

Conference Daily

Saturday 14 September 2019

Autumn Conference Bournemouth



Information from the Federal Conference Committee for Saturday 14 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.

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Fringe update

Saturday mid evening 20.15–21.30

Liberal Democrat Creative Network

The Power of Creativity

Jane Bonham-Carter, spokesperson for DDCMS, invites you to meet the Network and join our mission to focus support for the Creative Industries and theirs for the Liberal Democrats. Introduction by Paul Roseby, Artistic Director National Youth Theatre. Plus special guests: Layla Moran MP, Chuka Umunna MP and Bob Marshall Andrews QC ex-MP & author.

Note: this event starts at 19.30

**The Cosy Club, The Deck, 34 Old Christchurch Rd
BH1 1LG**

Planning Futures and BECG

The planning and housing reception

This reception will bring together key stakeholders from across the planning and development sectors with elected members of the Liberal Democrat Party. This event is an opportunity for all who are interested in the built environment to network and discuss the most important issues facing our industry in 2019. Key note speaker: Rt Hon Sir Edward Davey

MP. Kindly Sponsored by the Built Environment Communications Group. Places strictly limited (entry on first-come basis).

Highcliff Marriott, Blandford

Saturday lunchtime 13.00–14.30

The Counter Extremism Project and Rights, Liberties, Justice

Big Tech and Extremism: Can we balance liberalism with countering extremist content?

The Christchurch attacks led the government to propose an Online Harms Bill to make tech companies remove terrorist and extremist content. But how can we balance free speech and privacy with the need to tackle extremism online? Chair, James Sandbach. Speakers: Ian Acheson, Counter Extremism Project; Vinous Ali, Associate Director for Policy at TechUK; Paul Reynolds, Independent adviser on international relations and economics; Christine Jardine MP, Shadow Cabinet Home Affairs and Justice lead.

BIC, Durley

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Saturday 14 September

09.00 Party Business

Aide: Chris Maines.

F1 Opening of Conference by Cllr Vikki Slade, Leader of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council

F2 Federal Conference Committee Report

Q1. Submitted by Malcolm Mitchell

Why has the Autumn 2020 Conference scheduled to be a fortnight later than usual?

Q2. Submitted by Jacqueline Bell

It is recognised that volunteers are used. However, hard copy agendas have been very late to arrive, impacting on opportunity to submit amendments. Can this be improved?

F3 Federal Policy Committee Report

Q1. Submitted by Suzanne Fletcher

Could the policy committee, as well as having liaison representation for the regions (although noted that there is no known rep for 3 regions) and SAOs, also have someone with the responsibility of liaising with AOs, or at least informing them, of any relevant policy development work.

F4 Continuing the Fight for Gender Equality

Mover: Christine Jardine MP (Shadow Cabinet Member for Home Affairs).

Summation: Luisa Porritt MEP.

The FCC has agreed to make the following drafting amendment to the motion:

1 *In 6. (line 75), after 'parliamentarians' insert 'and councillors'.*

Background Briefing

This motion updates party policy on gender equality. It calls for: the Istanbul Convention to be ratified and brought into law; free sanitary products to be provided to people in schools, hospitals and other crucial services where they could be needed; working with the EU to remove VAT on sanitary products; legislation to end the gender price gap; increased transparency around the parental leave policies of large companies; for the Lib Dems and all political parties to publish their candidate diversity data; and, for parental and carer leave entitlements for parliamentarians to be strengthened in a way that ensures that their constituents continue to be represented.

Existing policy is set out in the 2017 General Election Manifesto *Change Britain's Future* and Policy Paper 120, *Expanding Opportunity, Unlocking Potential* (2014).

10.15 Party business

Hall Aide: Simon McGrath.



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F7 Business Tax Reform: Fair for Business and Fair for Society

Mover: Martin Wheatcroft.

Summation: Tony Harris.

The FCC has agreed to make the following drafting amendments to the motion:

- 1 *In 3. (line 68), after 'jurisdictions' insert ', and should be required to publish beneficial*
- 2 *ownership, country-by-country reporting, and a clear tax policy with a commitment not to use*
- 3 *tax havens'.*

- 4 *After 6. (line 85), add:*

- 5 7. A system which minimises disruptive effects on developing countries, to be established
- 6 by a spillover analysis of the system, and in particular the UK's tax treaties.

