

# Conference Daily

## Sunday 15 September 2019

### Autumn Conference Bournemouth



Information from the Federal Conference Committee for Sunday 15 September and report back for Saturday 14 September. Please read in conjunction with the *Agenda* and *Conference Extra*.

## Timetable and contents

### Report back for Saturday 14 September

### Timetable for Sunday 15 September

09.00–09.45	F14	Policy motion: Young Carers	4
09.45–11.30	F15	Policy motion: Stop Brexit to Save the NHS and Social Care	4
11.30–11.50	F16	Speech: Rt Hon Sir Vince Cable MP	
11.50–12.50	F17	Policy motion: Stop Brexit	6
12.50–14.10		Lunch	
14.10–15.10	F18	Question and answer session with Jo Swinson MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats	
15.10–16.00	F19	Policy motion: Education is for Everyone: Investing in Further Education and Learning Throughout Life	8
16.00–16.20	F20	Speech: Jane Dodds MP, Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats	
16.20–16.50	F21	Party business: Federal Board Report	9
16.50–17.00	F22	Business motion: Membership Subscriptions and Federal Levy	10
17.00–18.00	F23	Party Business: Constitutional Amendments	10
	F24	Party Business: Standing Order Amendments	10

*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

### Sunday lunchtime 13.00–14.00

#### Federal Conference Committee

##### Access Forum

Please come along and discuss any access issues and feedback, good and bad, you may have about conference.

**BIC, Avon**

#### Rights Liberties Justice (Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association)

##### *Unravelling our constitution – Brexit effect on the rule of law and balance of political power*

With the UK's uncodified constitution broken by Brexit, how can we rebuild liberal democracy, restore political legitimacy, and secure a stable constitutional settlement? Chair James Sandbach. Speakers: Jolyon Maugham QC, Good Law Project; David Howarth; Daisy Cooper, More United; Michael Olatokun, Head of Public and Youth Engagement, Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law. Wera Hobhouse MP.

**Highcliff Marriott, Sandbanks**

### Sunday early evening 18.15–19.15

#### LDHQ

##### *Candidates Briefing – Internal Elections*

For those interested in running as candidates in the upcoming internal elections, there will be a briefing to help guide candidates through the nomination process, timelines and compliance. Nomination papers will also be available.

**BIC, Branksome**

### Q&A sessions

The Q&A sessions at Autumn conference give you the opportunity to ask questions of our spokespeople.

#### Sunday's Session:

##### **Brexit**

With Tom Brake MP, Catherine Bearder MEP & Lord Newby.

*Sunday 15 September, 16.30–17.30*

**BIC, Meyrick**

## BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE



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# Report back for Saturday 14 September

F2	Report: Federal Conference Committee	Approved
F3	Report: Federal Policy Committee	Approved
F4	Policy motion: Continuing the Fight for Gender Equality (Race Equality Policy Paper)	Passed
F5	Report: Campaign for Gender Balance	Approved
F6	Report: Federal Appeals Panel	Approved
F7	Policy motion: Business Tax Reform: Fair for Business and Fair for Society	Passed (Amendments One and Three passed)
F9	Policy motion: Equal Marriage	Passed (Amendments One, Two and Three passed)
F10	Policy motion: A Fairer Share for All	Passed (Amendments One and Two passed)
F12	Policy motion: Rehabilitation of Offenders	Passed (Amendment One defeated, lines 47–48 retained)
F13	Reports: Parliamentary Parties	Received

**Emergency motions:** Amazon Fires was selected for debate as item F32 and Standing up for Parliamentary Democracy was selected for debate as item F33.

For the text of motions and amendments, please refer to the Autumn 2019 *Agenda* and *Conference Daily* for Saturday 14 September 2019.

## Conference App

Download our Conference App for Autumn Conference. With great features such as My Schedule (the easiest way to plan your conference), a searchable Fringe Guide and Agenda, and Conference Extra and Conference Daily as they are published.

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Liberal Democrats



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## 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](http://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card)



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09.00 Policy motion

Chair: Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC). Aide: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC).

## F14 Young Carers

### Amendment One

11 members

Mover: Charley Hasted.

Summation: Andy Kelly.

1 After e) (line 52), insert:

2 f) More should be done to support carers transitioning from a young to an adult carer role.

3 After 7. (line 71), add:

4 8. There should be a ban on local authorities expecting under-12s to carry out regular care  
5 duties with under-25s only being expected to perform these tasks with their informed  
6 consent at an age appropriate level.

7 9. Duties on statutory bodies to identify, assess, train and support unpaid young carers  
8 should be increased.

