (line 22) insert:

2 F. Cuts to central and local government funding have impacted directly on services that provide advice
3 and support to the public on issues surrounding social welfare laws, coming at a time when there
4 has been an increase in demand for these services due to the financial downturn, austerity and
5 government welfare reforms.

6 After 5. (line 51) add:

7 6. Implementation of the recommendations of the Low Commission, including publication of a National
8 Strategy for Advice and Legal Support, and creation of a National Advice and Legal Support Fund
9 which would be used for funding national and local advice services as well as legal support work; the
10 Department for Work and Pensions should be required to contribute towards this fund, in recognition
11 of the advice needs it is creating through its welfare reforms and faulty assessments.

Amendment Two

14 conference representatives

Mover: Michael Mullaney

Summation: Daniel Henry

1 After E. (line 22) insert:

2 F. Complaints against Welfare to Work schemes involving unpaid work, such as unsuitable placements,
3 the undermining of the minimum wage and how these controversies are discouraging third party
4 organisations from participating and providing placements.

5 After 5. (line 51) add:

6 6. A reformed approach to Welfare to Work schemes whereby:

- 7 a) Benefit claimants are given encouragement and support to arrange their own work experience
8 placements, to help them find the right placement in their area of interest to further their dreams
9 and aspirations.
- 10 b) A Fairness Principle is implemented for mandatory schemes, so claimants made to work for their
11 benefits receive the equivalent of minimum wage for their work.

Background briefing

This motion updates and develops policy in the areas of social security and the Work Programme. In particular it develops policy on the use of sanctions in the welfare system, improving assessment processes and creating a more flexible and tailored approach to helping people into work through the Work Programme. Existing policy on welfare assessments is set out in policy motions *Equal Citizenship* (2012) and *Employment and Support Allowances and Work Capability Assessments* (2011). Existing policy in the Work Programme is set out in policy paper 103, *Giving Young People a Future* (2012).

Sunday 5th October

F13 *Doing What Works to Cut Crime* (Crime and Criminal Justice Policy Paper)

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

1 Delete 3. e) (lines 62–64) and insert:

2 e) Working with the Department for Education to ensure that sexual consent, Female Genital Mutilation,
3 violence against women and girls, and domestic violence properly feature on the curriculum.

4 In 4. h) (line 85) after ‘Tackling corruption’ insert ‘and re-building trust through mandatory CPD for all
5 police officers; strengthening the IPCC and improving local complaints procedures; ensuring corruption
6 investigations are independent; and reporting progress in these matters annually to Parliament’.

7 Delete 6. a) (lines 98–99) and insert:

8 a) Embedding ‘through the gate’ support for those approaching release and ensuring that the day of
9 release is one after which support services are available so that a routine can be established.

Amendment One

10 conference representatives

Mover: Dr Evan Harris

Summation: Stephen Tall

1 In 7. d) (line 117) after ‘breaches’ insert ‘while establishing effective public interest defences in this act and
2 others (including the Computer Misuse Act 1990, RIPA and the Bribery Act 2000) to protect responsible
3 journalism; and ensuring greater protection for legally privileged and journalistic material from requests
4 for telephone and other records’.

Background briefing

This motion and the accompanying policy paper substantially update and develop policy in the fields of crime and criminal justice. In particular they develop new policies on tackling the problems caused by drug abuse, increasing the accountability of the police, support for victims, rehabilitation of offenders and tackling the new threats of cyber crime. Existing policy on the penal system and rehabilitation of offenders is set out in policy motion *Rehabilitation Revolution* (2012), existing policy on drugs is set out in policy motion *Protecting Individuals and Communities from Drug Harms* (2011) and existing policy on policing and police structures is set out in policy motion *Cutting Crime by Catching Criminals* (2008).

WiFi

Free Wi-Fi, kindly sponsored by Gatwick Airport, is available throughout the SECC:

Network name: Lib Dem 2014

Username: libdem

Password: 2014

The Crowne Plaza is offering free WiFi in all areas of the hotel:

Network: Crowne Plaza; select ‘voucher code’

Username: Event/Crowne

Password: PLAZA

Table tennis

Ping Pong Anyone?

Let off a bit of steam with a game of table tennis this conference.

A table, balls and bats are available on the foyer outside the Leven, Ness and Morar rooms on the 1st Floor of the SECC.

At busy times, please be respectful of others waiting to play.