- 7 Conference also calls for the investment of significant extra resources into HMRC to ensure
- 8 that the tax system is fairly applied and administered.

Amendment One

13 members

Mover: Nick Eden-Green.

Summation: Neasa MacErlean.

- 1 *After line 36, insert:*

- 2 Conference further resolves that HM Revenue & Customs should continue offering help to
- 3 developing countries through its Tax Capacity Building Unit when the current programme
- 4 ends in 2023.

Amendment Two

14 members

Mover: Oliver Craven.

Summation: James Baillie.

- 1 *Delete lines 37-45 and insert:*

- 2 Conference believes that ideologically-driven Conservative attempts to slash corporation tax
- 3 are an unjustified tax giveaway, and that British corporate tax rates should be brought better
- 4 into line with our European neighbours and regularly reviewed according to what makes
- 5 sense for the economy.

Amendment Three

South Cambridgeshire

Mover: Paul Browne.

Summation: Mark Lunn.



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1 *After line 45 insert:*

- 2 Conference notes with concern Conservative plans to establish up to ten new so-called freeports
- 3 in the UK, creating tax havens that increase unfairness in the tax system and undermine public
- 4 finances, and which were also identified as potentially vulnerable to counterfeiting, VAT fraud
- 5 and money laundering in a European Commission report published on 24 July 2019.

Background Briefing

This motion introduces new party policy about business tax reform. It proposes a long-term stable rate of business tax to replace corporation tax, which would form the basis of a simpler and more predictable tax system for businesses that would help them properly plan for the future. The motion also proposes measures intended to prevent businesses unfairly moving profits out of the UK. Existing policy is set out in policy motion *Encouraging Companies to be Responsible Corporate Citizens* (2017) and the 2017 General Election Manifesto *Change Britain's Future*.

11.50 Policy motion

Aide: Sally Burnell. Hall Aide: Liz Lynne.

F9 Equal Marriage

The FCC has agreed to make the following drafting amendments to the motion:

1 *In iv) (line 6), delete 'removed' and insert 'consistently attempted to remove'.*

2 *After vii) (line 31), insert:*

- 3 viii) In July 2019 Parliament voted to legalise same-sex marriage in Northern Ireland by 13
- 4 January 2020 if, by 21 October 2019, a government in Northern Ireland has not been
- 5 restored.

6 *After 1. (line 51), insert:*

- 7 2. The UK government to implement regulations to provide for same-sex marriage in
- 8 Northern Ireland by 13 January 2020, if the Northern Ireland Executive has not been
- 9 restored by 21 October 2019.

Amendment One

South Cambridgeshire and 60 members

Mover: Toby Keynes.

Summation: Dr Julian Huppert.

1 *After ix) (line 41), insert:*

- 2 x) Humanist marriages are not legally recognised in England and Wales, but have been
- 3 recognised in Scotland since 2005 and Northern Ireland since 2018, and have already
- 4 become the second most popular type of marriage in Scotland.



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5 *After b) (line 47), insert:*

6 c) Extend legal recognition of humanist marriages across the UK.

7 *After 2. (line 54), insert:*

8 3. The UK Government to make an order under section 14(4) of the Marriage (Same Sex
9 Couples) Act 2013 at the earliest opportunity, to allow humanists to conduct legally
10 recognised marriages in England and Wales.

Amendment Two

26 members

Mover: Cllr Tim Pickstone.

Summation: Cllr Scott Emery.

1 *After ix) (line 41), insert:*

2 x) Obstacles also exist to equal marriage by the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013
3 giving all faith organisations exemption from equalities legislation so that faith
4 organisations have to 'opt-in' to perform same-sex marriages, and specific clauses
5 preventing the Church of England and Church of Wales from opting-in to performing
6 same-sex marriages.

7 Conference welcomes the many churches and other faith organisations who have chosen to
8 support same-sex marriages, and welcomes the significant progress that is being made by
9 many including the Methodist Conference in Britain and by many in the Church of England.

10 *After b) (line 47), insert:*

11 c) LGBT+ people of all faiths and none to be treated equally regardless of their religion, faith
12 or none.

13 *After 4. (line 60), add:*

14 5. The UK government to legislate to enable the Church of England and Church in Wales and
15 their celebrants to conduct same-sex marriages.

