

# Conference Daily

Saturday 26 September 2020

Autumn Conference Online



Information from the Federal Conference Committee for Saturday 26 September and report back for Friday 25 September. Please read in conjunction with the *Agenda* and *Conference Extra*.

## Timetable and contents

<b>Report back for Friday 25 September</b>	2
<b>Timetable for Saturday 26 September</b>	
10.00–10.40 F9 Question & answer session on Foreign Affairs and Brexit	3
10.45–11.05 F10 Spokesperson interview	
11.10–12.00 F11 Policy motion: The Creation of a Federal United Kingdom	3
12.00–14.00 Auditorium break and fringe	
14.00–15.00 F12 Policy motion: The COVID-19 Pandemic	3
15.05–16.00 F13 Question & answer session with the Leader of the Liberal Democrats	
16.00–17.00 Auditorium break and fringe	
17.00–17.30 F14 Reports: Parliamentary Parties	7
17.35–17.55 F15 Spokesperson interview	
18.00–18.45 F16 Question & answer session on COVID-19: the economic, work and educational legacy	7

*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 the **Directory** for details.*

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

*Members wishing to speak should submit a speaker's card as soon as possible, and at the latest by 16.00 on the day before the relevant debate.*



# Report back for Friday 25 September

F2	Business motion: Standing Orders for a Conference Held Remotely	Passed
F3	Report: Federal Conference Committee	Approved
F5	Policy motion: Improve Mental Health Support for Health and Care Staff	Passed
F7	Policy motion: Nature of Public Debate During COVID-19	Passed (Amendment One and Amendment Two passed)
F8	Policy motion: Universal Basic Income	Passed

## Emergency motions:

The motion selected for debate as item F17 at 10.00 on Sunday 27 September is:  
Opposing the Government 'Power Grab' on Planning.

The motion selected for debate as item F30 at 18.05 on Monday 28 September is:  
Defending the Rule of Law.

For the text of motions and amendments, please refer to the Autumn 2020 *Agenda* and Friday's *Conference Daily*, and for the text of the emergency motions, to *Conference Extra*.

## Consultative sessions

Consultative sessions provide a less formal setting for members to contribute to the development of party policy and strategy.

**Party Governance Consultation**  
Saturday 13.00–13.50

**Principles and Values**  
Saturday 16.00–16.50

**The Natural Environment**  
Saturday 18.45–19.35

All sessions take place in the fringe.  
See the Directory for details.

## Spokespeople Q&A sessions

There will be three Q&A sessions on Saturday where you can ask questions of our spokespeople:

**Foreign affairs and looking beyond the end of the Brexit transition period (F9)**  
10.00 in the auditorium.

**The climate emergency**  
16.00 in the fringe.

**Coronavirus: the economic, work and educational legacy (F16)**  
18.00 in the auditorium.

See Conference Extra for details.

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# Saturday 26 September

## F9 Question and answer session on foreign affairs and looking beyond the end of the Brexit transition period

*The panel will also include:*

- Layla Moran MP (Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs and International Development).

## F11 The Creation of a Federal United Kingdom

### Background Briefing

This motion updates and develops policy on a Federal Structure for the UK, in particular the relationships between the Federal and State levels of government. It builds on existing policy as set out in policy paper 117, *Power to the People* (2014), and the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019).

## F12 The Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

*Federal Policy Committee*

Mover: Munira Wilson MP (Spokesperson for Health and Social Care).

Summation: Belinda Brooks-Gordon.

- 1 Conference records its deep sorrow at the suffering and loss of life caused by the COVID-19
- 2 pandemic, both at home and abroad, which has resulted in 41,504 confirmed deaths in the
- 3 UK by 1 September 2020 and a much higher number of total excess deaths; the toll has been
- 4 disproportionately high on the most deprived communities, members of Black, Asian and
- 5 Minority Ethnic communities and residents in care homes.
  
- 6 Conference regrets the enormous economic damage caused by the virus and the hardship
- 7 many people are facing, with the most vulnerable the worst affected.
  
- 8 Conference pays tribute to the extraordinary efforts and sacrifices made by NHS and care
- 9 workers and many others during this crisis.
  
