

Conference Daily

Tuesday 19 September



Autumn Conference 2017 Bournemouth



Information from the Federal Conference Committee for Tuesday 19 September and report back for Monday 18 September. 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. Members wishing to speak are requested to submit a speaker's card as soon as possible.

OPEN, TOLERANT AND UNITED

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Report back for Monday 18 September

- F23 Emergency motion: Implementation of Universal Credit Passed
- F24 Policy motion: Defeating Terrorism, Protecting Liberties Passed (lines lines 43–44 and 53–56 retained).
- F26 Policy motion: Employment in the 21st Century Passed (Amendment One passed)
- F28 Policy motion: Encouraging Companies to be Responsible Corporate Citizens Passed (Amendment One passed)

For the text of motions and amendments, please refer to the Autumn 2017 Conference Agenda and Conference Daily for Monday 18 September 2017.

BIC security

The security team at the BIC will be carrying out additional checks on arrival, including on large bags; so, to avoid delays, please do not bring large bags into the conference centre.

Left luggage

A left luggage facility will be available at the Highcliff Marriott between 08.00 and 17.00 on Tuesday 19 September. Capacity is limited and will be available on a first-come first-served basis. A charge of £2 will apply.

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F30 Policy motion: European Atomic Energy Community

The Federal Conference Committee has agreed to make the following drafting amendment to the motion:

- 1 *In line 5, after 'safety' insert: 'nuclear safeguards'*

Background Briefing

This motion elaborates in more detail existing policy as set out in the 2017 General Election Manifesto *Change Britain's Future*.

F31A Emergency motion: UK Government Treatment of Disabled People

29 members

Mover: David Buxton

Summation: Stephen Lloyd MP

- 1 Conference notes that in August 2017 the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons
2 with Disabilities (UN CRPD) Committee found that the UK Government's cuts to social security
3 and other support for deaf and disabled people had caused "a human catastrophe" which was
4 "totally neglecting the vulnerable situation that people with disabilities find themselves in" and,
5 taken with the UK Government's refusal to either recognise or implement the recommendations
6 of the previous inquiry by the UN CRPD Committee in 2016, concluded that the Conservative
7 Government had committed "grave, systematic violations of the rights of person with disabilities".

8 Conference further notes:

- 9 i) The House of Lords Select Committee on the Equality Act 2010 and Disability report of March
10 2016 made 55 recommendations for Government and other agencies, and concluded that
11 Government and other agencies still regard deaf and disabled people as an afterthought,
12 resulting in services (including transport, housing, access to the law, access to employment,
13 physical access, training and work) that are not fit for purpose and do not give deaf and
14 disabled people true independent living.
- 15 ii) The United Kingdom Independent Mechanism (UKIM), covering all four of the UK Equality
16 and Human Rights bodies, gave evidence to the UN in August 2017 that the government "has
17 failed to realise the rights of disabled people, especially in relation to social security reforms,
18 resulting in grave and systematic violations of the right to an adequate standard of living, right
19 to social protection, right to independent living and right to work".
- 20 iii) The UK Government has been repeatedly criticised for its treatment of people in secure
21 mental health settings, including particular criticism over the use of violence and illicit use of
22 taser guns on members of the African Caribbean community.
- 23 iv) Evidence of the inappropriate and dishonest assessment processes for PIP continuing
24 to show that the system is target-driven and designed to penalise deaf and disabled,
25 despite Government reassurances that Capita, ATOS and Maximus were running a fair and
26 independent service for the Department of Work and Pensions.

27 Conference believes:

- 28 a) That deaf and disabled people in the UK are entitled to rights, as set out in the UN CRPD,
29 and that the Conservative Government's repeated refusal to act on the recommendations of



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30 the UN CRPD committee, the House of Lords Select Committee, the UKIM, and the extensive
31 reports from Deaf and Disabled People's Organisations (DDPOs) is illegal and shameful.
32 b) In a social model of disability, considering that people may have a condition or an impairment
33 but are disabled by society, and we must therefore remove the barriers in society that limit
34 deaf and disabled people's opportunities and choices.

35 Conference resolves that a future Liberal Democrat government will incorporate the UN CRPD
36 into UK law by strengthening the Equality Act in order to empower deaf and disabled people to
37 confidently challenge all forms of discrimination and prejudice, and will ensure deaf and disabled
38 people a strong voice at the heart of government, inviting them to sit on the cross-government
39 committee 'nothing about you, without you'.

40 Conference calls for:

- 41 1. Liberal Democrats across the UK to fight for the rights of deaf and disabled people in every
42 sphere of their lives, and hold Governments and agencies to account.
- 43 2. The UK Government urgently to review its policies, to take immediate steps to remedy those
44 highlighted by the UN and the Lords Select Committee report as failing, and to report back
45 within 12 months.

Applicability: Federal.

Background Briefing

This motion updates and develops policy on disability as set out in the 2017 General Election Manifesto *Change Britain's Future* and policy paper 124, *Mending the Safety Net* (2016).