Sunday 5th October

F14 Speech: Steve Webb MP

This speech will start at 12.20, not 12.30. The lunch break will start at 12.40.

F15 Speech: Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP

This speech will start at 14.20, not 14.10.

F16 **Protecting Public Services and Making Them Work For You (Public Services Policy Paper)**

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

- 1 *In 2. c) iii) (line 65) after 'services' insert 'including sharing best practice so that the general public can*
- 2 *benefit'.*

- 3 *After 2c) iv) (line 66) insert:*

- 4 v) Not using abusive tax avoidance schemes.

- 5 *In 4. e) (line 100) after 'curriculum' insert 'which should include sex and relationship education, religious*
- 6 *education but not religious instruction, and balanced and non-partisan political education, as part of*
- 7 *Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE).'*

- 8 *After 5. g) (line 154) insert:*

- 9 h) Consulting on a legal duty to pool the whole health and social care budget in each local area; local
- 10 commissioners should agree a joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy covering the expenditure of the full
- 11 budget, although the details of how services would be commissioned would remain a matter for local
- 12 areas.
- 13 i) Encouraging the development of joined up health providers which cover hospital and community
- 14 services, including GPs, learning from international best practice examples such as Accountable Care
- 15 Organisations.

Amendment One

Cambridge, Peterborough, South East Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, North East Cambridgeshire

Mover: Kilian Bourke

Summation: Dr Spencer Hagard

- 1 *After 5. f) (line 149) insert:*

- 2 g) Permitting NHS commissioners and providers in a local area to form a single integrated health
- 3 organisation, responsible for managing the provision and integration of NHS services in that area, subject
- 4 to public consultation, endorsement by local Health and Wellbeing Board(s), built-in arrangements for
- 5 rigorous evaluation of effectiveness, and approval by Monitor and the Department of Health.

Amendment Two

10 conference representatives

Mover: Rt Hon Danny Alexander MP

Summation: Norman Lamb MP

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1 *Before 5. a) (line 124) insert:*

- 2 a) Committing to £1bn further real terms investment in the NHS each year until our fiscal mandate is met
3 in 2017/18, followed by sustained real term increases in funding once the deficit has been eradicated
4 and debt is falling, paid for through an increase in dividend tax on additional rate taxpayers, a further
5 tightening of the cap on pension tax relief and by scrapping the 'shares for rights' scheme introduced
6 by the Conservatives.

Amendment Three

16 conference representatives

Mover: Stewart Edge

Summation: Dr Evan Harris

1 *After 5. g) (line 154) insert:*

- 2 (h) Repealing any parts of the NHS Health and Social Care Act 2012 dealing with competition were they
3 shown to make NHS services vulnerable to increased privatisation through international agreements
4 on free markets in goods and services.

Amendment Four

21 conference representatives

Mover: Julie Pörksen

Summation: Vikki Slade

1 *After 6. i) insert:*

- 2 j) Extend the statutory obligation for free school transport to ensure that young people are able to
3 access free state education to age 18.

Background briefing

This motion and the accompanying policy paper substantially develop and update policies on the public services, with a particular focus on health, schools and transport. Cross-cutting policies include a right to request flexibility in the delivery of public services, a community trigger for change, and the development of Better Outcome Boards to promote integration between different services. In health, new policies include delivering parity of esteem between mental and physical health, development of Health and Wellbeing Boards with more elected councillors, and the ending of the role of the Competition and Markets Authority in the NHS. In education, new policies include proposals to improve professional development of teachers including the creation of a Royal College of Teachers, the introduction of an Education Standards Authority to take responsibility for the curriculum and a stronger role for local authorities in planning school places and making decisions over new schools. In the field of transport new proposals include a two-thirds discount on buses for 16–21 year olds, allowing public sector bids for rail franchises and giving better compensation for poor service on the railways.

Existing policies on health are set out in conference motions *Protecting Our NHS* (2012) and *Updating the NHS – Personal and Local* (2011) and in the 2010 general election manifesto, *Change That Works For You*. The last comprehensive statement of health policy is in policy paper 84, *Empowerment, Fairness and Quality in Health Care* (2008).

Sunday 5th October

Existing policies on schools are set out in policy motions *Every Child Taught by an Excellent Teacher* (2013), *Getting the Most out of Schools* (2012) and *Free Schools and Academies* (2010) and in the 2010 general election manifesto, *Change That Works For You*. The last comprehensive statement of schools policy is in policy paper 89, *Equity and Excellence* (2009).