- 10 Conference believes that it is becoming increasingly clear that the UK Government failed to
- 11 prepare properly for a pandemic and has been slow to act; in particular conference believes
- 12 that:
  - 13 A. The level of testing was initially far too low and took too long to ramp up.
  - 14 B. There was a failure to ensure adequate supplies of protective equipment reaching the
  - 15 frontline workers.
  - 16 C. A shocking tragedy has unfolded in our care homes and Government claims to have put a
  - 17 'protective ring' around the care sector ring hollow.
  - 18 D. The much-vaunted 'world-beating' contact tracing app originally promised for mid-April
  - 19 will now not be ready until sometime 'during the winter'.
  - 20 E. The Prime Minister has failed to communicate competently and created more confusion
  - 21 with his own behaviour, that of his advisors, and the lack of Government's plans.
  - 22 F. Ministers failed to work hard enough to get four-nation agreement on many action
  - 23 points, which hampered communications, despite similar and shared problems on
  - 24 protective equipment, testing, care homes in all four nations.



# Saturday 26 September

- 25 G. There has also been a failure to take full advantage of the strengths of local government.
- 26 Conference condemns the decision of the Government to axe Public Health England in  
27 the middle of a pandemic with no clear plan on how to manage key health improvement  
28 functions. Conference deplores the top-down centralised testing system imposed by  
29 Whitehall, rather than harnessing existing expertise in local health teams and regional testing.
- 30 Conference resolves that there must be a statutory independent inquiry with the strongest  
31 possible powers to review the Government's actions, so we can learn lessons to avoid this  
32 chaos again.
- 33 Conference calls on the Conservative Government to:
- 34 1. Support those working on the frontline, in the NHS and social care, and emergency  
35 services by:
- 36 a) Ensuring they have the protective equipment they need, now.  
37 b) Providing the mental health support they need.  
38 c) Giving them a pay award that properly recognises their service.  
39 d) Granting all foreign nationals working in the NHS and social care indefinite leave to  
40 remain.
- 41 2. Deliver a competent strategy to test, trace and isolate needed to prevent a new surge as  
42 lockdown restrictions are eased.
- 43 3. Launch an independent inquiry now so that lessons can be learnt as to how to handle  
44 this crisis and prepare for the winter period and future outbreaks and/or pandemics; the  
45 inquiry should work alongside those in other nations of the UK to share knowledge and  
46 experience and examine the different policy choices made.
- 47 4. Introduce a new Safe Trace Law to provide a clear legal framework for the collection,  
48 storage and use of people's personal data for tracing purposes, whether through an app  
49 or by human tracers.
- 50 5. Improve mental health support during the crisis by:
- 51 a) Properly signposting the mental health support available during the coronavirus  
52 crisis.  
53 b) Sending public health leaflets, including advice on looking after mental health and  
54 details of organisations offering mental health support during the crisis, to all homes.  
55 c) Increasing the level of funding for mental health charities offering support during the  
56 coronavirus crisis, to reduce pressure on the NHS.  
57 d) Providing additional investment in mental health services.
- 58 6. Work to deliver the ambition for a healthier nation, during and beyond COVID-19, by  
59 supporting people to lead more active and healthy lives through investment in public  
60 health and putting health and wellbeing for all at the heart of government, and without  
61 using regressive language that seeks to blame or shame people.
- 62 7. Develop a rehabilitation strategy for investing in and increasing services to help people  
63 recover from COVID-19 including:



# Saturday 26 September

- 64 a) Provision to ensure enough staff capacity to meet rising needs.  
65 b) Expanding the multi-disciplinary rehabilitation workforce to deliver ongoing  
66 rehabilitation.  
67 c) Guarantees that people being discharged from hospitals will have timely access to  
68 rehabilitation services and that these services will be personalised to meet people's  
69 individual needs.  
70 d) The needs of those suffering from non-COVID-related conditions not to be  
71 compromised as a result of the increase in COVID-19 rehabilitation needs.  
72 e) Action to support the 1.5 million people shielding and self-isolating who were unable  
73 to access rehabilitation in a conventional way and may need new support.  
74 f) Retaining the flexibility that community rehabilitation teams have developed to  
75 address local population need once normal services are resumed and is not lost.
- 76 8. Recognise the existence of 'Long Covid' where patients experience debilitating symptoms  
77 for many weeks or even months after infection, and take appropriate steps to respond  
78 including:
- 79 a) The commissioning of urgent research into long-term COVID-19 disease in order to  
80 investigate its causes and identify a range of interventions to treat patients.  
81 b) The development of protocols and care pathways to ensure that all practitioners are  
82 empowered to treat long-term COVID-19 patients appropriately.  
83 c) The creation of multi-disciplinary clinics for the assessment, testing, diagnosis and  
84 care of long-term COVID-19 patients.
- 85 9. Tackle the disproportionate impact of coronavirus on black, Asian and minority ethnic  
86 communities, including by implementing a cross-government Race Equality Strategy.
- 87 10. Improve how the Government works and communicates with local government and local  
88 public health teams who have the greatest understanding of their communities and are  
89 best placed to engage with people effectively.
- 90 11. Respect and engage with devolved governments to improve all four administrations  
91 response to COVID-19.
- 92 12. Improve and maintain public awareness of the virus and how to minimise risk of  
93 transmission by:
- 94 a) Maintaining a clear, unambiguous, and simple messaging campaign on advice to  
95 the public that is as specific as possible and considers the different rules in different  
96 parts of the nation.  
97 b) Reinstating the daily coronavirus briefings.  
98 c) Requesting national and regional broadcasters to report on the local level of  
99 infection present in England, across all news platforms including broadcast, radio  
100 and online.