F31B Emergency motion: Recruitment and Retention of Teachers

Ten members

Mover: Layla Moran MP

Summation: Lord Storey

- 1 Conference notes:
- 2 i) Deeply concerning figures published by UCAS which indicate that the number of graduates
3 beginning teacher training courses has fallen 10 per cent this year, compared to 2016.
 - 4 ii) That these figures indicate that recruitment for subjects including maths, physics, biology,
5 computing, chemistry and English will fail to meet government targets.
 - 6 iii) That this is part of longer term trends which show that teacher shortages across the country
7 are growing and that almost a third of teachers leave the profession within five years of
8 qualifying.
 - 9 iv) That under the Government's current plans for public sector pay, teachers will see a real-
10 terms pay cut of around £3,000 between 2015-16 and 2020-21.
 - 11 v) Worrying reports about levels of teacher stress, which have found that 60 per cent of the
12 teaching workforce say their job has impacted on their mental health, with one in ten taking
13 anti-depressants.

14 Conference believes:

- 15 a) Teachers have been placed under inordinate and unsustainable pressure in recent years



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- 16 due to a combination of changes to the curriculum and assessment processes; and crippling
17 school budget cuts.
- 18 b) That it was wrong for the Government to retain the 1pc cap on teacher's pay rises in 2017-
19 18 and that this has contributed to a growing feeling among teachers that they are being
20 undervalued.
- 21 c) That if teachers are not made to feel that they are respected and valued for the work they do,
22 then recruitment efforts will continue to suffer, and increasingly those in the profession will
23 be forced out, leaving our schools worse off and reducing educational opportunities for young
24 people.
- 25 Conference calls for:
- 26 1. Government to commission an urgent review to identify the factors leading to problems with
27 teacher recruitment and retention rates.
- 28 2. The Government to reverse the decision to retain a 1pc cap on teacher pay rises, and for all
29 teachers in state schools to be offered pay rises in line with inflation.
- 30 3. The Government to work with Ofsted to reform school inspection processes, ensuring they
31 take account of teachers' workload and staff retention and recruitment rates, so that school
32 leadership is incentivised to prioritise the wellbeing of their staff.
- 33 4. Liberal Democrats to continue to campaign in Parliament for a reversal of cuts to front-line
34 school and college budgets, protecting per-pupil funding in real terms.
- 35 5. The introduction of a clear and properly funded entitlement to continued professional
36 development for all teachers, to ensure people see opportunities to progress in their careers.
- 37 6. Liberal Democrats to continue to campaign for a new Royal College of Teachers to oversee the
38 delivery of continued professional development as well as Qualified Teacher Status.
- 39 7. The Government to reassess how it carries out long-term planning of teacher training places,
40 working in close partnerships with higher education and specialist routes such as Teach
41 First in ensure the recruitment of high quality teachers in shortage areas such as science,
42 technology, engineering, the arts and maths.

Applicability: England only.

Background Briefing

This motion updates policy on teacher retention and recruitment in light of recent figures showing a further fall in recruitment. Existing policy is set out in the 2017 General Election Manifesto *Change Britain's Future*.

F32 Policy motion: Protecting Small Businesses

Chair: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee).

Background Briefing

This motion updates policy on reform of business rates as set out in the 2017 General Election Manifesto *Change Britain's Future* and creates new policy on a 'Pub cap'.

F34 Gun and Knife Crime

Mover: Rt Hon Sir Simon Hughes

Summation: Dawn Barnes



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The Federal Conference Committee has agreed to make the following drafting amendment to the motion:

- 1 Delete 1. (line 29–31) and insert:
- 2 1. Police, education providers, and public, private, community, faith and other organisations to
- 3 consider how they can work more closely together and with other individuals and groups,
- 4 particularly to engage with 16–25 year olds.

Amendment One

Fareham Liberal Democrats

Mover: Kathleen Trott

Summation: Kathleen Trott

- 1 In a) (line 15), delete 'knife and gun crime' and insert 'knife, gun and acid attacks'.
- 2 In b) (line 17), delete 'Gun and knife crime' and insert 'Gun, knife and acid attacks'.
- 3 In c) (line 19), delete 'gun and knife crime' and insert 'gun, knife and acid attacks'.
- 4 After 5. (line 42), add:
- 5 6. Introduce measures to ban the sale of corrosive liquids to children.

Background Briefing

This motion updates and develops policy on gun and knife crime. Existing policy is set out in policy paper 118, *Doing What Works to Cut Crime* (2014).

Conference timetable 2018

9–11 March 2018, Southport

Drafting advice deadline (motions)	13.00	Wednesday	27 December 2017
Motions deadline	13.00	Wednesday	10 January 2018
Drafting advice deadline (amendments, emergency motions)	13.00	Tuesday	20 February 2018
Deadline for amendments to motions, emergency motions, topical issues, questions to reports	13.00	Tuesday	6 March 2018

15–18/19 September 2018, Brighton

Drafting advice deadline (motions)	13.00	Wednesday	13 June 2018
Motions deadline	13.00	Wednesday	27 June 2018
Drafting advice deadline (amendments, emergency motions)	13.00	Monday	20 August 2018
Deadline for amendments to motions, emergency motions, topical issues, questions to reports	13.00	Monday	3 September 2018



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