

# Conference Extra

## Autumn Conference Online

25–28 September 2020



Updates to the conference **Agenda**, information from the Federal Conference Committee (FCC), amendments, emergency motions and questions to reports. Please read in conjunction with the published **Agenda**.

Please note that to ensure that they are considered, speaker's cards must be submitted by 16.00 on the day before the relevant debate – see page 4.

The conference **Agenda** is available at:

[www.libdems.org.uk/a20-agenda](http://www.libdems.org.uk/a20-agenda)

The conference Directory has been updated and the latest version is available at:

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Please refer to **Conference Extra** throughout conference and also to **Conference Daily** each day – they will be vital to your understanding of the day's business – available at:

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# The Federal Conference Committee



## Federal Conference Committee helpdesk

Members of the Federal Conference Committee will be available to chat with conference attendees at their helpdesks in the virtual exhibition at the following times:

|          |          |                           |
|----------|----------|---------------------------|
| Friday   | 25 Sept. | 17.30–18.30               |
| Saturday | 26 Sept. | 12.00–12.45 & 16.30–17.15 |
| Sunday   | 27 Sept. | 12.00–12.45 & 16.30–17.15 |
| Monday   | 28 Sept. | 12.00–12.45 & 16.30–17.15 |

# The Federal Policy Committee



# The Federal Board



Mark Pack,  
Party President



Isabelle  
Parasram, Vice  
President



Elaine Bagshaw,  
Vice-Chair



Jeremy  
Hargreaves,  
Vice-Chair,  
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Sheila Ritchie,  
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Ed Davey MP,  
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Christine  
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Parliamentary  
Group rep



Lord Paul  
Strasburger,  
Parliamentary  
Group rep



Munira  
Wilson MP,  
Parliamentary  
Group rep



Chris White,  
Principal Local  
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Lisa-Maria  
Bornemann,  
English Party  
rep



Kevin Lang,  
Scottish Party  
rep



Bill Powell,  
Welsh Party rep



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FCC Chair



Jonathan Fryer,  
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Lisa Smart,  
FCEC Chair



Tony Harris,  
FFRC Chair



Barbara Gibson,  
FPDC Chair



Helena Cole,  
FASC Chair



Tara Copeland,  
Young Liberals  
Chair



Luke Cawley-  
Harrison



Kishan Devani



Neil Fawcett



James Gurling



Jo Hayes



Caron Lindsay



Anita Lower



Simon McGrath



Roisin Miller



Joyce Onstad



Candy Piercy



April Preston



Alice Thomas

Non-voting

Terry Stacy, LGA rep

Wendy Chamberlain MP, Chief  
Whip (Commons)

Mike German, Federal Treasurer

Mike Dixon, Federal Chief  
Executive

Will Dyer, Staff rep

## Federal Board helpdesk

Members of the Federal Board will be available to chat with conference attendees at their helpdesks in the virtual exhibition at the following times:

|          |          |                           |
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| Monday   | 28 Sept. | 12.00–12.45 & 16.30–17.15 |

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For Blackberry / Windows Phone visit  
[www.libdemconference.org.uk](http://www.libdemconference.org.uk)



# Information update

For information about the sessions held in the virtual auditorium at autumn conference, see the conference **Agenda** that is available at:

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## Speaking in a debate at conference

If you want to speak in a debate at the online conference you will need to submit a speaker's card earlier than usual. That is because of the technical work required when planning debates.

The deadline for speaker's cards is 16.00 on the day before the relevant debate. Cards submitted later may be considered but there is no guarantee that they will be.

You should submit a speaker's card even if you are proposing or summing on a motion or amendment.

Speaker's cards should be submitted online at

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

The submission form is open now.

## Spring Conference 19–21 March 2021

FCC is currently reviewing the timing of deadlines for Spring Conference – the deadlines will be announced in Friday's **Conference Daily** and via other channels

## Tech helpdesk

The tech helpdesk located in the exhibition area will be open at the following times:

|          |          |             |
|----------|----------|-------------|
| Friday   | 25 Sept. | 11.00–21.00 |
| Saturday | 26 Sept. | 08.30–19.00 |
| Sunday   | 27 Sept. | 08.30–19.00 |
| Monday   | 28 Sept. | 11.30–21.00 |

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## 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 12.00–12.50*

### Principles and Values

*Saturday 16.00–16.50*

### The Natural Environment

*Saturday 18.45–19.35*

### Utilities

*Sunday 18.45–19.35*

All sessions take place in the fringe.