Existing policies on transport are set out in conference motion *Rail Franchises* (2009) and policy paper 85, *Fast Track Britain* (2008) and in the 2010 general election manifesto, *Change That Works For You*.

F17 Report: Federal Policy Committee

Aide: Chris Maines
Hall Aide: Justine McGuinness

Q1 Submitted by Mark Pack

What were the dates and locations of publication of the meeting reports promised for after each committee meeting at the March conference Q & A?

Q2 Submitted by Gareth Epps

Why have public announcements been made that policies 'will be in the Manifesto' when the committee that decides the manifesto has not yet been elected, and when it is known that making such a statement (as opposed to 'this policy will be in the pre-manifesto') is unnecessary and misleading?

F18 Tackling Child Abuse

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

- 1 *In 1. (line 30) after 'local authority' insert 'and police'.*
- 2 *After iv) (line 20) insert:*
- 3 v) The Alexis Jay report into the sexual exploitation of children revealed a systematic failure of the
4 authorities to respond to reports of child abuse, that reports were suppressed and that victims were
5 often regarded as willing participants in their own abuse or as criminals.
- 6 *After c) (line 29) insert:*
- 7 d) That the operation of criminal gangs targetting vulnerable children for abuse is unlikely to be limited
8 to a few isolated areas, and that experiences in Rotherham, Rochdale, Oxford and elsewhere should
9 serve as a wake-up call to authorities everywhere.
- 10 *After 4. (line 38) insert:*
- 11 5. Robust reforms of procedures and culture in council and police services, so that victims and their
12 families receive the service that they should be entitled to expect, and perpetrators are brought to
13 justice.
- 14 6. Politicians, council officers and police responsible for failures in Rotherham and elsewhere to be held
15 to account.
- 16 7. Surety that policies on racial awareness are never interpreted as conflicting with the duty to investigate
17 and prosecute crimes irrespective of the racial identity of the perpetrators.

Sunday 5th October

Amendment One

13 conference representatives

Mover: Linda Jack

Summation: Linda Jack

1 After 4. (line 38) add:

- 2 5. The widening and strengthening of the role of the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) to be able
3 to intervene when a child or young person at risk has been ignored by a statutory service such as the
4 Police or Social Services.

Background briefing

This motion creates new policy.

Emergency motions ballot

One of the following motions will be selected by ballot to be debated at F35(A) at 16.30 on Tuesday 7th October. A ballot paper is attached at the back of this Conference Daily and the ballot box will be open in the Auditorium between 09.00 and 13.00 on Sunday 5th October. Please note that you will need to show your voting representative's photo pass when submitting the ballot paper.

Emergency motion 1: A Commitment to Peace and Security in Ukraine

12 conference representatives

- 1 Conference strongly condemns:
- 2 A. The acts of aggression by Russian armed forces and the clear violation of Ukrainian sovereign territorial
3 integrity in direct contravention of the Budapest Memorandum, Helsinki Final Act, UN Charter and
4 Russia-Ukrainian Friendship Treaty.
- 5 B. The shooting down of Malaysian Airlines flight MH17 with the loss of 298 innocent lives from 10 different
6 nationalities from around the world.
- 7 C. The decision taken by the Federal Council of Russia on 1 March to use Russian armed forces on the
8 territory of Ukraine.
- 9 D. The holding of an illegal referendum in Crimea on joining the Russian Federation that was in clear breach
10 of the Ukrainian Constitution and not recognised by the international community, which was then used
11 as the basis for Russia's annexation of the Crimean peninsula.
- 12 E. Renewed targeting and persecution of the Crimean Tatar population and their leaders.
- 13 Conference notes with concern that:
- 14 i) More than 3000 people have died in the fighting between Ukrainian Government forces and the Russian-
15 led separatists since April this year.
- 16 ii) The ceasefire agreed on 5 September is not holding in many areas.
- 17 iii) The Kremlin has adopted an increasingly neo-colonial, nationalistic attitude to the former Soviet