Amendment Three

14 members

Mover: Dr Julian Huppert.

Summation: Sarah Brown.

1 *After ix) (line 41), insert:*

2 x) Prior to same-sex marriage legalisation, those acquiring a Gender Recognition Certificate
3 for legal gender protections had to annul their marriage (England and Wales) or divorce
4 (Scotland) to prevent same-sex marriages, which were previously incompatible with the
5 law.



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6 After 4. (line 60), add:

- 7 5. The retrospective restoration of marriages, on request, that were annulled or divorced
8 solely due to the Gender Recognition process, where there is a continuing relationship.

Background Briefing

This motion updates policy about marriage equality. It reiterates the party's commitment to removing the spousal veto and strengthening the rights of cohabiting couples. It includes new proposals to introduce equal marriage legislation to Northern Ireland and to use the UK's influence to promote marriage equality more widely. Existing policy is set out in the 2017 General Election Manifesto *Change Britain's Future* and Policy Paper 120, *Expanding Opportunity, Unlocking Potential* (2014).

F10 A Fairer Share for All

Mover: Tim Farron MP (Shadow Cabinet Member for Work and Pensions)

The FCC has agreed to make the following drafting amendments to the motion:

1 In i) (line 54), after 'invest' insert 'at least'.

2 In 1. c) (line 72), delete 'Introduce a system of incentives, rather than ineffective sanctions,'
3 and insert 'Abolish the benefits sanctions system entirely and introduce a systems of
4 incentives'.

5 After 1. g) (line 88), insert:

6 h) Ensure that claimants do not have to access the benefit system digitally.

Amendment One

12 members

Mover: Ian Kearns.

Summation: Cllr Kirsten Johnson.

1 After 2. d) (line 104), insert:

2 e) Ensure central government grants to local government increase in real terms every
3 year.

Amendment Two

North West, North East and Yorkshire & the Humber

Mover: Philip Knowles.

Summation: Andrew Haldane.

1 In IV. (lines 24–25), delete 'while child poverty is heavily concentrated in the poorest local
2 authorities' and insert 'In addition, child poverty is heavily concentrated in the poorest local
3 authorities, including, for example certain coastal towns, parts of London and many parts of
4 the Midlands and the North, which have suffered disproportionate reductions in Government
5 grants'.



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6 *In iii) (line 61), after 'Rebalancing Fund' insert 'allocated to, and administered by, devolved*
7 *authorities'.*

8 *In 3. c) (line 117), delete 'focusing on improving bus services' and insert 'including the Transport*
9 *for the North Strategic Transport Plan, with a focus on improvements to, and integration of,*
10 *local rail and bus services'.*

Background Briefing

This motion updates and brings together party policy on income and regional inequality. It calls for: reducing the wait for the first payment of benefits from five weeks to five days as well as additional investment of £5 bn per year to make the benefits system work; the adoption of universal access to basic services as a guiding principle to ensure that people have access to all the services that they need for 21st century life; and, a £50 bn capital Rebalancing Fund to address historic investment disparities between the UK's nations and regions.

Existing policy is set out in Policy Paper 133, *Good Jobs, Better Businesses, Stronger Communities : Proposals for a new economy that really works for everyone* (2018), Policy Paper 129, *A Rural Future: Time to Act* (2018), the 2017 General Election Manifesto *Change Britain's Future* and Policy Paper 124, *Mending the Safety Net* (2016).

16.30 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Nick Da Costa (Vice Chair FCC). Hall Aide: Cllr Paul Tilsley.

F12 Rehabilitation of Offenders

Amendment One

Stockton

Mover: Suzanne Fletcher.

Summation: Maureen Rigg.

1 *Delete 2. g) (lines 49–51) and insert:*

2 g) Assess prisoners on indeterminate sentences to ascertain what interventions, actions
3 or courses each individual needs to complete in order to be released.

There will be a separate vote on 2. f) (lines 47–48).

Background Briefing

This motion updates party policy on rehabilitation. Among other measures, it advocates: a holistic approach to rehabilitation that would be driven by new local coordinating bodies; reducing the number of people in prison by introducing a presumption against sentences shorter than 12 months and ending prison sentences for the possession of drugs for personal use; turning prisons into places of rehabilitation and recovery by recruiting more prison officers and improving standards in prisons; and, increasing support to prison-leavers to reduce reoffending.

