

Conference Daily

Monday 18 September



Autumn Conference 2017 Bournemouth



Information from the Federal Conference Committee for Monday 18 September and report back for Sunday 17 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.

Conference Daily and other conference publications, in PDF and plain text formats, are available online at www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers or ask at the Information Desk in the Bournemouth International Centre.



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Room: Bayview 1, BIC


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Report back for Sunday 17 September

F14	Report: Federal Appeals Panel	Approved
F15	Report: Parliamentary Parties	Received
F16	Policy motion: Armed Forces Personnel: Recruitment, Retention and Welfare	Passed (Amendment One passed)
F17A	Policy motion: Opposing Brexit	Passed (Amendment One passed)
F21	Policy motion: Safe Building Standards for all Homes	Passed (Amendment One and Amendment Two passed)
F22	Policy motion: Centenary of Balfour Declaration	Passed

For the text of motions and amendments, please refer to the Autumn 2017 Conference Agenda and Conference Daily for Sunday 17 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.

BIC closing times

The BIC main doors will close at 18.30 today so you will need to use the Purbeck Foyer doors to enter and exit the building after this time. Please bear this in mind when arriving for the evening fringe sessions in the BIC.

Free Wifi

Free Wifi internet access is available in the BIC. Select **LibDems2017** then fill in the form to get online.

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Spokespeople Q&A sessions

There will be a series of Q&A sessions during conference, where you can ask questions of our Spokespeople on the issues relating to their responsibilities.

Sessions on Monday 18 will be held in the BIC, in the rooms shown below. Sessions, apart from Party Affairs, are open to all, but Party members will be given priority.

15.00–16.00

Bayview Suite 1

Home Affairs

with Ed Davey, Brian Paddick
& Jonathan Marks

15.00–16.00

Meyrick Suite

Party Affairs

with Nick Harvey, Federal Chief Executive,
& Baroness Brinton, Party President.
Members are invited to ask questions on
internal party matters (party members only)

16.30–17.30

Meyrick Suite

Health

with Norman Lamb, Joan Walmsley
& Liz Barker



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F23 Emergency motion: Implementation of Universal Credit

Ten members

Mover: Stephen Lloyd MP

Summation: Kelly-Marie Blundell

- 1 Conference notes that Liberal Democrats support the principles behind Universal Credit, namely
2 its aims of simplifying the social security system, improving work incentives, increasing take-up,
3 tackling poverty and reducing fraud and error.
- 4 Conference however further notes the criticisms made of the detailed design and implementation
5 of Universal Credit under the Conservatives as set out in policy paper 124 Mending the Safety Net
6 (2016) and the General Election Manifesto Change Britain's Future (2017).
- 7 Conference notes with deep concern the new Citizens Advice report Delivering on Universal Credit
8 published on 6 July 2017 which shows that the requirement to wait six weeks for first payment
9 is causing people serious financial difficulties, while highlighting a range of other administrative
10 problems, and similar findings by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. In particular, conference
11 regrets findings that:
- 12 i) Over a third (39%) of people are waiting more than the 6 weeks it should take to receive their
13 first payment.
14 ii) In some pilot areas, the average waiting time is as high as 12 weeks.
15 iii) Just over 1 in 10 (11%) are waiting over 10 weeks without the benefit.
16 iv) 3 in 5 (57%) are having to borrow money while waiting for their first payment.
- 17 Conference therefore calls for the Government to pause the planned accelerated roll-out of
18 Universal Credit until problems with implementation can be addressed through the following
19 measures:
- 20 a) Removing the 7 waiting days at the start of a claim, to reduce the amount of time people have
21 to wait for their first payment.
22 b) Monitoring the impact of payment one month in arrears, and changing it if this results in rising
23 debt and destitution.
24 c) Making sure everyone moving to Universal Credit is told they can get an Advance Payment to
25 help them while they wait for their first payment.
26 d) Introducing an online system so people can book their initial Jobcentre appointments online
27 rather than having to call the Universal Credit helpline.
28 e) Making the Universal Credit helpline free of charge, at least until the roll-out is complete.
29 f) Allowing people to adjust to Universal Credit by offering everyone options in how they would
30 like the benefit to be paid.
31 g) Putting in place a comprehensive support package before Universal Credit roll-out accelerates,
32 to make sure people get advice to manage their money and deal with any complications in the
33 application process.
- 34 Conference reiterates its support for more substantial reform of UC including:
- 35 1. Reversing the Government's cuts to the amount claimants can earn (the "work allowance")
36 before their benefits are reduced.



