

Conference Daily

Tuesday 7th October

Autumn Conference 2014

Glasgow



Information from the Conference Committee for Tuesday 7th October and report back for Monday 6th October. Please read in conjunction with the *Agenda* and *Conference Extra*.

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Note that F31, Speech by Norman Lamb MP, ends at 12.40, not 12.50 as printed in the agenda.

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.

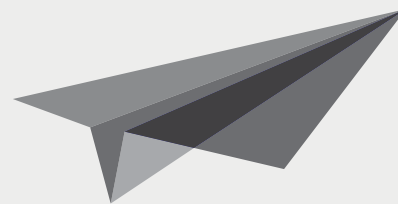
Please note that timings are approximate only. Some items of business may occur earlier than indicated. Conference representatives wishing to speak in any of the debates are requested to fill in and submit a speaker's card as soon as possible.

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.

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Britain trades twenty times more with countries with which we have a direct air link, whilst by value 40 per cent of UK trade goes by air.



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.

- Britain trades twenty times more with countries with which we have a direct air link, whilst by value 40 per cent of UK trade goes by air.
- The Airports Commission estimates that the cost of airport capacity constraint on UK GDP could amount to as much as £45 billion between 2021 and 2080.
- There are over 20 emerging market destinations that are served by daily flights from other European cities but not from London.
- Paris has almost 3,000 direct services to China a year, compared to under 2,000 from London airports.
- Frankfurt serves 42 destinations in Asia on a weekly basis compared to 33 from London airports.
- Madrid-Barajas flies direct to 25 destinations across Latin America and the Caribbean, compared to 17 from London airports.
- The IMF predicts that over the next decade approximately half of all the economic growth in the world will be in the eight largest emerging market countries (including China, Indonesia, Korea, Russia, and Brazil).
- China could overtake the US as the world's largest economy by 2016, according to the OECD.

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Report back for Monday 6th October

- F19 Policy motion: Adapting to Climate Change in the UK Passed
- F21 Policy motion: Building the Affordable Homes We Need Passed (Amendment One passed)
- F22 Policy motion: Flooding: A New High Water Mark Passed (Amendment One defeated)
- F27 Policy motion: *Expanding Opportunity, Unlocking Potential* (Equalities Policy Paper) Passed (Amendment One, Two and Four passed, Amendment Three passed with lines 2–6 deleted)
- F28 Reports: Parliamentary Parties of the Liberal Democrats Received

Left luggage

A left luggage facility will be available at the Crowne Plaza in the Staffa meeting room between 08.00 and 18.00 on Wednesday 8th October. Capacity is limited and will be available on a first-come first-served basis.
A small charge may apply.

Lost property

If you have lost something at conference, please go to the Information Desk in the Clyde Foyer between 08.30 to 18.30 on Tuesday and 08.30 to 14.30 on Wednesday.

Ministerial Q&A sessions Tuesday

Party Matters – **members only** –
with Tim Farron & Tim Gordon
11.30–12.30, SECC, Carron 1

Transport with Susan Kramer
15.00–16.00, SECC, Carron 1

Education with David Laws
16.30–17.30, SECC, Carron 1

See *Conference Extra* for details of all sessions

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

Glee Club

Where? Argyll 1, Crowne Plaza

When? Tuesday 7th October,
22.00 to 02.00

Join us for the ultimate end-of-conference celebration!

Cash bar. Special bar prices:

Bottle of beer £3.75

Free post mix mixer with any spirit bought
175ml glass of house wine £4.25

Pint of Beer £3.55

Soft drinks £1.50

Pick up your copy of the Liberator Songbook and come and 'raise the roof'!



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F29 Reclaiming the People's Game

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

- 1 *In 2. c) (line 89) after 'players' insert ' , club directors, administrators, referees, and disciplinary commission*
- 2 *members'.*

Amendment One

LGBT+ Liberal Democrats

Mover: Edward Lord

Summation: Adrian Trett

- 1 *Before 1. a) (line 57) insert:*
- 2 a) The establishment of an independent commission, representative of the whole game, to
- 3 comprehensively review governance to make it more effective, inclusive, and no longer subject to
- 4 conflicting vested interests.

Amendment Two

Manchester Gorton

Mover: John Bridges

Summation: Iain Donaldson

- 1 *After 2. d) (line 91) insert:*
- 2 d) Training on diversity and equality issues to be made available to all levels of the amateur game for
- 3 players, clubs and administrators and to be mandatory for referees.

There will be a separate vote on the word 'senior' in 1. d) (line 66).