See page 9 for details.

## Q&A sessions

There will be four Spokespeople Q&A sessions during conference.

### Foreign affairs and looking beyond the end of the Brexit transition period (F9)

Saturday 10.00 in the auditorium.

### The climate emergency

Saturday 16.00 in the fringe.

### Coronavirus: the economic, work and educational legacy (F16)

Saturday 18.00 in the auditorium.

### Coronavirus: the health approach and the impact on communities and society

Sunday 16.00 in the fringe.

See page 24 for details.



# Friday 25 September

## F3 Federal Conference Committee Report

### Q1. Submitted by Hywel Morgan

The agenda states 'The chair will select which questions will be asked'. Will questions which are not asked 'live' be answered in writing and those responses published in the post-conference report?

### Q2. Submitted by Hywel Morgan

Why is there no report from the Federal Appeals Panel? What steps does FCC have in place to ensure reports are submitted on time?

## F5 Improve Mental Health Support for Health and Care Staff

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

- 1 *In 1. (line 40), delete 'The COVID-19 support phone hotline' and insert 'A mental health support*
- 2 *phone hotline'.*
  
- 3 *In 2. (line 43), after 'them' insert ', along with a promotional programme to encourage them to*
- 4 *use it'.*

## F7 Nature of Public Debate during COVID-19

### Amendment One

*16 members*

Mover: James Baillie.

Summation: Ryan Mercer.

- 1 *After f) (line 106), insert:*
  
- 2 g) Effectively seeking input from and engaging the public means recognising that not all
- 3 residents of the UK have equal and fair access to communicating with legislators or
- 4 accessing public engagement events, and that we must work to ensure that vulnerable
- 5 and marginalised voices are heard in shaping our response.
  
- 6 *Delete 5. (lines 125–128) and insert:*
  
- 7 5. The Government and parliamentarians to use a range of methods to engage the public
- 8 with our response and build consensus and trust, including but not limited to residents'
- 9 surveys and town hall events for legislators, with particular efforts to ensure that
- 10 marginalised voices are heard in this process.



# 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).

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

*Federal Policy Committee*

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

Summation: to be announced.

- 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.
- 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



# Saturday 26 September

- 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:
- 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.



# Saturday 26 September

- 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.*

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

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 17.00, Wednesday 23 September. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.*

*The deadline for requests for separate votes is 10.00, Friday 25 September; see page 5 of the Agenda for further details.*





# Saturday 26 September

## 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).

## Consultative Sessions

Consultative sessions provide a less formal setting for members to contribute to the development of party policy and strategy. The sessions are organised by Federal Committees or their working groups and their conclusions will be taken into account when final proposals are drafted.

### Party Governance Consultation

The Federal Party is looking to improve its governance in order to improve its effectiveness. Help us determine what comes next so we can win more elections. Chair: Elaine Bagshaw.

**Saturday 12.00–12.50**

### Principles and Values

An opportunity for members to comment on consultation paper 141, Principles and Values. Chaired by Duncan Brack.

See [www.libdems.org.uk/s20-consultation141](http://www.libdems.org.uk/s20-consultation141)

**Saturday 16.00–16.50**

### The Natural Environment

An opportunity for members to feed into the work of the party's Natural Environment Policy Working Group Chaired by Richard Hebditch.

**Saturday 18.45–19.35**

### Utilities

An opportunity for members to comment on consultation paper 142, Utilities. Covering issues including water, energy, telecommunications and rail. Chaired by Neil Stockley.

See [www.libdems.org.uk/consultation-paper-142](http://www.libdems.org.uk/consultation-paper-142)

**Sunday 18.45–19.35**

All sessions take place in the fringe.



# Sunday 27 September

## F18 Racial Justice Cannot Wait

### Amendment One

*Liberal Democrat Campaign For Race Equality*

Mover: Christopher Annous.

Summation: Roderick Lynch.

1 *After iv) (line 22), insert:*

2 v) BAME people are disproportionately likely to be detained under the Mental Health Act,  
3 black people are disproportionately the subjects of the use of force by the police, and  
4 people who have died following the use of force are disproportionately from BAME  
5 communities.