Existing policy is set out in the 2017 General Election Manifesto *Change Britain's Future* and Policy Paper 118, *Doing What Works to Cut Crime* (2014).



Saturday 14 September

17.15 Party business

Hall Aide: Liz Lynne.

F13 Reports of the Parliamentary Parties

Q1. Submitted by Mike Williams and Andrew Warburton

Why were the LGBT+ Lib Dems not consulted or spoken to before the defection of an MP with a controversial background on LGBT issues?

Q2. Submitted by Andrew Hinton

What about Dr Phillip Lee's record made anybody think he was any shade of liberal, and would someone like to assure me with a straight face that he would have wanted to join this party in a million years if Brexit were not a factor?

Q3. Submitted by Richard Gadsden

Dr Phillip Lee proposed a policy in 2014 that would have required immigrants to the UK to be tested for HIV and Hepatitis B, and to be excluded in the event of a positive test.

Does the Parliamentary Party consider that excluding people who are HIV+ and not excluding other, far more infectious diseases (like Ebola or tuberculosis) is clearly both homophobic and xenophobic?

What checks did the Parliamentary Party make to ensure that Phillip Lee had reconsidered this position from 2014, or did you choose to disregard this for the sake of the publicity stunt of him crossing the floor on 3 September 2019?

Q4. Submitted by Jon Ball

Did Phillip Lee provide clarifications for his previous positions on LGBT+ relationships and on immigration before his defection to the parliamentary party was accepted?

Advance notice for Sunday 15 September

F17 Stop Brexit

The FCC has agreed to make the following drafting amendments to the motion:

1 *Delete B. (lines 4–6), and insert:*

2 B. Speaker Bercow has stated that exiting the European Union without a Withdrawal
3 Agreement (a "No Deal" Brexit) is impossible without Parliamentary Approval.

4 *After B. (line 6), insert:*

5 C. The European Union (Withdrawal) (No. 6) Bill passed through all legislative stages and
6 received Royal Assent on the 9th of September, and requires the Prime Minister to



Advance notice for Sunday 15 September

7 request an extension of the Article 50 notification period to the 31st of January 2020, and
8 to accept such an extension.

9 *In F. (line 14), delete '23rd' and insert 'the 24th of'.*

10 *Delete G. (lines 17–19) and insert:*

11 G. In the early hours of the 10th of September, the government forced the prorogation of
12 Parliament until the 14th of October. The Court of Session in Scotland has subsequently
13 ruled that this Prorogation was illegally obtained by the Prime Minister because it had the
14 purpose of stymying Parliament, and is thus null and of no effect. This decision has been
15 appealed to the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, where it is due to be heard in the
16 coming week.

17 *After 3. (line 58), add:*

4. Liberal Democrats to celebrate our Membership of the European Union, its values, its achievements and its aims in our campaigning and our policies; to reject the false narrative where the other two main parties seek to blame the EU for their own failures; to seek change hearts and minds by these positive actions.

Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.

Electronic speaker's cards

Speaker's cards can be submitted online up to one hour before the start of the debate at

www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card

Livestream of Conference

Livestream from the Auditorium will be run from our YouTube account, while high profile speeches will also be on Facebook Live.

www.youtube.com/libdems
[Facebook.com/libdems](https://www.facebook.com/libdems)

Emergency Motions Ballot

Two of the following motions will be selected by ballot to be debated as F32 at 17.15 on Monday 16 September and as F33 at 09.00 on Tuesday 17 September.

The ballot paper, attached to the back of this Conference Daily or available from the Information Desk, should be returned to the ballot box in the Auditorium in the BIC between 09.00 and 12.50 on Saturday 14 September.

