

# Conference Daily

Wednesday 8th October

Autumn Conference 2014

Glasgow



Information from the Conference Committee for Wednesday 8th October and report back for Tuesday 7th 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.*

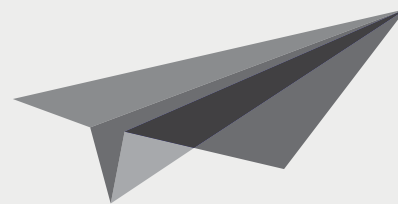
*Please note that timings are approximate only. Some items of business may occur earlier than indicated. Conference representatives wishing to speak in any of the debates are requested to fill in and submit a speaker's card as soon as possible.*

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](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers), or ask at the Information Desk in the SECC.



According to the independent Committee on Climate Change's (CCC) July 2014 report, a 60 per cent growth in flights by 2050 is compatible with achieving the Government's overall carbon reduction targets.



# 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.

We believe the building of new runways can be done sustainably:

- According to the independent Committee on Climate Change's (CCC) July 2014 report, a 60 per cent growth in flights by 2050 is compatible with achieving the Government's overall carbon reduction targets.
- In 1993, there were 14,600 people in the 57dB noise contour around Gatwick. By 2011 this had reduced to 3,050. This is despite a rapid growth in air travel at the same time, from around 191,000 flights a year in 1993 to 244,741 in 2011.
- The cumulative carbon footprint of the UK's 18 biggest airports has shrunk by 3 per cent since 2010, whilst passenger numbers have increased by 5 per cent over the same period.
- The Airports Commission recommended the establishment of an Independent Aircraft Noise Authority to provide expert and impartial advice about the noise impacts of aviation. The Government has not acted on this recommendation. The establishment of an Independent Aircraft Noise Authority is supported by Let Britain Fly, the London Assembly and London First as well as the anti-expansion groups HACAN and Stop Stansted Expansion and supported by Liberal Democrat MPs including Mike Crockart MP, Julian Huppert MP, Adrian Sanders MP, Mike Thornton MP and Mark Williams MP.
- At Heathrow, between 1980 and 2006 the number of people affected by noise fell from two million to around 250,000 despite a 75 per cent growth in flights. Similar levels of noise from road traffic, measured in the same way, on average and across the day, affect over two million people in London; while similar levels of noise from trains affects almost 300,000 people.

**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

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# Report back for Tuesday 7th October

F29	Policy motion: Reclaiming the People's Game	Passed (Amendments One and Two passed)
F30	Policy motion: <i>A Stronger Economy and a Fairer Society</i> (Pre-Manifesto Policy Paper)	Passed (Amendment Three passed, Amendments One, Two and Four defeated; lines 60–61 in the motion retained; the move to suspend standing orders was defeated)
F33	Policy motion: <i>Age Ready Britain</i> (Ageing Society Policy Paper)	Passed (Amendment One passed with lines 4–5 retained; line 62 in the motion retained)
F35(A)	Emergency motion: A Holistic Pathway to Peace in the Middle East	Passed
F35(B)	Emergency motion: The FE's unconstitutional behaviour and gender quotas for committee elections	Passed (lines 26–41 were retained; Option A was selected, with the words from 'provided that' to 'close of nominations' deleted)

## 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 and 14.30 on Wednesday.

## 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.

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## 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

## Ministerial Q&A sessions

### Wednesday

Dan Rogerson & Kate Parminter  
09.30–10.30, SECC, Carron 1

Work and Pensions with Steve Webb  
11.00–12.00, SECC, Carron 1

See *Conference Extra* for details of all sessions

# Wednesday 8th October

## **F36 Report: Diversity Engagement Group**

Mover: Sir Andrew Stunell MP

## **F38 Report: Federal Executive**

### **Q1 Submitted by Colin Rosenstiel**

On what basis has the FE “agreed that half the elected positions to Federal Committees must be filled by women”, in effect overriding the previously agreed constitutional requirements on gender balance of a minimum one third of each gender, without bringing a constitutional amendment to this conference?

### **Q2 Submitted by Duncan Brack**

Article 2.4 of the constitution permits the FE to impose gender or other quotas on the outcome of federal committee elections if the 2010 Equality Act is amended to close to a conference to permit the submission of a constitutional amendment. Since the Act has not been amended, why is the FE imposing quotas?

### **Q3 Submitted by Duncan Brack**

Since the FE took the decision to apply gender quotas to the outcomes of this year’s federal committee elections before the deadline for the submission of constitutional amendments, why did it not submit a constitutional amendment to conference?

### **Q4 Submitted by Gareth Epps**

Where is party strategy decided, and when was the last time the FE had a full debate on strategic issues with the expectation of decision-making?

### **Q5 Submitted by Gareth Epps**

When did the Chief Officer’s Group last meet?

### **Q6 Submitted by Gareth Epps**

Why has the FE decided to take action to impose quotas for Federal Committee elections based on one protected quality characteristic but not others; and what evidence base was used to weigh up participation based on characteristics other than gender?

### **Q7 Submitted by Gareth Epps**

Why has the FE not introduced a constitutional amendment to this Conference with regard to gender quotas when they have been discussing the proposal for months?

### **Q8 Submitted by Gordon Lishman**

Who takes decisions on the party’s strategy? How many written reports have been provided in the last two years as a basis for their decisions?

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## Q9 Submitted by Gordon Lishman

How many times in the last 2 years, has the FE received reports as a basis for decisions on the work and priorities of the Wheelhouse?

## Q10 Submitted by Gordon Lishman

Who decides on the Party's messages and slogans? On how many occasions in the last two years have proposals with alternatives been made to them?