6 *After 2. c) (line 88), insert:*

7 d) Introducing a national framework of regulations on the use of body-worn cameras by  
8 police officers and mandating that all arrests are recorded by them.

### Amendment Two

*Liberal Democrat Campaign For Race Equality*

Mover: Christopher Annous.

Summation: Roderick Lynch.

1 *After 1. f) (line 79), insert:*

2 g) Introducing a larger and more specific range of ethnic group options in ethnicity  
3 monitoring surveys, including the Census, to more accurately record individuals' ethnic  
4 backgrounds, including people of mixed heritage, and better understand the ethnic  
5 diversity of the UK.

## F21 A Green Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic

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

1 *In ii) (line 17), after 'emissions' insert 'or to achieve an early rapid reduction of UK greenhouse*  
2 *gas emissions'.*

3 *In a) (line 22), after 'Cut' insert 'greenhouse gas'.*

### Amendment One

*16 members*

Mover: James Baillie.

Summation: Nick Sandford.

1 *After C. (line 11), insert:*

2 D. A healthy, biodiverse, accessible natural environment will be vital for facing the climate



# Sunday 27 September

3 emergency and has been vital for supporting people's mental and physical health through  
4 lockdown, with over half of people reporting increased awareness and appreciation of  
5 green space this year in polling.

6 *After 9. (line 60), add:*

7 10. Ensure that biodiversity is at the heart of the green recovery, including ensuring its  
8 consideration at all levels of the planning process, building a comprehensive Nature  
9 Recovery Network to link habitats, and improving access to national parks and green  
10 spaces for all parts of society.

## Amendment Two

*Sheffield*

Mover: Cllr Joe Otten.

Summation: Andrew Sangar.

1 *In iii) (line 19), after 'green jobs' delete 'and' and insert a comma, and after 'emissions' insert 'and*  
2 *protecting the environment'.*

3 *In 2. (line 38), after 'jobs' insert 'encouraging innovation in industry to adapt to a green*  
4 *economy, carry out an audit of the skills which will be required, '.*

## F23 The UK and Europe

*Federal Policy Committee*

Mover: Christine Jardine MP (Spokesperson for Europe).

Summation: to be announced.

1 Conference notes with deep concern:

2 A. The decision by the Conservative Government not to seek an extension to the post-Brexit  
3 transition period beyond 31 December 2020 despite the apparently deadlocked 'future  
4 relationship' negotiations between the UK and the EU on economic, transport, migration,  
5 welfare, fisheries and security arrangements.

6 B. That the UK cannot afford to crash out of the EU without a deal in place or to accept a  
7 rushed, bad deal at a time when the UK is already facing the biggest crisis in generations  
8 as a result of COVID-19 against a background of intensified China-USA-Russia rivalry.

9 C. That the rights of UK citizens in the EU and EU citizens in the UK remain at risk, as the  
10 Conservative Government attempts to roll back from the commitments it made in the  
11 2019 Withdrawal Agreement.

12 D. The Conservative Government's Internal Market Bill, which the Secretary of State for  
13 Northern Ireland has admitted will breach international law "in a very limited and specific  
14 way", trashes the UK's reputation, sets a dangerous precedent and almost certainly  
15 precludes any chance of a Free Trade Agreement with either the EU or the USA unless the  
16 offending sections are removed.

17 Conference believes that:

18 i) There is no deal that could be negotiated that could be more beneficial than continued  
19 membership of the EU, and the damage caused by Brexit to the UK's economy human



