

Conference Daily

Monday 28 September 2020

Autumn Conference Online



Information from the Federal Conference Committee for Monday 28 September and report back for Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 September. Please read in conjunction with the *Agenda* and *Conference Extra*.

Timetable and contents

Report back for Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 September

Timetable for Monday 28 September

11.00–11.30	F34	Interview with the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin TD	3
14.00–14.45	F24	Report: Federal Board	3
	F25	Report: Campaign for Gender Balance	
	F27	Business motion: Membership Subscriptions and Federal Levy	
14.50–15.30	F28	Speech: Leader of the Liberal Democrats	
15.30–16.00	F26	Report: Federal Appeals Panel	3
16.00–17.00		Auditorium break and fringe	
17.00–18.00	F29	Consultative session: The World After COVID-19	
18.05–18.45	F30	Emergency motion: Defending the Rule of Law	4
18.50–19.35	F31	Policy motion: Hong Kong's Future	5
19.40–20.40	F32	Business motion: Supporting Trans and Non-Binary People Within the Liberal Democrats	
20.45–21.00	F33	Party Awards	

Please note the change in order of debate.

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 *Agenda* or *Conference Extra*.

Fringe sessions will also take place outside the times listed above; please see conference *Directory* for details.

Please note that timings are approximate only. Some items of business may occur earlier than indicated.

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Report back for Saturday 26 September and Sunday 27 September

F11	Policy motion: The Creation of a Federal United Kingdom	Passed, 681-96. (Reference back failed, 221-558.)
F12	Policy motion: The COVID-19 Pandemic	Passed, 556-6. (Amendment One passed, 477-9, and Amendment Two passed, 474-12.)
F14	Reports: Parliamentary Parties	Received (Commons 307-9, Lords 306-7).
F17	Emergency motion: Opposing the Government 'Power Grab' on Planning	Passed, 450-28.
F18	Policy motion: Racial Justice Cannot Wait	Passed, 605-16. (Amendment One passed, 481-67, and Amendment Two passed, 488-52. Separate votes: lines 94-95 retained, 493-96; lines 106-119 retained, 528-56.)
F19	Policy motion: Save the BBC	Passed, 527-93. (Separate vote: lines 55-58 retained, 271-250.)
F20	Report: Federal Policy Committee	Approved, 285-22.
F21	Policy motion: A Green Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic	Passed, 601-5. (Amendment One passed, 531-31, and Amendment Two passed, 520-15).
F23	Policy motion: The UK and Europe	Passed, 1227-94. (Vote to choose Amendment One or Two: Amendment Two passed 1071-337; vote to insert Amendment Two: passed 1247-116)

For the text of motions and amendments, please refer to the Autumn 2020 *Agenda* and *Conference Daily* for Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 September 2020.

Conference Daily and other conference publications, in PDF and plain text formats, are available online at www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers



Monday 28 11.00-11.30 in the auditorium

**Interview with the Taoiseach,
Micheál Martin TD,
conducted by Hugo Gye at TheL**

Micheál Martin has been Taoiseach (Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland) since June 2020 and leader of Fianna Fáil since January 2011, a sister party of the Liberal Democrats and member of Liberal International, ALDE and Renew Europe. Micheál Martin has previously been leader of the opposition from 2011 to 2020, and prior to that the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Minister for Health and Children, Minister for Education and Science and Lord Mayor of Cork. Micheál Martin formed a coalition government with the Green Party and Fianna Fáil's historic rivals, Fine Gael in June 2020.

Fringe update

Fringe Monday 13.00-13.50

Education Policy Institute and Core Cities UK
Reskill, Retrain, Recover: What's the Lib Dem Plan for Cities and Regions?

Changes to speakers - Attending: Daisy Cooper MP, MP Education Spokesperson; Andrew Carter, Centre for Cities; Chris Murray, Core Cities UK; Verity Davidge, Make UK. Chair: David Laws, EPI. (Apologies from Frances O'Grady, TUC.)



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F34 Interview with the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin TD

See page 2 for details

F24 Federal Board Report

The Federal Board Report including the party accounts can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/yxukohnm>

Q1. Submitted by Malcolm Mitchell

What has happened to the Legacy Society?

When I joined I had email 7th August 2019 informing someone would be in touch, but nothing since.

Q2. Submitted by Fraser Graham

My usual question: what progress has been made towards making LGBT+LDs a recruiting body as we were promised several years ago we would be made?

Q3. Submitted by Hywel Morgan

Will the Federal Board investigate whether involvement with and support for groups that target trans people such as Transgender Trend, the LGB Alliance and Women's Place UK is consistent with the values of the Liberal Democrats and commit to reporting back at a future conference?