Emergency motion 1: Amazon Fires

Lambeth

- 1 Conference notes with alarm the 84 per cent increase in the number of wildfires in the
- 2 Brazilian Amazon between January and August 2019, compared to the same period in 2018.
- 3 Conference condemns the actions of the Bolsonaro government in encouraging the clearance



Emergency Motions Ballot

- 4 of forests for agriculture, in breach of its own international commitments on climate change
5 and biodiversity.
- 6 Conference further notes that:
- 7 a) The protection and restoration of the world's forests is essential to tackling climate
8 change, protecting biodiversity and guaranteeing the survival of many indigenous
9 peoples and forest communities.
- 10 b) Clearance for agriculture is the single biggest driver of deforestation world-wide, and is
11 particularly important in tropical forests.
- 12 c) Many of the commodities so produced, including soy, palm oil, beef and leather, timber,
13 pulp and paper and cocoa, are destined for export markets in Europe, North America and
14 Asia.
- 15 d) Most of the palm oil imported to the EU, and a significant proportion of soy, are destined
16 for use for energy, mainly as biofuels for transport.
- 17 Conference calls on the EU and its member states, including the UK, to:
- 18 1. Refuse to ratify the Mercosur-EU free trade agreement until the Brazilian government
19 has put in place effective measures to protect Brazilian forests and the rights of forest
20 communities and indigenous peoples.
- 21 2. Introduce legislation requiring companies based in or operating in the EU not to place on
22 the EU market any products whose production is associated with illegal or unsustainable
23 deforestation.
- 24 3. Phase out subsidies and regulatory support for the production of biofuels based on
25 crops.
- 26 4. Negotiate agreements with governments of forest-rich developing countries to improve
27 forest governance and law enforcement and to make trade in forest risk commodities
28 with the EU conditional on legal and sustainable production.
- 29 5. Work with other major consumer countries, including in particular China, to put in place
30 global systems to regulate trade in illegal and unsustainable forest risk commodities.
- 31 6. Increase bilateral and multilateral development aid for the protection of forests world-
32 wide.

Applicability: Federal.

Emergency motion 2: A Duty to Hong Kong

11 members

- 1 Conference notes that:
- 2 i) The UK and China signed the Sino-British declaration in 1984; the declaration was lodged
3 at the United Nations and included a 50 year-long commitment to ensure that Hong Kong
4 continues to function under a 'one country, two systems' framework in order to uphold
5 Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy and progress towards universal suffrage; Hong
6 Kong sovereignty was handed from the UK to China on 1st July 1997.
- 7 ii) In 2017 China's foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang described the legally binding Hong
8 Kong handover treaty with Britain "as a historical document, no longer has any practical
9 significance".
- 10 iii) In April 2019 Hong Kong's Beijing-backed legislature introduced an Extradition Bill that



Emergency Motions Ballot

- 11 would have enabled Beijing to extradite individuals from Hong Kong to China without
12 guarantee of a fair trial.
- 13 iv) Having initially suspended the controversial Bill, it was eventually fully withdrawn by Hong
14 Kong's Chief Executive, Carrie Lam.
- 15 v) Up to two million people have taken to the streets of Hong Kong to protest the
16 Extradition Bill and call for democratic reforms; these demonstrators were largely
17 peaceful, picking up litter and parting efficiently for emergency vehicles.
- 18 vi) Clashes and violence over the protests have escalated, with reports of police using rubber
19 bullets, tear gas, water cannons, and firing warning shots of live ammunition.
- 20 vii) Satellite photos show what appear to be armoured personnel carriers and other
21 vehicles belonging to the China's paramilitary People's Armed Police parked in the city of
22 Shenzhen, which borders Hong Kong.
- 23 viii) Recent opinion polls show that 90 per cent of young people between the ages of 18 and
24 29 view Carrie Lam unfavourably, but the electoral system, whereby the leader is elected
25 by an 'Election Committee' of 1,200 people, means they have no say.
- 26 ix) Lord Ashdown led the campaign to give the people of Hong Kong British citizenship,
27 including the right to abode, if China ever reneged on the promises enshrined in the
28 international treaty.
- 29 x) Liberal Democrats have worked to hold the Conservative government to account on the
30 UK's obligations to the people of Hong Kong.

31 Conference believes that:

- 32 A. The introduction of the Extradition Bill, the sentencing of pro-democracy protestors
33 and reports of police violence in Hong Kong represent contravention of the Sino-British
34 declaration.
- 35 B. The UK has a moral and legal responsibility to ensure that democracy, the rule of law, and
36 human rights are upheld in Hong Kong.
- 37 C. The UK must stand with protestors in Hong Kong in their fight to protect and enhance
38 their rights and freedoms, calling for the full withdrawal of the Extradition Bill, a full
39 investigation into police violence, and for further progress towards universal suffrage.