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- 20 rights, security, and standing in the world will be profound and long-lasting.
- 21 ii) The UK and its people share fundamental values of liberalism, democracy and respect  
22 for the rule of law with our European neighbours and allies; the European Union is our  
23 natural home and the UK's rightful place should be at the heart of the EU.
- 24 Conference affirms the party's immediate priorities to:
- 25 a) Hold the Conservative Government to account unstintingly as it fails to deliver what it  
26 promised, and expose the damage of this Government's Brexit to our economy, security,  
27 society and national unity.
- 28 b) Campaign vigorously against measures which are prejudicial to British industry,  
29 agriculture and democracy, and in so doing point to the benefits of closer relations with  
30 the EU.
- 31 c) Continue to work with others in Parliament (including in the House of Lords) to halt or  
32 amend damaging legislation such as measures in the United Kingdom Internal Market  
33 Bill.
- 34 d) Support international cooperation and a global rules-based system, and oppose  
35 isolationism and economic nationalism.
- 36 Conference calls for:
- 37 1. The Conservative Government to honour the commitments it made in the Withdrawal  
38 Agreement and the Political Declaration.
- 39 2. The rights of UK citizens in the EU and EU citizens in the UK not to be further eroded  
40 – and where possible enhanced – and the provisions of the European Convention on  
41 Human Rights and Charter of Fundamental Rights to be respected for all UK citizens.
- 42 3. The closest possible alignment between the UK and the EU towards customs union,  
43 single market and freedom of movement, including minimising tariff and non- tariff trade  
44 barriers, no lowering of environmental, food and animal welfare standards, and the  
45 maintenance of strong diplomatic, developmental, defence, security, judicial, educational  
46 and scientific cooperation.
- 47 In the longer term, conference resolves to keep all options open for the UK's future  
48 relationship with the EU, including membership at an appropriate future date to be  
49 determined by political circumstances, subject to public assent, market and trade conditions  
50 and acceptable negotiated terms.

*Applicability: Federal.*

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

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 17.00, Wednesday 23 September. Amendments selected for debate will be printed in Saturday's Conference Daily.*

*The deadline for requests for separate votes is 10.00, Saturday 26 September; see page 5 of the Agenda for further details.*



# Monday 28 September

## **F24 Federal Board Report**

### **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 Jennie Rigg**

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



# Monday 28 September

## 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?

## 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.

### Conference Daily

*Conference Daily* is published each day at conference, containing updates to the agenda including changes to timings, amendments, topical issues, emergency motions and questions to reports.

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# Emergency Motions Ballot

*There are two agenda slots reserved for emergency motions, F17 at 10.00 on Sunday 27 September and F30 at 18.05 on Monday 28 September.*

*There will be a ballot to determine the priorities for these slots conducted online via Mi-Voice. All members registered for the conference will receive an email on Friday morning with a link which they can use to cast their votes. The deadline for voting will be 19.00 on Friday.*

*As this will be an STV ballot, members are encouraged to use all their preferences. The FCC will decide how many motions can be fitted into the slots after the results of the ballot are known.*

## **Emergency motion 1: Defending the Rule of Law**

*13 members*

- 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.
  
- 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.*



# Emergency motions ballot

## Emergency motion 2: Opposing the Government 'Power Grab' on Planning

ALDC

- 1 Conference notes that:
- 2 A. The Government is consulting on plans to overhaul the planning system.
- 3 B. The reforms to existing planning rules would allow fast track permissions for offices and  
4 retail centres to be converted to houses; and extra storeys to be added to existing housing  
5 and flats.
- 6 C. The assessment of local housing need and the threshold below which developers are  
7 required to contribute to affordable housing will also be changed.
- 8 D. In the future reforms proposed in the Planning for the Future consultation published on  
9 the 6 August 2020, land will be categorised into growth, renewal or protection zones;
  - 10 I. 'Growth' areas will allow planning permission in principle if a site is designated a  
11 development site in the local plan.
  - 12 II. 'Renewal' areas will be subject to a statutory 'presumption in favour of development'
  - 13 III. 'Protection' areas will be where development will be discouraged.
- 14 E. The Government has already laid new regulations allowing Permitted Developments that  
15 do not provide adequate environmental standards to counter Climate Change dangers
- 16 Conference recognises:
  - 17 i) The need to build more housing to prevent homelessness and provide adequate,  
18 affordable and suitable accommodation for everyone, and the failure of successive  
19 governments to address the issue.
  - 20 ii) That councils currently approve nine in ten applications.
  - 21 iii) That the Local Government Association findings show that over a million homes have  
22 planning permission but remain unbuilt.
- 23 Conference believes that:
  - 24 a) The planning system is not the cause of low build-out numbers.
  - 25 b) These proposals reduce democratic accountability and public scrutiny undermining the  
26 ability of councils to determine planning applications.
  - 27 c) These proposals significantly reduce the scope for public participation and influence on  
28 planning applications within local communities.
  - 29 d) The proposed changes would favour development interests over those of local  
30 communities.
  - 31 e) Delegation of detailed planning decisions to planning officers, rather than a democratically  
32 elected planning committee fails to recognise the role that public democratic scrutiny has  
33 in ensuring decisions are fair, transparent, with any impacts fully considered.
  - 34 f) The reforms restrict a planning authorities' ability to set local planning policies in line with  
35 the needs of their area and community aspirations, undermining the plan-led system,  
36 disempowering councils and communities.
  - 37 g) Replacing the Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 payments with centrally