## Q11 Submitted by Gordon Lishman

What does the President understand about FE's responsibility for "directing co-ordinating and implementing the work of the Party" and how has he fulfilled this role?

## Q12 Submitted by Gordon Lishman

How many reports has the FE received on management of the Party's assets, risk management, internal and external audit, crisis management and disaster recovery?

## Q13 Submitted by Gordon Lishman

To whom is the Chief Executive accountable? What systems are there for appraisal, personal development and target-setting and how many formal appraisals have taken place?

## Q14 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?

## F41 Emergency motion: Towards a Federal UK

*10 conference representatives*

Mover: Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP (Secretary of State for Scotland)

Summation: Lord Marks QC

- 1 Conference celebrates Scotland's decision to remain within the United Kingdom in the referendum of 18th
- 2 September and believes the nations of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are stronger together.
  
- 3 Conference further believes that Scotland's decision allows the creation of the fully Federal UK long
- 4 advocated by Liberals and Liberal Democrats.
  
- 5 To that end, Conference calls for the UK Government to take action for Scotland to:
  
- 6 i) Implement in full the delivery plan for further Scottish powers promised by the three pro-Union party
- 7 leaders during the independence referendum campaign without any conditionality on progress in other
- 8 areas.
- 9 ii) Support the proposals detailed in the Scottish Liberal Democrats' report *Federalism: the best future*
- 10 *for Scotland* as set out in the pre-manifesto *A Stronger Economy and a Fairer Society*.

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11 Conference further calls on the UK Government to:

- 12 a) Implement the recommendations of the Silk Commission for Wales and address Wales recognised  
13 underfunding as set out in the pre-manifesto *A Stronger Economy and a Fairer Society*.
- 14 b) Introduce a Devolution Enabling Bill to Parliament, permitting 'devolution on demand' in England,  
15 the transfer of legislative powers from the UK Parliament to councils or groups of councils working  
16 together as set out in policy paper 117, *Power to the People*.
- 17 c) Build on the success of City Deals and Growth Deals, by devolving more power and resources to  
18 groups of local authorities and local enterprise partnerships.
- 19 d) Empower a constitutional convention, with a citizens' jury at its core, to produce a new written  
20 constitution for a Federal United Kingdom, and to further shape new institutions for England.

21 Conference further welcomes evidence from the independence referendum that citizens will engage with  
22 politics and with democracy when they believe their vote makes a difference, and their voice is heard.

23 Conference therefore renews its call for:

- 24 1. Fair votes through STV at every level of election, and an end to 'safe seats'.
- 25 2. An elected second chamber, based on the model developed through a decade of cross-party  
26 committees and commissions and embodied in the 2012 Coalition Bill.
- 27 3. A £10,000 annual cap on donations to political parties to limit the capacity of wealthy backers to buy  
28 influence in the political process and access to leading politicians, and reforms to party funding along  
29 the lines of the recent report of the committee on Standards in Public Life.
- 30 4. Protection of the right for trade union members to consent to a political levy being deducted from their  
31 subscriptions, with a new right for each member to choose which party they wish to see receive their  
32 donation.
- 33 5. The franchise to be extended to all sixteen and seventeen year olds for all elections.

*There will be a separate vote on c) (lines 17–18).*

## Background briefing

This motion restates existing policy on a Federal UK as set out in policy paper 117, *Power to the People* (March 2014), and updates it in light of the recent referendum campaign in Scotland.

## F42 Rebanking the UK

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

- 1 *In 6. (line 37) delete 'the Basel'.*

## Amendment One

*Lewisham*

Mover: Tom Lawrence

Summation: William Town

- 1 *After 6. (line 38) add:*

- 2 7. The government to continue to support peer-to-peer lending, crowdfunding and similar internet-based  
3 finance in ways which benefit lenders, borrowers and organisations in the sector.

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- 4 8. The government to allow local authorities and their pension funds to continue to exercise their own
- 5 judgement over what they invest in, provided it accords with existing rules on prudent financial
- 6 management, and in the case of pension funds, the objectives of the fund, and recognise the value of
- 7 their knowledge of the local economy.

## Background briefing

This motion develops policy on promoting a more diverse banking system, including a focus on community banking and finance.

Existing policies on bank reform are set out in policy motion *Strengthening the UK Economy* (2013), policy paper 105, *Sustainable Prosperity and Jobs* (2012), policy motion *Tougher Action on Banks and Bonuses* (2011) and the 2010 general election manifesto *Change That Works For You*.

## F43 Q&A: Environment

Chair: Tessa Munt MP (Co-Chair, Parliamentary Party Committee on the Environment and Climate Change)

*Panellists will be:*

- Rt Hon Edward Davey MP, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change.
- Baroness Parminter, Lords Co-Chair of the Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Party on Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.
- Baroness Kramer, Minister of State for Transport.
- Stephen Williams MP, Minister for Communities and Local Government.
- Martin Harper, Director of Conservation, RSPB.

## F44 Protecting Private Tenants

### Amendment One

*Greater Reading*

Mover: John Grout

Summation: Jenny Woods

- 1 *After 1. (line 35) insert:*
- 2 2. Landlords using Section 21 Notices should be made to give their reasons for serving the notice.
- 3 *After 4. (line 45) add:*
- 4 5. Housing benefit is paid by local authorities and the local authorities should be able to withhold
- 5 payment if the premises in question are not up to standard.

## Background briefing

This motion creates new policy. Existing policy on protection for tenants is set out in policy paper 104, *Decent Homes for All* (2012).