### Background Briefing

This motion updates party policy concerning young people with caring responsibilities. Its proposals include: a bus pass that would allow young carers to travel for free with the person that the care for; the Carer's Allowance to be extended to people who undertake over 21 hours per week of education; and the provision of a support worker to all young carers.

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

09.45 Policy motion

Chair: Mary Reid.

## F15 Stop Brexit to Save the NHS and Social Care

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

1 After A. (line 26), insert:

2 B. The NHS should be a universal service free at the point of use, not a profit-driven  
3 provision with access dependent on ability to pay.

4 After 3. f) (line 92), insert:

5 g) Introducing the co-production of wellbeing and health programmes by health bodies  
6 and councils in council run assets such as parks and libraries.



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7 *After 4. b) (line 101), insert:*

8 c) Developing the role of high street community pharmacies into a front line for health  
9 services.

10 *Delete 7. (lines 130–131) and insert:*

11 7. Tackle the NHS and Social Care recruitment and retention crisis, and improve staff  
12 wellbeing, by:

## Amendment One

*10 members*

Mover: Gabriel Stirling.

Summation: Fraser Coppin.

1 *In 3. f) (lines 91–92), delete 'including introducing minimum unit pricing in England'.*

## Amendment Two

*15 members*

Mover: Jacqueline Bell.

Summation: Maureen Rigg.

1 *After 7. d) (line 146), add:*

2 e) Monitoring working conditions for care workers to promote good practice and take  
3 action against exploitative practices by care providing agencies.

4 f) Ensuring support for staff who whistleblow on practices which put at risk the  
5 wellbeing of patients and service users.

## Amendment Three

*Kingston Borough*

Mover: Cllr Liz Green.

Summation: Ash Ali.

1 *After 7. d) (line 146), add:*

2 8. Supporting children and young people with special educational needs or a disability  
3 (SEND) to succeed at school by:

4 a) Ending the crisis in SEND funding by reversing cuts to core school budgets and  
5 providing additional funding for pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan  
6 (EHCP), as set out in Policy Paper 135, Eradicating Race Inequality.

7 b) Ensuring that the support set out in a child's EHCP is led by and based upon the  
8 evidence of professionals, and is specific, relevant and individually tailored to the  
9 needs of each child, with enhanced reviews at each key transition point in a child's  
10 life.

11 c) Ensuring that no parent waits more than 12 weeks for the outcome of their child's  
12 assessment for an EHCP, whilst strengthening the enforcement of the existing





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- 13 requirement that all EHCPs are in place within 20 weeks of the date they were  
14 requested.  
15 d) Creating a national SEND strategy to support the joined-up provision of education  
16 and care services for children with SEND.

## Amendment Four

*10 members*

Mover: Eloka Ikegbunam.

Summation: Aria Dinakara Babu.

- 1 *After 7. d) (line 146), add:*
- 2 Conference however rejects the proposal in policy paper 137 for an extension of the sugar tax  
3 to include juice and milk-based drinks that contain added sugar, and opposes the sugar tax  
4 policy entirely.

## Background Briefing

The motion updates and develops party policy on health and social care. It makes the case that Brexit is a serious threat to the NHS and social care services: it threatens access to staff, medicines and treatment and, through damaging the economy, will make it harder to properly fund health and social care services. It makes the case that, as a priority, Brexit must be stopped to protect these services.

It also proposes measures to: improve access to public health interventions and intervene early to give every child a healthy start in life; put mental health on an equal footing with physical health; deliver better, more joined-up services and strengthen local accountability; and, recognise the contribution and NHS and care staff by improving access to flexible working and training.

Existing policy is set out in the 2017 General Election Manifesto *Change Britain's Future*, policy motion *The NHS at 70* (2018) and Policy Paper 119, *Protecting Public Services and Making Them Work for You* (2014).

## F17 Stop Brexit

*11 members*

Mover: Tom Brake MP (Shadow Cabinet Member for Exiting the EU).

Summation: Caroline Voaden MEP.