# Emergency motions ballot

- 38 imposed housing targets and a national levy, will likely result in less money for affordable  
39 housing, sustainable transport and other critical infrastructure.
- 40 h) The effort to speed up applications risk watering down or removing the requirement  
41 altogether for Strategic Environmental Assessments, Environmental Impact Assessments  
42 and similar assessments.
- 43 i) The proposals do not sufficiently take into consideration the Climate Change Act 2008  
44 provisions that address carbon dioxide emission standards for future housing stock.
- 45 j) The proposals put at risk archaeology and heritage by undermining pre-commencement  
46 archaeological conditions in the development process.

47 Conference reaffirms the commitment of the Liberal Democrats to:

- 48 1. Empower local democracy.
- 49 2. Provide the infrastructure the country needs.
- 50 3. Provide truly affordable good quality housing.
- 51 4. Support housing with high standards of design, amenity, space.
- 52 5. Achieve the smallest possible carbon footprint from housing.

53 Conference strongly objects to these proposals and urges all Liberal Democrats – including  
54 the party's councillors, MPs in England and those elected at any other level – to participate  
55 in the consultations and to reject the arbitrary housing targets and reduction of local control  
56 proposed in the consultation paper.

*Applicability: England.*

## Emergency motion 3: Persecution of the Uyghurs

11 members

- 1 Conference notes that:
- 2 i) In August 2018, a UN committee heard that up to one million Uyghur Muslims and other  
3 Muslim groups could be being detained in the western Xinjiang region, where they're said  
4 to be undergoing "re-education" programmes.
- 5 ii) Human Rights Watch says Uyghur people in particular are subject to intense surveillance  
6 and are made to give DNA and biometric samples; the Chinese Communist Party is  
7 accused of locking more than one million Uyghurs in so-called "re-education camps"; the  
8 Chinese Government is also accused of undertaking a programme of forced sterilisation  
9 against Uyghur women.
- 10 iii) There is clear evidence of Uyghurs being subjected to forced labour, both within  
11 internment camps in Xinjiang and in factories across China.
- 12 iv) In July 2020, the UK warned that it may sanction China over the "gross and egregious"  
13 human rights abuses reported in Xinjiang.
- 14 iv) In July 2020, drone footage believed to be from Xinjiang in China, showed Uyghurs  
15 kneeling and blindfolded, waiting to be led onto trains.
- 16 v) When shown the footage, China's UK ambassador Liu Xiaoming said reports of  
17 concentration camps were 'fake'.
- 18 vi) In July, the US imposed sanctions on multiple officials from China, including a senior  
19 member of the Chinese Communist Party, over human rights abuses against the Uyghur  
20 minority; the sanctions against Chinese officials were levied under the Global Magnitsky  
21 Human Rights Accountability Act.



# Emergency motions ballot

22 vii) Liberal Democrats have consistently urged the UK Government to take swift action  
23 against these atrocities, with Alistair Carmichael MP taking steps including writing to the  
24 Foreign Secretary in 2018, leading a parliamentary debate in 2019, writing to the Chinese  
25 Ambassador in 2019, and writing again to the Foreign Secretary in 2020, alongside raising  
26 the issue repeatedly in parliamentary debates and through parliamentary motions.

27 Conference believes that:

28 A. As stated by the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales (BHRC), the  
29 international community, including the UK, is legally obliged to take action on China's  
30 alleged abuse of Uyghur and other Turkic minorities.

31 B. The evidence of mass detention in 're-education camps', surveillance and restrictions  
32 on religious and cultural beliefs amounts to cultural genocide, while reports of forced  
33 sterilisation provide clear evidence of genocide.

34 Conference calls for the UK Government to:

35 1. Rapidly implement and use Magnitsky-style sanctions on state and non-state individuals  
36 who are reasonably suspected of being involved in these human rights violations.

37 2. Call for an independent UN investigation into what is happening in Xinjiang and for the  
38 high commissioner for human rights to be allowed to freely enter this zone.