Q4. Submitted by David Hewitt

Would we allow pernicious trolls a column in our FOCUS leaflets? Once volunteers were used to control the National Facebook site, why did this stop?

Q5. Submitted by Tilemachos Kosmidis

Once volunteers were used to administer the national Facebook site, why did this stop?

F26 Federal Appeals Panel Report

Q1. Submitted by Hywel Morgan

What steps have the FAP adopted to ensure they act in an impartial and fair way when an appeal is raised involving actions of the Chair or another member of the FAP?

Q2. Submitted by Hywel Morgan

A rearrangement of the party website means it is no longer easy to find reports from previous conferences, including FAP reports.

Will the Chair of FAP commit to making the following easily accessible and available on the members only section of the website?

- 1) FAP membership.
- 2) Rules of procedure that have been adopted by the FAP.



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- 3) The process for raising an appeal.
- 4) Previous rulings of the panel and rulings of the chair regarding the interpretation of the constitution.

Q3. Submitted by Hywel Morgan

No report from the FAP was submitted with the other committee reports or in time for the deadline for questions.

Will the Chair of the FAP give conference an explanation and apologise for this failure?

The proposed members of the Federal Appeals Panel are:

Anood Al-Samerai, William Charnley, Roger Crouch, Anthony Fairclough, David Graham, Stella Jones, Henry Samuels, Catherine Smart and Alison Willott.

For details of the nominations, see <https://tinyurl.com/y4r5e6vh>

F30 Emergency motion: Defending the Rule of Law

13 members

Mover: Wera Hobhouse MP (Spokesperson on Justice and Equalities).

Summation: Lord Thomas of Gresford QC (Shadow Attorney-General).

- 1 Conference notes that, on 31st July 2020, the Conservative Government announced an
- 2 Independent Review of Administrative Law to examine judicial review and reportedly plans to
- 3 establish a future panel to “update” the Human Rights Act, both with the aim of restricting the
- 4 ability of individuals to challenge the Government in court.

- 5 Conference further notes Dominic Cummings’ long history of attacking the rule of law, from
- 6 his complaints about civil servants trying to prevent Michael Gove from acting unlawfully
- 7 as Education Secretary to his petulant outbursts over recent court rulings against the
- 8 Government.

- 9 Conference is deeply alarmed at Number 10’s plans to weaken the courts, limit judicial review
- 10 and unpick the Human Rights Act, which would allow Ministers to break the law with impunity,
- 11 enable the Government to violate people’s rights and make it harder to secure inquiries or put
- 12 things right when mistakes are made.

- 13 Conference believes that the rule of law is fundamental to our society. When the Government
- 14 rides roughshod over people’s rights, the law is our vehicle for justice.

- 15 Conference further believes that threatening to weaken the courts because they sometimes
- 16 rule against you is the act of dictators and despots, not democrats.

- 17 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitment to promoting justice and human
- 18 rights and building a free, fair and open society where everyone’s dignity and wellbeing is
- 19 respected.

- 20 Conference affirms that Liberal Democrats will always defend individuals’ abilities to challenge
- 21 the Government in court and uphold their rights.



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- 22 Conference strongly opposes any proposals to restrict judicial review, weaken the Human
23 Rights Act or undermine the rule of law in any way, and calls on the Government to drop these
24 plans.

Applicability: Federal.

Background Briefing

This motion restates and updates policy in response to the Conservative Government's plans to restrict the scope of Judicial review and undermine the Human Rights Act.

F31 Hong Kong's Future

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

1 *After vii) (line 33), insert:*

- 2 Conference regrets that, following the disqualification of 12 candidates, including six elected
3 politicians, the Hong Kong government has postponed the holding of Legislative Council
4 elections scheduled for 6 September 2020 for a year on the pretext of safety concerns
5 over COVID-19; the use of the new security law to eliminate political opponents serves to
6 undermine the rights of Hong Kong people to freely choose their political representatives.

7 *After 4. (line 61), add:*

- 8 5. Monitor the impact of the new security law on the rights and freedoms guaranteed
9 the people of Hong Kong under the Joint Declaration and use its influence to persuade
10 the Hong Kong government to hold legitimate Legislative Council elections as soon as
11 possible.

Background Briefing

This motion creates new policy in response to recent events in Hong Kong.



**We want to hear
from you!**

All registered party members will be sent a link to a feedback survey after conference.

Please let us know about your experience of conference.

Spring conference timetable

19–21 March 2021

Drafting advice deadline (motions):
13.00, Thursday 17 December 2020.

Motions deadline:
13.00, Wednesday 6 January 2021.

Drafting advice deadline
(amendments, emergency motions):
13.00, Monday 22 February 2021.

**Deadline for amendments to motions,
emergency motions etc:**
13.00, Monday 8 March 2021.