*The text of the motion including drafting amendments is as follows:*

- 1 Conference notes that:
- 2 A. The Conservative Government have made a mess of Brexit and Jeremy Corbyn's Labour  
3 Party have been helping them to deliver this destructive Brexit.
- 4 B. Speaker Bercow has stated that exiting the European Union without a Withdrawal  
5 Agreement (a "No Deal" Brexit) is impossible without Parliamentary Approval
- 6 C. The European Union (Withdrawal) (No. 6) Bill passed through all legislative stages and  
7 received Royal Assent on the 9th of September, and requires the Prime Minister to  
8 request an extension of the Article 50 notification period to the 31st of January 2020, and



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- 9 to accept such an extension.
- 10 D. The European Court of Justice has ruled that the UK can unilaterally revoke Article 50, and  
11 therefore no-deal is avoidable.
- 12 E. Liberal Democrats fought the 2019 European Elections on a clear Stop Brexit manifesto  
13 and secured the best EU Election results in the party's history, returning 16 MEPs and  
14 taking second place in vote share across the country.
- 15 F. Reports were widespread of UK citizens abroad and EU citizens living in the UK denied  
16 their right to vote in the EU Elections.
- 17 G. On the 24th of July Boris Johnson became Prime Minister and committed to taking the UK  
18 out of the EU with or without a deal on the 31st of October, setting aside an extra £2.1bn  
19 for no-deal preparations.
- 20 H. In the early hours of the 10th of September, the government forced the prorogation of  
21 Parliament until the 14th of October. The Court of Session in Scotland has subsequently  
22 ruled that this Prorogation was illegally obtained by the Prime Minister because it had the  
23 purpose of stymying Parliament, and is thus null and of no effect. This decision has been  
24 appealed to the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, where it is due to be heard in the  
25 coming week.
- 26 I. The Conservative Government has announced plans to end Freedom of Movement, a  
27 move that would cause chaos, deprive UK citizens of their rights to live, work and study  
28 across Europe, and leave EU citizens vulnerable to the Hostile Environment; Jeremy  
29 Corbyn's Labour Party is also committed to ending Freedom of Movement.

30 Conference believes that:

- 31 i) There is no deal that could be negotiated that could be more beneficial than continued  
32 membership of the EU; leaving the EU would therefore be damaging to the UK's  
33 fundamental national interests.
- 34 ii) A no-deal scenario would cause immeasurable damage to our NHS, jobs, and the  
35 environment.
- 36 iii) Freedom of Movement brings enormous benefits to the UK's communities, public  
37 services, society and economy; ending it would hurt UK employers and separate friends,  
38 families and colleagues.
- 39 iv) The denial of citizens' right to vote is an attack on our democracy; it is vital that the  
40 system is reformed to prevent such disenfranchisement from occurring again.

41 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitment to:

- 42 a) Fighting in Parliament for an "exit from Brexit" referendum and for the public to choose  
43 between "the deal" or staying in the EU; with Liberal Democrats campaigning for the UK  
44 to remain a full and active member of the EU.
- 45 b) Revoke Article 50 if the House of Commons has not passed a resolution approving the  
46 negotiated Withdrawal Agreement one week ahead of the date on which the UK is due to  
47 leave the EU.
- 48 c) Protect Freedom of Movement and extend the right to full participation in civic life to all  
49 EU citizens who have lived in the UK for five years or longer.
- 50 d) Work cross-party to ensure Parliamentary sovereignty is upheld, and a Conservative  
51 government is unable to force through a disastrous no-deal Brexit.

52 Conference calls for:

- 53 1. Liberal Democrats to campaign to Stop Brexit in a General Election, with the election of a



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- 54 Liberal Democrat majority government to be recognised as an unequivocal mandate to  
55 revoke Article 50 and for the UK to stay in the EU.
- 56 2. The government to implement urgent electoral law reform, in line with the 2014 Electoral  
57 Commission's recommendations, including introducing a legal requirement for Councils  
58 to inform citizens of the steps they must take to be successfully registered; and making  
59 necessary changes to ensure that the UK has an automatic system of inclusion in  
60 elections.
- 61 3. The Conservative government to implement a declaratory system to grant settled status  
62 to all EU citizens living in the UK, rather than the current constitutive process, so that they  
63 need not apply but can simply register to receive physical proof of their right to live in the  
64 UK.
- 65 4. Liberal Democrats to celebrate our Membership of the European Union, its values,  
66 its achievements and its aims in our campaigning and our policies; to reject the false  
67 narrative where the other two main parties seek to blame the EU for their own failures; to  
68 seek change hearts and minds by these positive actions.

## Background Briefing

This motion updates and develops party policy on Brexit. It reaffirms our commitment to stopping Brexit and to fight in parliament for a referendum between a deal and remaining in EU. The motion calls for the election of a Liberal Democrat majority government to be recognised as an unequivocal democratic mandate to revoke Article 50 and for the UK to stay in the EU. The motion also calls for urgent reform to protect the rights of EU citizens in the UK.

Existing policy is set out in the European Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit* (2019) and policy motions *An End to the Brexit Mess* (Spring 2019) and *Stopping Brexit* (Autumn 2018).