39 3. Automatically grant refugee status to all Uyghur asylum seekers.

40 4. Work through the ILO and the OECD to pressure the Chinese Government to end the  
41 use of Uyghur forced labour, and strengthen requirements for UK companies to be  
42 transparent about the actions they are taking to prevent modern slavery in their supply  
43 chains.

*Applicability: Federal.*

## Emergency motion 4: Safe and Legal Routes to Save Lives

13 members

1 Conference mourns the death of Abdulfatah Hamdallah, a young Sudanese man whose body  
2 was found on a beach near Calais on Wednesday 19th August 2020; he had drowned while  
3 trying to reach the UK by crossing the Channel in a small rubber dinghy with his 16-year-old  
4 friend.

5 Conference notes with dismay the Conservative Government's heartless and inhumane  
6 response to desperate people attempting to cross the Channel, with Home Secretary Priti Patel  
7 reportedly demanding that Royal Navy vessels intercept small boats and planning legislation to  
8 make it harder to claim asylum in the UK.

9 Conference further notes that, in July, the Conservative Government closed the 'Dubs scheme'  
10 for unaccompanied child refugees elsewhere in Europe, after resettling just 480 children under  
11 the scheme since 2016.

12 Conference believes that:

13 a) Refugees who have been forced to flee their homes to escape war and persecution are  
14 some of the most vulnerable people in the world. We must do all we can to protect them.



# Emergency motions ballot

- 15 b) The UK has a proud history of providing sanctuary to those in need, but now the  
16 Conservative Government is turning its back on refugees and failing to live up to our  
17 obligations to them.
- 18 c) Providing refugees with safe and legal routes to sanctuary in the UK is the best way to  
19 combat people smuggling and human trafficking, and to prevent people from making  
20 dangerous attempts to cross the Channel and the Mediterranean.
- 21 Conference calls on the Government to provide safe and legal routes to sanctuary in the UK by:
- 22 1. Making a new, fully-funded commitment to resettle 10,000 vulnerable refugees each year,  
23 and a further 10,000 unaccompanied child refugees from elsewhere in Europe over the  
24 next ten years.
- 25 2. Guaranteeing continued rights for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in Europe to  
26 be reunited with family members in the UK.
- 27 3. Supporting Baroness Hamwee's Bill to expand family reunion rights so that  
28 unaccompanied child refugees in the UK can sponsor close family members to join them.

Applicability: Federal.

## Emergency motion 5: Supporting Businesses, Workers and the Self-Employed During the COVID-19 Pandemic

10 members

- 1 Conference notes with concern that:
- 2 I. The Coronavirus pandemic has caused the worst economic crisis in a century.
- 3 II. As of September the danger of mass unemployment is still present, with the latest reports  
4 showing 300,000 redundancies planned in June and July alone.
- 5 III. Despite calls to the contrary, in his July 8th Summer Statement the Chancellor confirmed  
6 that the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and the Self-Employment Income Support  
7 Scheme would end in October.
- 8 IV. The premature end of the CJRS and the SEISS risk more than 1.2 million additional job  
9 losses by the end of the year.
- 10 V. Unemployment will hamper economic growth, bring down tax receipts, add pressure to  
11 the welfare state and hurt the UK's economic recovery.
- 12 VI. There is a particularly adverse impact on certain groups, including female workers, who  
13 are more at risk of losing their job as a result of the crisis and more likely to be single  
14 parents and carers.
- 15 VII. There is particularly adverse impact on certain sectors, including hospitality, tourism,  
16 charities and the creative industries.
- 17 VIII. Too many groups of workers have been excluded from the Government's support  
18 schemes.
- 19 IX. The current rate of Statutory Sick Pay (£95.85pw) isn't enough for claimants to survive on.
- 20 Conference further notes that:
- 21 A. The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme that Liberal Democrats campaigned for has been  
22 key in averting mass unemployment, by supporting 9.6 million jobs, of which roughly six  
23 million are still on furlough.