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- 37 2. Introducing a second work allowance, allowing both members of a couple to work without
38 losing their benefits.
39 3. Restoring the first child premium for new claimants.
40 4. Abandoning the restriction of benefits to just two children.
41 5. Ending the freeze on working-age benefits.

Applicability: Federal.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 4 of the Agenda.

Background Briefing

This motion updates and develops policy in detail on the implementation of Universal Credit, building on existing policy as set out in the 2017 General Election Manifesto *Change Britain's Future* and policy paper 124, *Mending the Safety Net* (2016). It also calls for a pause in implementation until the specific problems identified in the motion are addressed.

F24 Policy motion: Defeating Terrorism, Protecting Liberties

Summation: Mo Saqib

There will be a separate vote on c) (lines 43–44) and 1. (53–56).

Background Briefing

This motion updates policy on meeting security threats while preserving essential liberties. Existing policy is set out in the 2017 General Election Manifesto *Change Britain's Future* and policy paper 123, *Safe and Free* (2016).

F26 Policy motion: Employment in the 21st Century

Chair: Mary Reid.

Mover: Lord Fox

Summation: Baroness Kramer

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

- 1 *In vii) (line 23), after 'status' insert 'and that the Supreme Court has recently ruled them to be illegal'.*

Amendment One

Young Liberals

Mover: Scott Emery

Summation: Henry Jones

- 1 *After 8. (line 72), insert:*

- 2 9. Hours that are not guaranteed as part of a contract to have a higher minimum wage rate,
3 in order to incentivise employers to offer fixed hours when possible, with the size of the



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- 4 wage rate increase to be determined by the Low Pay Commission, as suggested in the Taylor
- 5 Review.

Background Briefing

This motion substantially develops and updates policy in light of the Taylor Review. In particular it creates new policy on 'dependent contractor' status, reversing the burden of proof in tribunal hearings on employment status, and improving the treatment of the self-employed in Universal Credit. Existing policy is set out in the 2017 General Election Manifesto *Change Britain's Future*, policy paper 124, *Mending the Safety Net* (2016), the 2015 General Election Manifesto *Stronger Economy. Fairer Society. Opportunity for Everyone*, and policy paper 118, *A Balanced Working Life* (2013).

F28 Policy motion: Encourage Companies to be Responsible Corporate Citizens

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

- 1 *In 2. (line 35), after 'promote' insert 'legislation to secure', and delete 'including' and insert 'which may*
- 2 *include'.*

Amendment One

11 members

Mover: Simon McGrath

Summation: Joe Otten

- 1 *Delete 2. (lines 35–38) and insert:*
- 2 2. Require all UK listed companies and all private companies with more than 200 employees
- 3 to have at least 1 employee representative on their Boards with the same legal duties and
- 4 responsibilities as other directors.

Background Briefing

This motion substantially updates and develops policy. In particular, it strengthens policy on a 'public interest' test for takeovers, disclosure of beneficial ownership of companies and land, and corporate criminal liability. Existing policy is set out in the 2017 General Election Manifesto *Change Britain's Future*, policy motion *Liberal Democrat Economic Policy* (2016), the 2015 General Election Manifesto *Stronger Economy. Fairer Society. Opportunity for Everyone*, policy paper 106, *Mutuals, Employee Ownership and Workplace Democracy* (2012) and policy paper 59, *Setting Business Free* (2003).

F29 Manifesto Feedback Consultation

Chair: Jenni Lang.