Emergency motions ballot

- 18 Republics and is particularly concerned by President Putin's increasing use of the historic term of
19 Novorossia (New Russia) when talking about the region.
- 20 iv) President Putin's tendency to silence liberal-minded Russians who disagree with the Kremlin line, the
21 suppression of free speech, increased media control and censorship.
- 22 v) Russian state actions in Ukraine have already led to calls for nuclear rearmament within the country, and
23 while President Putin's brandishing of his nuclear weapons undermines the Budapest agreement and
24 wider attempts at nuclear non-proliferation elsewhere in the world.
- 25 Conference welcomes:
- 26 a) The adoption of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement by the European Parliament and the Ukrainian
27 Parliament on 16 September 2014.
- 28 b) The election of President Poroshenko with a strong mandate from the Ukrainian people.
- 29 c) The decision of the French government to halt delivery of the Mistral ship.
- 30 Conference calls upon the UK Government to:
- 31 1. Work closely with our EU partners, the US, Australia and others to put maximum pressure – economic
32 and political - on all parties to ensure meaningful negotiations leading to a full and lasting ceasefire
33 leading to political stability in all of Ukraine's regions.
- 34 2. Call upon Chancellor Angela Merkel, and the other heads of governments in the European Union, to
35 build on their relationships with President Putin and to use all possible influence to de-escalate the crisis
36 in Ukraine.
- 37 3. Continue with our policy of sanctions as there is very real evidence that they are having a strong impact
38 on the Russian economy and consider adopting a European version of the Magnitsky Law to prevent
39 Russians who have abused human rights from entering the EU.
- 40 4. Extend the sanctions to prevent Russia from holding the Football World Cup in 2018 as a powerful
41 display of the sincerity with which the international community condemns Russia's actions.
- 42 5. Acknowledge the limited success of the EU's Eastern partnership programme in Ukraine and that
43 insufficient support was provided to help foster a truly democratic model, remove the high levels of
44 corruption and allow the country to reap the benefits from its natural resources and fertile lands.
- 45 6. Work with EU and NATO partners to provide necessary political, economic, military, constitutional and
46 administrative support for Ukraine.
- 47 7. Increase resource in the Foreign Office for Russia and the former Soviet countries and acknowledge that
48 many of the problems with Russia have arisen from not properly understanding the Kremlin's responses
49 to NATO expansion and EU enlargement over the past decade.
- 50 8. Provide all necessary support to Ukraine to ensure that the forthcoming parliamentary elections which
51 are scheduled next month take place and are free and fair.
- 52 Conference calls on Liberal Democrats to reach out to Ukrainian liberal parties and the Ukrainian people to
53 build lasting personal and institutional relationships for the benefit of both our countries.

Emergency motion 2: A Holistic Pathway to Peace in the Middle East

13 conference representatives

- 1 Conference condemns:
- 2 A. The sectarian violence and terror that the so-called Islamic State is spreading in Iraq and Syria.
- 3 B. The systematic kidnapping for ransom or execution of foreign nationals by the so-called Islamic State,
4 including a number of British citizens.

Emergency motions ballot

- 5 C. The recent conflict between Israel and Gaza, in particular the indiscriminate firing of thousands of
6 rockets into Israel by Hamas, Israel's disproportionate military response and the high number of civilian
7 casualties.
- 8 D. The recent decision by the Israeli government to annex more land in the West Bank for development of
9 settlements which are illegal under international law.
- 10 E. The continued violent suppression of democratic dissent by President Assad of Syria and the resulting
11 humanitarian catastrophe including the use of barrel bombs.

12 Conference notes with concern:

- 13 i) The severity of the humanitarian disasters that have been created by conflicts and instability in the region.
14 ii) The strain that the refugee crises are putting on countries in the region, in particular the strain on Jordan,
15 Lebanon and Turkey.
16 iii) The potential for these humanitarian crises to result in further sectarian division, radicalisation at home
17 and abroad and ongoing violence.

18 Conference welcomes:

- 19 a) The Department for International Development's continued commitment to providing humanitarian aid to
20 all those who are suffering in the region, in particular the continued assistance to the millions of refugees
21 and displaced people.
22 b) The Deputy Prime Minister's leadership in the government's commitment to providing asylum in the UK
23 for some of the most vulnerable refugees from the region.

24 Conference further welcomes the Israeli government's decision to end import restrictions on humanitarian
25 goods and some construction materials into Gaza.