Background briefing

This motion creates new policies to strengthen democracy, equality and representation within the governance of football, improve football administration and reform football finances. In particular it proposes to make homophobic chanting a criminal offence, on a par with racist chanting, strengthen the 'fit and proper person' rule, and divert a contribution from TV revenues to support the grassroots of the game.

F30 A Stronger Economy and a Fairer Society (Pre-Manifesto Policy Paper)

Summation: Duncan Brack (Vice Chair, Federal Policy Committee)

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

- 1 *In III. (line 7) after 'potential' insert 'and maximise their wellbeing'.*
- 2 *In III. (line 8) after 'colour' insert 'disability, age, religion, belief,'.*

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3 *After F. (line 31) insert:*

4 G. Reaffirm our commitment to a National Health Service which must remain free at the point of delivery,
5 which is focused on increasing wellbeing and enabling people to live fulfilled lives and which makes the
6 aspiration of 'parity of esteem' between mental and physical health a reality.

7 *In 2. b) (line 52) after 'stations' insert 'and where possible disused rail lines'.*

8 *After 2. c) (line 55) insert:*

9 d) Place the Natural Capital Committee on the same statutory footing as the Committee on Climate
10 Change, tasked with identifying key natural resources being used unsustainably and recommending
11 legally binding targets for reducing their net consumption; and introduce incentives for businesses to
12 improve resource efficiency.

13 *In 4. e) (line 87) delete 'under-21s' and insert 'young people aged 16–21'.*

14 *In 5. b) (line 94) after 'problems' insert 'by moving towards equality of funding to reflect the respective
15 health need'.*

16 *After 5. d) (line 98) insert:*

17 e) Enabling heterosexual (opposite sex) partners to enter into a civil partnership.

18 *After 5. f) (line 103) insert:*

19 g) Pass a Nature Act with a long-term commitment to restore nature – including targets for biodiversity,
20 clean air and water – and empower the Natural Capital Committee to recommend actions to meet
21 these targets.

22 *In 7. e) (line 129) after 'Northern Ireland' delete 'as the basis for future spending allocations'.*

Amendment One

ALDC

Mover: Cllr Chris White

Summation: Cllr Kath Pinnock

1 *Delete 5. a) (line 92) and insert:*

2 a) Guaranteeing a fully integrated NHS and Social Care budget which will rise by at least inflation.

Amendment Two

Manchester Gorton

Mover: Iain Donaldson

Summation: Gareth Epps

1 *At end add:*

2 Conference therefore calls for an end to the removal of the spare room subsidy for both social and private

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- 3 sector tenants, and calls on Liberal Democrats in Government to ensure that in the meantime tenants will
- 4 not be subject to any housing benefit deduction until they have received a reasonable offer of alternative
- 5 social rented accommodation with the correct number of bedrooms.

Amendment Three

17 conference representatives

Mover: Dr Evan Harris

Summation: To be announced

1 *After 7. f) (line 137) insert:*

- 2 g) Recognising that a diverse and independent media is essential both to a fair and thriving market and
- 3 to a pluralistic democracy, and therefore introducing new measures to prevent any individual media
- 4 organisation having too much control of the national conversation against the public interest.

Amendment Four

68 conference representatives

Mover: Lorely Burt MP

Summation: Stephen Gilbert MP

1 *In 2. e) (line 60–61) delete 'Stansted ...' to '... whole' and insert:*

- 2 'and we restate our very firmly held view that it is totally inappropriate to build a third runway at Heathrow
- 3 because the noise pollution would be wholly unacceptable to the large numbers of people living in West
- 4 London under the flight path; our airports policy will be evidence based and designed to limit emissions
- 5 from aviation to meet our target of Zero Carbon Britain, as part of a lower carbon world. In addition
- 6 to opposing Heathrow we will act to mitigate noise and air pollution for those living under flight paths,
- 7 through measures such as improvements to air traffic control technology to decrease stacking, incentives
- 8 for airlines to switch to new quieter planes and the use of steeper take-off and landing trajectories where
- 9 appropriate. Within these limits will seek to use the aviation sector to maximise economic opportunities
- 10 across the UK and help rebalance the economy'.

A separate vote on the words ' , and ensuring no net increase in runways across the UK as a whole' in 2. e) (lines 60–61) will be taken before the vote on Amendment 4.

Federal Conference Committee has been notified of an intention to move the suspension of standing orders in accordance with standing order 11.6, to include in the debate an amendment which the Committee had decided not to include. Federal Conference Committee will be resisting this attempt to suspend standing orders.