40 Conference calls for:

- 41 1. The UK government to offer the people of Hong Kong British citizenship including the
42 right to abode.
- 43 2. The UK government to use Britain's diplomatic and trading relationship with China to help
44 ensure Beijing refrains from using excessive or military force to end the protests.
- 45 3. The UK government to ensure that the UK and our international partners indefinitely
46 suspend all export licenses for crowd control equipment to Hong Kong.

Applicability: Federal.

Emergency motion 3: Emergency in the State of Jammu and Kashmir

26 members

1 Conference notes with concern that:

- 2 i) The Government of India has revoked the special status accorded to the state of Jammu
3 and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution.



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- 4 ii) Under Article 370(1) of the Constitution of India, such a revocation may only be effected
5 with the “concurrence” of the state government of Jammu and Kashmir.
6 iii) By effecting this revocation at a time when there is no elected state government in power
7 and the state is under the President’s direct rule, the federal Government has abrogated
8 the spirit of Article 370.
9 iv) Accompanying these actions, the Government of India escalated military presence in
10 Jammu and Kashmir, enforced curfews, enforced a media blackout and blocked all
11 communications.
12 v) The Government of India has detained and arrested Kashmiri leaders and party workers,
13 including two former Chief Ministers of state kept in house arrest in hotels.

14 Conference further notes that:

- 15 a) The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights found in 2018 the Indian
16 state guilty of “excessive force that [...] led to unlawful killings and a very high number of
17 injuries”, and denying access to justice to Kashmiris.
18 b) It recommended measures to eliminate the impunity with which security forces were able
19 to act and improve accountability for human rights violations of the state.
20 c) Instead of adopting these recommendations, the Indian state’s recent actions have
21 worsened the situation for human rights in Jammu and Kashmir.

22 Conference therefore calls for the UK government to work multilaterally within the European
23 Union, the Commonwealth, and United Nations with the instruments they have at their
24 disposal to call on:

- 25 1. The Government of India to lift media and communications blackouts and release those
26 arrested without warrants.
27 2. The Government of India to reinstate the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.
28 3. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to enter the state of Jammu and Kashmir
29 and report on the state of affairs since 5th August 2019.

30 Conference also calls for the party to work with its liberal counterparts around the world to
31 achieve the same goals.

32 Conferences also re-affirms the call in policy motion *India and Pakistan* (2002) for the
33 Governments of India and Pakistan to undertake in good faith dialogue and processes
34 designed to lead to a final settlement over Kashmir.

Applicability: Federal.

Emergency motion 4: Freeports

10 members

- 1 Conference notes:
- 2 i) The proposals of the Secretary of State for International Trade to establish up to ten
3 freeports – a special kind of port where normal tax and customs rules do not apply – in
4 the UK on August 2nd, based on the recommendations of a new Freeports Advisory
5 Panel.
6 ii) That there are currently no freeports in the UK, although there is one on the Isle of Man,

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- 7 and there are freeports in the EU, eg, in Bordeaux in France, Bremerhaven in Germany
8 and in Luxembourg.
- 9 iii) The findings of the 2018 European Parliament report Money laundering and tax evasion
10 risks in free ports, which argues that:
- 11 A. While freeports were initially intended for goods in transit, they are increasingly used
12 as ways to store assets such as collections of, eg, art and antiques as a way to avoid
13 scrutiny and avoid normal checks and controls.
- 14 B. Because freeports allow almost anyone to bring in goods on behalf of someone else,
15 without disclosing the ultimate beneficial owner, people are able to use them to hide
16 from tax authorities.
- 17 iv) That the government is proposing freeports as a way to avoid tariffs in the event of a
18 no-deal Brexit, but – given that advocates of a no-deal Brexit argue for setting tariffs to
19 zero for the vast majority of goods – it is unclear what they would achieve even in that
20 scenario.

21 Conference believes that:

- 22 a) Freeports increase the risk of money-laundering and tax evasion, and neither the UK nor
23 the EU should not act in a way that facilitates these practices.
- 24 b) Using freeports to promote particular types of manufacturing in a geographic area risks
25 simply moving industries from one part of the UK to the freeport, and this would mean
26 damaging areas that lose established industries without creating any additional jobs.
- 27 c) There is no system for reducing barriers to trade that compares to the benefits of
28 membership of the EU and access to the single market and customs union.
- 29 d) UK industry already enjoys many of the claimed-benefits of freeports across the whole
30 country through tariff-free and integrated EU-wide supply chains.
- 31 e) There are no circumstances in which the expense of establishing a network of freeports
32 makes sense in the context of the UK.