26 Conference calls on the UK government to:

- 27 1. Continue to work closely with our international allies to stop the spread of the so-called Islamic State in
28 Iraq, Syria and beyond.
- 29 2. Support the struggling democratic institutions in Iraq and bolster liberalism and inclusiveness in its
30 government.
- 31 3. Ensure that if we are to extend military activity to Syria that it is legal under international law, has clear
32 and achievable objectives, has Middle East regional support, includes a comprehensive and well-
33 resourced post-conflict stabilisation strategy agreed with the international community and is authorised
34 by a vote of the House of Commons.
- 35 4. Apply continued pressure on the Israeli government to cease its illegal acquisition of land in the West
36 Bank.
- 37 5. Encourage the European Union to recognise the State of Palestine within pre-1967 borders and with
38 land swaps agreed by the Israeli and Palestinian authorities through peace negotiations in good faith on
39 the basis of each side's entitlements under international law.
- 40 6. Continue to work for freedom of belief, toleration between different faiths, and protection of minorities.
- 41 7. Support programmes in Arab countries aimed at encouraging democracy, freedom of speech, human
42 rights, the rule of law and crony-free economic liberalisation.

Emergency motions ballot

Emergency motion 3: Disabled Students' Allowance

Clwyd West

- 1 Conference notes that:
 - 2 A. DSA was established in 1974 and has supported over a million disabled students complete their higher
 - 3 education and whilst updates to how DSA operates may be necessary disabled students should not be
 - 4 left at a disadvantage
 - 5 B. Measures to widen participation, including DSA provisions, have seen a steady increase in the number of
 - 6 disabled students go on to Higher Education
 - 7 C. The Minister for Universities and Science published on 12th September 2014 a Written Ministerial
 - 8 Statement on future changes to Disabled Students' Allowances.
 - 9 D. The measures in the Written Ministerial Statement only affect disabled English domiciled students, as
 - 10 education is devolved to NI, Scotland and Wales. The funding for these Higher Education Institutions
 - 11 (HEIs) and students are significantly different from England.
 - 12 E. Many HEIs and student bodies, including the, NUS have expressed concerns about the lack of
 - 13 consultation prior to the initial Written Ministerial Statement published on 7th April 2014.
 - 14 F. HEIs have made significant progress over the past decade in main-streaming adjustments to the
 - 15 curriculum to improve access for disabled people but are facing funding constraints.
 - 16 G. DSA has proved a lifeline for many disabled students in Higher Education

17 Conference welcomes:

- 18 i) The Minister's agreement to give Higher Education Institutions until the beginning of the 2016/17
- 19 academic year to develop appropriate mechanisms to fully deliver their statutory duty to provide
- 20 reasonable adjustments
- 21 ii) The work done by the Liberal Democrat Disability Association (LDDA) and Liberal Youth (LY) in
- 22 bringing their concerns about the proposed changes to DSA to the attention of Liberal Democrat
- 23 parliamentarians, especially our ministers.
- 24 iii) The work done by universities to make higher education accessible to disabled students and the
- 25 ongoing support HEIs offer to students.

26 Conference believes that:

- 27 a) Nobody accessing education should be disadvantaged by a disability.
- 28 b) Disabled English domiciled students should not have a significantly lower support package when
- 29 attending HEIs in NI, Scotland and Wales, where education is devolved and no changes to their DSA
- 30 have been proposed.

31 Conference therefore calls for Liberal Democrat Parliamentarians, especially Ministers, to press within
32 government to defer these DSA proposals until the consultation exercise with all UK Higher Education
33 Institutions and disability advisors, including the National Union of Students, has been completed.

Emergency motion 4: Political Instability in Hong Kong

14 conference representatives

- 1 Conference notes that:
 - 2 A. The Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984 formally agreed, in accordance with the "one country, two

Emergency motions ballot

3 systems” principle, that on its return to Chinese sovereignty Hong Kong would become a Special
4 Administrative Region ensuring that it would keep its freedoms, autonomy and an undated promise of
5 universal suffrage.

6 B. Article 45 of the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People’s
7 Republic of China states that “The ultimate aim is the selection of the Chief Executive by universal
8 suffrage upon nomination by a broadly representative nominating committee in accordance with
9 democratic procedures”.

10 Conference welcomes the announcement of the Chinese government in August this year their plan for
11 universal suffrage in Hong Kong, giving the island’s citizens the right to vote for the Chief Executive of the
12 territory starting in 2017.

13 However, conference notes with concern that:

- 14 i) At the end of August 2014 the Hong Kong SAR Government and the Chinese Government confirmed
15 their position, stating that civic nomination is not compatible with the Basic Law, so it will not allow
16 an open nomination process for the election of the Chief Executive, and that the proposed selection
17 process will limit the range of candidates who are nominated and undermine the democratic process.
- 18 ii) There is a growing police presence in Hong Kong with increasing numbers of peaceful protesters being
19 arrested and escalating civil unrest between pro-democracy and pro-establishment groups.
- 20 iii) The reaction of the Chinese government to the Foreign Affairs Committee investigation into the political
21 situation in Hong Kong shows a willingness for their government to explicitly exert economic pressure
22 on the UK in order for them to get their way.