The text of the proposed amendment which is the subject of this move to suspend standing orders is as follows:

1 *In 7. b) (line 122) after 'powers to', insert 'current or newly redrawn English Regions,'.*

2 *Delete 7 d) (lines 126–127) and insert:*

- 3 d) Providing the powers of fiscal autonomy promised during the independence referendum to Scotland,
- 4 and seeking to equalise the Welsh, Northern Irish and all English devolved assemblies with the same
- 5 powers as the Scottish Parliament, in pursuit of a fully federal United Kingdom in which all powers are
- 6 devolved as far as possible.

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7 *In 7. e) (line 135) after 'equitable level', insert ' , while recognising that funding of devolved English*
8 *authorities will also need to be addressed'.*

9 *In 7. f) (line 136) after 'reform' insert 'at every level, STV for councils and all newly devolved assemblies,'.*

10 *After 7. f) (line 137) insert:*

- 11 g) Legislating to permit and encourage non party-political groups to propose options and campaign
12 for devolution, as the power to initiate devolution must be open to ordinary citizens and community
13 groups, and not left purely in the hands of councils.
- 14 h) Recognising that neither current nor historic boundaries necessarily provide a firm basis for devolution,
15 provide for the review of boundaries as necessary.
- 16 i) Rejecting the idea of an all-England Parliament as being too big and no nearer the people than the UK
17 parliament is, and likewise rejecting a Grand Committee of English MPs as both remote and creating
18 an unworkable system in Westminster.
- 19 j) Once devolution is complete, greatly reducing in size the Parliament of the whole UK, as it will only
20 need to deal with internal matters pertaining to the whole of the UK, and external matters such as
21 Foreign Affairs, Defence and Europe.

Background briefing

This motion and the accompanying pre-manifesto paper set out the party's policy priorities for the general election manifesto. As such it covers a very wide range of policies, in many cases re-affirming or updating existing policies.

In particular it develops or substantially updates policies on aiming to balance the structural current budget by 2017/18 and setting a course to reduce debt as a share of national income, while allowing borrowing to invest in areas which promote economic growth; extending the protection of education funding from early years, through school, to college; retaining the Barnett Formula as the basis for future spending allocations for Scotland and Northern Ireland, while addressing the underfunding of Wales; putting the environment at the heart of our thinking by introducing five Green Laws (A Nature Act, A Heating and Energy Efficiency Act, A Zero Waste Britain Act, A Zero Carbon Britain Act A Green Transport Act); introducing a 'Yellow Card' before benefit sanctions are applied to give people a warning that benefits could be withdrawn; reforming the spare room subsidy for existing social tenants so that it will not be withdrawn unless they have received a reasonable alternative offer with the correct number of rooms, and so that tenants who have genuine medical need for an extra room or have had their homes substantially adapted do not have benefits reduced; launching a two-thirds discount bus pass for 16–21 year olds; and introducing a national programme to insulate homes, with a Council Tax cut for those who take part.

F31 Speech: Norman Lamb MP

This speech will end and the lunch break will start at 12.40.

F33 Age Ready Britain (Ageing Society Policy Paper)

Mover: Dr Mohsin Khan

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

1 *After 4. e) (line 71) insert:*

- 2 f) The retention of the concessionary bus travel scheme for pensioners.

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3 *After 1. d) (line 29) insert:*

- 4 e) Encouraging local government to provide access to community services by telephone, to address
5 social isolation caused by lack of local or home access to the web.

6 *After 7. d) (line 111) add:*

- 7 e) Action to address elder abuse whether at home, hospital or in a care setting.

Amendment One

Tatton

Mover: Gareth Wilson

Summation: Ewan Hoyle

1 *After 5. d) (line 86) insert:*

- 2 e) Allow older people currently claiming housing benefit who move in with someone else to keep a
3 portion of that benefit, to encourage better use of our existing housing stock.
4 f) Assist older people on lower incomes make a planned move we will make the purchase stamp duty
5 free for people in receipt of pension credit.

There will be a separate vote to delete f) (lines 4–5) in Amendment One.

There will be a separate vote to delete 4. a) (line 62) in the main motion.

Background briefing

This motion and the accompanying policy paper substantially develop and update policies on adapting to the opportunities and challenges of an ageing society. In particular they develop new policies on recognising the vital role of carers by offering a £250 'Carers Bonus' paid annually by 2020; increasing the carers allowance earnings disregard from £100-£150, allowing carers to keep more of what they earn; reforming pensions so that the current 'triple lock' indexation is made permanent through law; requiring the OBR to report annually to Parliament its assessment of the intergenerational implications of pensions, taxation, retirement ages, demand for health and care services; integrate public health considerations into planning policies to ensure that new buildings supports the goals of making our towns and cities age friendly; and making 'wellbeing' a specific goal of government in general and the NHS and education in particular.