## 14.10 Question and answer session

Aide: Duncan Brack. Hall Aide: Chris Maines.

## F19 Education is for Everyone: Investing in Further Education and Learning Throughout Life

### Background Briefing

This motion develops policy by calling for the introduction of universal Personal Education and Skills Accounts. Under the plans set out, all adults in England would have an account that they can use to pay for training courses into which the government would make three payments when people turn 25, 40 and 55. Employers, local authorities and individuals would be encouraged to make additional contributions through tax breaks or match funding.

Existing policy on skills and training is set out in Policy Paper 133, *Good Jobs, Better Businesses, Stronger Communities: Proposals for a new economy that really works for everyone*, and the 2017 General Election Manifesto *Change Britain's Future*.

## 16.20 Party business

Hall Aide: Cllr Joe Otten.





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## F21 Federal Board Report

### Q1. Submitted by Simon Pike

Why is the right of appeal in Section 5.2.2 of the disciplinary procedure limited to three days, when the Federal Constitution specifies fourteen days?

In the disciplinary procedure, why can a complaints panel postpone a hearing only in 'exceptional circumstances' (section 5.2.3.4), whereas ACAS statutory guidance for disciplinary hearings requires flexibility?

### Q2. Submitted by Michael Berwick-Gooding

In the Federal Constitution it states that each committee of the Federal Party (and Federal Board is listed as one in 7.1) shall make regulations which must include provision for a report by the chair to members to be made 14 days after each meeting (7.7). Please can the date of the last four Federal Board meetings be stated with the dates of when and how these reports were made to members?

In the Federal Constitution it states that each committee of the Federal Party shall make regulations which must include provision for a report by the chair to members to be made 14 days after each meeting (7.7). It also states that this provision shall apply to any body accountable to them. I assume this means sub-committees and other groups set up by a committee. How does the Federal Board ensure that the provisions of Article 7.7 are fulfilled by all Federal committees, sub-committees and groups set up by a Federal committee and what action does it take when this article is not complied with?

### Q3. Submitted by Theo Butt Philip

Earlier today conference debated motion F4 which included a call for: 'The Liberal Democrats, and all political parties, to implement Section 106 of the Equality Act 2010, publishing their candidate diversity data...'.

I have previously asked for the report of the Campaign for Gender Balance to include:

1. The number of women selected as PPCs, what this is as a percentage of selected PPCs overall and how this has changed since the last conference.
2. The number of women on the list of approved Westminster candidates and what this is as a percentage of the list and how this has changed since the last conference.
3. The number of women applying to be approved as Westminster candidates and what this is as a percentage of people applying to be approved as Westminster candidates.

Despite repeated request for this information to be included in the CGB report, it is still absent. Without the information outlined above Conference lacks sufficient information to judging the effectiveness of the CGB and the scale of the problem we still face.

When will the CGB be in a position to publish this information?

### Q4. Submitted by Suzanne Fletcher

Did the review of the European Election include the GOTV phone bank on polling day?



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## Q5. Submitted by Suzanne Fletcher

1. What is the point of 'Campaigns' on the Federal Party Website, where people who are concerned about a policy issue sign, and then they receive no further information other than a confirmatory e-mail; no information given such as direction to party policy or a relevant SAO or AO, and our Parliamentarians are not informed as to response?
2. Whilst appreciating that our PR department is under a lot of time pressure, and lack of resources, why cannot a URL be given when press releases are sent out, that party members receive? It would make the valuable work done be disseminated even further, if we could link the splendid actions and words of our parliamentarians, that are in the press releases, onto social media.

## 16.50 Business motion

Aide: Cllr Joe Otten.

## F22 Membership Subscriptions and Federal Levy

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

- 1 *In 1. (in line 6 and in lines 6-7), delete 'Liberal Youth' and insert 'Young Liberals'.*

## 17.00 Party business

Aide: Cllr Joe Otten.

## F23 Constitutional Amendments

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

- 1 *In line 7, after 'local parties' insert '(based on figures provided by the Chief Executive)'.*

## F24 Standing Order Amendments

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

- 1 *In line 3, after 'local parties' insert '(based on figures provided by the Chief Executive)'.*

*F23 and F24 will be debated together but voted on separately. Both the constitutional amendment and the standing orders amendment require a two-thirds majority to pass.*

*Separate votes will be held on Parts 1 to 5 of F23. If Part 2 of F23 passes, then there will be a vote on lines 1-5 of F24; if Part 2 of F23 falls, then there will only be a vote on lines 4-5 of F24.*