23 Conference believes that:

- 24 a) Civil, political and economic rights are interlinked, and are best secured in societies with democratic
25 governance structures.
- 26 b) Residents of Hong Kong have a right to peaceful protest and should not be prohibited from doing so
27 under any circumstances.
- 28 c) Given the commitments the UK government has made to the citizens of Hong Kong, we have a
29 responsibility to ensure democracy and human rights is delivered, and maintained, for the citizens of
30 Hong Kong.

31 Conference calls on the UK government to:

- 32 1. Uphold its commitments to Hong Kong as laid out in the Sino-British Joint Declaration 1984.
- 33 2. Commit to universal human rights, the rule of law and democracy and to maintain our interest in the
34 continued smooth political and economic developments in the interests of the people of Hong Kong.

Emergency motion 5: Tackling the Ebola Crisis

13 conference representatives

1 Conference notes:

- 2 a) The rapid spread of the Ebola virus over the past six months throughout West Africa, which stands
3 at 5,843 cases and 2,803 deaths as of 23 September this year, including 337 health care workers, of
4 whom 181 have died.
- 5 b) That the fast spread of the virus over the summer demands an emergency motion, as on 8 July 2014 the
6 number of deaths caused by ebola was 539, which has increased to 2,803 as of 23 September.

Emergency motions ballot

7 c) That the UN has called the spread of the virus a “crisis unparalleled in modern times”.

8 Conference notes with concern:

- 9 i) The level of misinformation and rumour within Ebola-affected communities, creating stigma and impeding
10 current awareness raising efforts and education.
- 11 ii) The warnings issued by the Centre for Disease Control & Prevention that the number of people infected
12 with Ebola could rise to between 500,000 and 1.4 million by January if action is not taken now.
- 13 iii) That Medecins Sans Frontiers has described the international response to the Ebola crisis as “lethally
14 inadequate” and notes that more medical staff are urgently needed to address the issue of a chronic lack
15 of capacity.

16 Conference recognises that the Ebola virus is transmitted through direct contact with bodily fluids of an
17 infectious person, rather than being airborne, and that it would be physically near-impossible for individuals
18 in the infectious stage of the disease to board a plane.

19 Conference welcomes:

- 20 A. The UK taking the lead on international support in Sierra Leone, while leading calls for a worldwide
21 collaborative approach to support on the ground.
- 22 B. The UK’s collaboration in the multi-trial development of a new vaccine.
- 23 C. The recruitment of 164 NHS staff, as of 23 September, who have volunteered to be part of the UK’s
24 efforts in the region.

25 Conference calls for the UK government to:

- 26 1. Incentivise and encourage the deployment of health professionals and disease experts to the region.
- 26 2. Provide targeted support in terms of hard resources across Sierra Leone – such as beds, latex gloves,
27 chlorine – in addition to injections of funding; accompanied by a comprehensive, fully-funded prevention
28 and awareness campaign in targeted communities.
- 29 3. Persuade British airlines to lift flight restrictions to better enable the flow of aid workers and health
30 professionals to the region.

Disabled access steward

Unfortunately our usual disabled access steward, Robert Littlehales, is no longer able to attend conference this year. Jolene Rixon will be covering this position in his absence. To contact Jolene on-site, please go to the Information Desk in the foyer of the Clyde Auditorium or she is contactable on 0141 571 4978 during main auditorium hours.

The Dr will see you now

Any Dr Who fans at conference?

**If you missed last night’s episode
don’t panic.**

**We’re showing the repeat on the
big screen today at 19.55 in
Lomond Auditorium, SECC.**

Emergency motions ballot

Emergency motions ballot paper

Please vote by indicating your preferences in order (1, 2, 3, 4, 5).

Motion	Preference
A Commitment to Peace and Security in Ukraine	
A Holistic Pathway to Peace in the Middle East	
Disabled Students' Allowance	
Political Instability in Hong Kong	
Tackling the Ebola Crisis	

Please return this ballot paper to the ballot box in the auditorium of the SECC between 09.00 and 13.00 on Sunday 5th October.

Please note that you will need to show your voting representative's photo pass when submitting the ballot paper.