The motion and policy paper draw significantly on the quality of life approach previously outlined in policy paper 102, *A New Purpose for Politics: Quality of Life* (2011).

The last comprehensive statement of policy on ageing is policy motion *Meeting the Third Age Challenge* (2004). The last comprehensive statement of policy on pensions is policy paper 67, *Dignity and Security in Retirement* (2004). Specific policies can also be found in the 2010 general election manifesto *Change That Works For You*, and policy motions *Dignity at Home: Transforming Home Care* (2013) and *Public and Private Sector Pensions* (2012).

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F35(A) Emergency motion: A Holistic Pathway to Peace in the Middle East

13 conference representatives

Mover: Martin Horwood MP (Co-Chair, Parliamentary Party Committee on International Affairs)

Summation: Lord Wallace of Saltaire

- 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.
- 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

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- 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.

Background briefing

This motion develops and updates policy on the latest situation in the Middle East.

Existing policies are set out in policy motions *The Arab Awakening* (2011), *Gaza* (2009), and *Israel and the Palestinian Territories* (2007).

F35(B) Emergency motion: The FE's unconstitutional behaviour and gender quotas for committee elections

54 conference representatives

Mover: Duncan Brack

Summation: Gordon Lishman

- 1 Conference notes that in 2012 conference amended the constitution:
- 2 i) To remove the requirement that at least one third of the directly elected members of federal
3 committees be female and at least one third male, in the light of advice that these provisions were
4 incompatible with the Equality Act 2010.
5 ii) To give the Federal Executive powers to impose a gender quota in the short term should the Equality
6 Act be amended too near a conference for a new constitutional amendment to be submitted.
- 7 Conference further notes:
- 8 a) That although the Equality Act has not been amended, recent guidance has suggested that gender
9 quotas for committee elections are permissible, and the Federal Executive has accordingly decided to
10 apply a 50 per cent quota for women (only) to the 2014 elections for the directly elected members of
11 the federal committees.
12 b) That this decision was taken in principle by the Federal Executive's working group in September 2013,
13 and in its final form by the Federal Executive on 14 July 2014, two days before the deadline for the
14 submission of constitutional amendments to the autumn 2014 conference.
15 c) That although there is no reason why the FE could not have acted as previously instructed by
16 conference and brought a constitutional amendment to this conference, and possibly to the spring
17 2014 conference, it failed to do so.
- 18 Conference accordingly censures the Federal Executive for:
- 19 1. Acting outside its powers under the constitutional amendment passed in 2012.
20 2. Taking a decision affecting the composition of the committees elected by conference without giving
21 conference a chance to debate and amend it when it could easily have done so.
- 22 Conference believes that as a matter of constitutional procedure and of political principle, decisions
23 affecting the composition of the party's committees should be made by conference.

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- 24 Conference rejects that section of the Federal Executive report dealing with gender quotas for committee
25 elections.
- 26 Conference nevertheless supports the principle of gender quotas and resolves to introduce for the directly
27 elected components of all committees and other bodies elected by conference representatives in 2014
28 the following provision, subject to the Party's legal advisors confirming it would be lawful:
- 29 Either Option A:
30 Not less than one third or, if one third is not a whole number, the whole number nearest to but not
31 exceeding one third ('the specified number') shall be men and women respectively, provided that there
32 is at least twice the specified number of male and female candidates respectively validly nominated by
33 the close of nominations.
- 34 Or Option B:
35 Not less than one half or, if one half is not a whole number, the whole number nearest to but not
36 exceeding one half ('the specified number') shall be men and women respectively, provided that there
37 is at least twice the specified number of male and female candidates respectively validly nominated by
38 the close of nominations.
- 39 Or Option C:
40 Not less than one half ('the specified number') shall be women, provided that there is at least twice the
41 specified number of female candidates validly nominated by the close of nominations.
- 42 Conference instructs the Federal Executive to consult fully within the party, and then submit a properly
43 written constitutional amendment to a conference before the 2016 round of committee elections, to
44 enable conference to debate arrangements for gender and any other quotas for future elections.

There will be a vote between Option B and Option C, and then a vote between Option A and the winner of Option B or Option C.

There will be a separate vote on lines 26–41.

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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.

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.