# Emergency motions ballot

- 24 B. The Self-Employment Income Support Scheme that the Liberal Democrats led the fight on  
25 helped 2.6 million of the UK's five million self-employed workers.
- 26 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitments to:
- 27 i) Leaving no-one behind during the Coronavirus pandemic.  
28 ii) Building a fairer, greener, more regionally-balanced economy after the pandemic.
- 29 Conference therefore calls on the Government to:
- 30 1. Extend the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) and the Self-Employment Income  
31 Support Scheme (SEISS) through June 2021 for all sectors of the economy, with provisions  
32 for flexible furlough arrangements.
- 33 2. Use the extension of the CJRS and SEISS to facilitate the transition to a new greener  
34 economy.
- 35 3. Cancel the Chancellor's ineffective Job Retention Bonus scheme, which will cover nearly the  
36 entire likely cost of extending the CJRS.
- 37 4. Remedy injustices against excluded groups by ensuring that the SEISS applies, among  
38 others, to:
- 39 a) Those who became self-employed after 6 April 2019.  
40 b) Self-employed workers operating as limited companies.  
41 c) Self-employed workers earning more than 50% of their income from employment.  
42 d) Self-employed workers with profits over £50,000.
- 43 5. Create dedicated support schemes for the worst-affected sectors, such as hospitality,  
44 tourism, charities and the creative industries.
- 45 6. Legally require companies that make use of the CJRS to demonstrate they are offering  
46 equal pay for equal work and that women are being treated fairly and equally in terms of  
47 restructuring, recruitment, retention and promotion.
- 48 7. Increase Statutory Sick Pay to the equivalent of two thirds of a full-time wage at the  
49 National Living Wage (currently roughly £220pw); and extend it to the currently excluded  
50 two million workers earning less than £118pw, by scrapping the Lower Earnings Limit.
- 51 8. Create a long-term economic strategy, setting out how the UK will invest in new industries,  
52 jobs and training, that will create a fairer, greener, more regionally balanced economy  
53 after the pandemic

*Applicability: Federal.*



# Emergency motions ballot

## Emergency motion 6: The Exam Fiasco of August 2020 and the Case for Assessment Reform

*Cambridge*

- 1 Conference notes that:
  - 2 i) 2020 posed unique challenges for schools, students and teachers, requiring new
  - 3 approaches to teaching, assessment and pastoral support to be developed during an
  - 4 international pandemic and UK lockdown.
  - 5 ii) Teachers across the country worked hard to implement OFQUAL's guidance for centre
  - 6 assessed grades and rankings to ensure fairness and transparency in line with their best
  - 7 professional judgement.
  - 8 iii) Much of this work was ignored by the Conservative Government who, despite advanced
  - 9 warnings from experts, chose to apply an algorithm which led to the unfair downgrading
  - 10 of students at the largest schools which would have further compounded inequality and
  - 11 disadvantage if they had not been forced into a late U-turn.
  - 12 iv) The mishandling of the A level exams in August 2020 resulted in great stress and anxiety
  - 13 for young people whose grades were lowered, as well as causing chaos for universities
  - 14 admissions processes.
  - 15 v) The Government's chaotic management of A levels and GCSEs had further knock on
  - 16 impacts for BTec results, adding even more uncertainty for students and colleges across
  - 17 the country.
- 18 Conference believes that:
  - 19 a) The bias within this algorithm highlights the unacceptable disadvantage inherent within
  - 20 our examination system.
  - 21 b) While formal examinations can be a useful form of assessment, they are not by any means
  - 22 the only indicator of a child's progress and potential.
  - 23 c) Teachers should be trusted, both to assess a child's progress and potential and to play a
  - 24 leading role in any process of exam reform.
- 25 Conference therefore resolves to:
  - 26 1. Work within Parliament to secure an urgent review of the GCSE and A level assessment
  - 27 process which, by taking lessons from the 2020 fiasco, will help ensure that such problems
  - 28 are avoided in 2021.
  - 29 2. Lobby the national government and work cross-party to ensure engagement of key
  - 30 stakeholders, including parents groups, teacher' unions and professional bodies, in
  - 31 planning for 2021 exams.
  - 32 3. Initiate longer term reform of the assessment system in England, led by teachers in
  - 33 consultation with parents, carers and students, to ensure grades depend more on work
  - 34 and talent and less on luck or algorithms.
  - 35 4. Ensure that the ministers at the DfE, particularly the Secretary of State Mr Gavin
  - 36 Williamson and the Minister of State for School Standards (who holds personal
  - 37 responsibility for Ofqual) Mr Nick Gibb, take personal responsibility for the debacle they
  - 38 created rather than seeking to transfer blame on to officials.