*Applicability: England only; except 1. d) (lines 39–40), 3. (lines 43–46) and 11. (lines 90–91), which are Federal; and 4. (lines 47–49) which is England and Wales.*



# Saturday 26 September

## Amendment One

12 members

Mover: George Potter.

Summation: Charley Hasted.

- 1 *In line 4, after 'deprived communities,' insert 'Disabled people,'*
- 2 After line 7 insert:
  - 3 Conference regrets the disproportionate impact that the COVID-19 crisis has had on Disabled
  - 4 people; with unlawful blanket 'Do Not Resuscitate' orders forced on Disabled people,
  - 5 including in some cases with no communication or explanation to patients or their loved ones
  - 6 despite this being a legal requirement; and people with at least one pre-existing condition
  - 7 representing 91% of deaths involving COVID-19.
- 8 After G. (line 25), insert:
  - 9 H. The decision to include, within the Coronavirus Acts, easements to weaken local authority
  - 10 duties in relation to social care and education, fundamentally undermined the rights of
  - 11 Disabled people, leaving them even more vulnerable in the face of the pandemic and
  - 12 potentially contributing to Disabled people making up two-thirds of the COVID-19 death
  - 13 toll.
- 14 *After 4. (line 49), insert:*
  - 15 5. Restore the rights of Disabled people by scrapping the easements within the Coronavirus
  - 16 Act and provide increased support for Disabled people within the education, social care
  - 17 and mental health systems for the duration of the pandemic.

## Amendment Two

10 members

Mover: Oliver Jones-Lyons.

Summation: Oliver Jones-Lyons.

- 1 *After line 29, insert:*
  - 2 Conference notes that the requirement for public contracts to be subjected to competitive
  - 3 tender was suspended by the government in March leading to billions of pounds of contracts
  - 4 being sometimes given to companies that could not fulfil the contract and in some cases to
  - 5 companies with personal links to government officials, something we have seen before during
  - 6 no deal Brexit preparations; this has also been worsened by a suspension of parliamentary
  - 7 scrutiny at a time when it is needed most.
- 8 Conference further believes the leaked details of 'Operation Moonshot' seem to show all of
- 9 the problems of these contracts on a much bigger scale than at any other point throughout
- 10 this pandemic, and show the importance of the open, competitive tender process.





# Saturday 26 September

11 *After 12. d) (line 100) add:*

12 13. Launch an inquiry, at the soonest possible date, into the way in which public contracts  
13 have been granted without tender during the pandemic, in order to learn any lessons  
14 from the wasting of taxpayer money and hampering of our crisis response, as well as the  
15 amendment of regulation 32(2)(c) of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 to ensure that  
16 safeguards are in place to prevent any potential misconduct in public procurement during  
17 any future crisis.

18 14. Restore and maintain the processes of parliamentary scrutiny, and where feasible,  
19 competitive tender with public contracts at this critical stage in the pandemic, where  
20 significant funds will be paid from the public purse for projects such as mass testing.

*Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.*

## Background Briefing

This motion creates new policy on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular it makes policy on supporting frontline workers, getting a competent strategy for test and trace, improving public health communications, and calling for an independent enquiry.

## F14 Reports of the Parliamentary Parties

Technical Aide: Chris Adams.

Movers: Wendy Chamberlain MP (Chief Whip of the Commons Parliamentary Party) and Lord Newby (Leader of the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords).

## F16 Question and answer session on COVID-19: the economic, work and educational legacy

*The panel will also include:*

- Daisy Cooper MP (Deputy Leader and Spokesperson for Education).
- Sarah Olney MP (Spokesperson for the Climate Emergency, Business & Energy and Transport).

### Conference App

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