33 Conference calls for Liberal Democrats to:

- 34 1. Oppose the establishment of freeports in the UK.
- 35 2. Work with European partners to ensure that all existing freeports within the EU are not
36 used for the purposes of tax evasion or as tax havens and to ensure transparency around
37 transactions at freeports.
- 38 3. If it is not possible to prevent the abuse of freeports, work with European partners to
39 scrap freeports across the EU.

Applicability: Federal.

Emergency motion 5: Standing up for Parliamentary Democracy

11 members

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 A. The Westminster model of government and the ‘Mother of All Parliaments’ are held
3 in high esteem around the world and are considered to be the basis of modern
4 parliamentary democracy.
- 5 B. On 27 August 2019, the Prime Minister announced that he would prorogue Parliament
6 between 9 and 11 September, preventing Parliament from sitting until 14 October and



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- 7 stopping MPs from being able to vote on whether to hold a Conference recess.
8 C. Liberal Democrats are working on a cross-party basis in Parliament and in the courts to
9 stop our democracy being silenced and restore parliamentary sovereignty.
- 10 Conference believes that:
- 11 i) The Prime Minister and the Government are the servants of Parliament, are accountable
12 to Parliament, and only continue in post because they command the confidence of the
13 House of Commons.
- 14 ii) Shutting down parliamentary democracy for so long during the most significant political
15 crisis in recent memory is an authoritarian power grab by the Prime Minister, significantly
16 reducing the number of days that Parliament can sit before 31 October 2019.
- 17 iii) The decision silences democracy, preventing MPs from scrutinising Government policy
18 decisions and the potential impact of a no-deal Brexit in the days leading up to 31
19 October.
- 20 iv) The Prime Minister's purely politically motivated decision undermines faith in the fairness
21 of the British political system and strengthens the case for constitutional reform.
- 22 v) Liberal Democrats in Parliament will stand up for the people's right to have their say on
23 the final Brexit deal by ensuring that the United Kingdom does not leave the European
24 Union without a deal on 31 October 2019 and by leading the campaign for a People's
25 Vote in order to stop Brexit altogether.
- 26 Conference calls on the Government to:
- 27 a) Rescind the Order-in-Council proroguing Parliament immediately, enabling Parliament to
28 fulfil its democratic purpose and sit throughout the remainder of the Conference Recess
29 in order to ensure that the UK does not leave the European Union on 31 October 2019
30 without a deal.
- 31 b) Enable Parliament, rather than the Queen-in-Council, to approve when Parliament is
32 prorogued and for how long, just as the House of Commons approves its own recess
33 dates.
- 34 c) Set up an independent commission made up of parliamentarians, academics, the
35 judiciary and others, to consider each power that the executive is able to exercise
36 under the Royal Prerogative and make recommendations on how to curtail the illiberal
37 centralisation of power into the executive and in particular the use of the Royal
38 Prerogative.
- 39 Conference reaffirms its commitments, as set out in Policy Paper 117, *Power to the People*, to
40 make government more accountable both Parliament and to the people by:
- 41 1. Creating a House Business Committee to enable backbench MPs and MPs from
42 opposition parties to influence the parliamentary timetable.
- 43 2. Providing that a new Prime Minister and their administration can only take office formally
44 once the House of Commons has voted for them to do so.
- 45 3. Electing MPs by Single Transferable Vote in multi-member constituencies and electing the
46 House of Lords.
- 47 4. Establishing a Constitutional Convention to draw up a comprehensive written constitution
48 for the UK.

Applicability: Federal.

Emergency Motions Ballot

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

	<i>Emergency motion</i>	<i>Preference</i>
1	A Duty to Hong Kong	
2	Amazon Fires	
3	Emergency in the State of Jammu and Kashmir	
4	Freeports	
5	Standing up for Parliamentary Democracy	

Please return this ballot paper to the ballot box in the Auditorium in the BIC between 09.00 and 12.50 on Saturday 14 September.

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