*Applicability: England only.*



# Emergency motions ballot

## Emergency motion 7: The Government's Abolition of DFID and Cuts in Development Spending

14 members

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 i) On 2 September 2020, the Department for International Development (DFID) ceased  
3 to exist; its budget, functions and personnel were merged with the Foreign and  
4 Commonwealth Office into a new Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office under  
5 the leadership of the Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab MP.
- 6 ii) The merger was completed with little sector consultation and in advance of the  
7 Government's 'Integrated Review' of its international policies.
- 8 iii) On 2 July 2020, the Government released further details about the merger in a letter to the  
9 then Liberal Democrat spokesperson for International Development, Wendy Chamberlain  
10 MP, revealing that development would not receive specific Cabinet level representation or  
11 its own permanent secretary; the Government offered no commitment on the retention of  
12 a Parliamentary select committee.
- 13 iv) On 22 July 2020, details of cuts to the aid budget of nearly 20% were released - greater  
14 than the estimated 14% drop in GNI; these cuts were made with no consultation,  
15 no warning and no oversight at a time when coronavirus poses huge challenges to  
16 development and threatens the income of many non-governmental organisations.
- 17 v) In September 2020, government-supporting newspapers reported that the Treasury is  
18 considering scrapping the 0.7% gross national income (GNI) aid spending commitment.
- 19 vi) 2020 marks 50 years since the Liberal Party committed to 0.7% GNI aid spending, the  
20 first UK political party to do so; and it was the Liberal Democrats who enshrined this  
21 commitment in law while in Coalition Government.
- 22 vii) The "2020 Aid Transparency Index" found that DFID is one of the world's most transparent  
23 donors, rating it as "very good"; but other official development assistance (ODA)-spending  
24 government departments do not meet the same standards.
- 25 viii) The UK can play a key role in supporting developing countries to address the immediate  
26 consequences of the pandemic – through providing humanitarian aid and support for  
27 health system strengthening – but also in supporting their longer-term recovery, which has  
28 important implications for our own future prosperity.
- 29 ix) A high-quality international development programme, as part of an open, generous,  
30 globally-engaged UK, will not only be of direct benefit to those who need that support, but  
31 also sends an important message about the UK's values and priorities, and a recognition  
32 that many of the challenges we face can only be addressed as a global community.

33 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat Commitment to:

- 34 a) Retaining DFID as a separate Department of State with its own Cabinet Minister.
- 35 b) Retaining the UK commitment to spend 0.7% of GNI on official development assistance.

36 Conference calls for the UK Government to:

- 37 1. Ensure that the use of ODA continues to be consistent with the OECD DAC rules/  
38 guidelines, and with UK legislation, and in particular that its primary purpose should  
39 remain the economic development of, and poverty reduction within, the partner country
- 40 2. Ensure that a Parliamentary select committee with a remit of examining all British



# Emergency motions ballot

- 41 Government ODA expenditure is retained, as well as the Independent Commission on Aid  
42 Impact.
- 43 3. Ensure that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), agreed in September 2015, lie at  
44 the heart of the UK's international development policy, as well as inform domestic policy
- 45 4. Re-establish the development education programme, linked to the SDGs, to increase  
46 public understanding of the links between progress elsewhere and the UK and the  
47 universal nature and applicability of the SDGs.

*Applicability: Federal.*

## Emergency motion 8: The Russia Report

14 members

- 1 Conference notes that the Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament's 'Russia Report'  
2 was published on 21st July 2020, after many months of delay by the Conservative Government.
- 3 Conference notes with particular concern the report's findings that:
- 4 I. "The UK is clearly a target for Russia's disinformation campaigns and political influence  
5 operations".
- 6 II. The Conservative Government failed to take action to protect the UK against potential  
7 Russian interference in the 2016 EU referendum, and has commissioned no retrospective  
8 assessment of whether such interference took place.
- 9 III. The Government has continued to fail to take the threat that Putin's Russia poses to  
10 our democracy seriously, despite clear evidence that it interfered to help Donald Trump  
11 become US President in 2016.
- 12 IV. Lax regulation has turned London into a 'laundromat' for illicit finance, and the National  
13 Crime Agency lacks the resources required to tackle it.
- 14 V. Members of the Russian elite with close links to Putin are, through involvement in political  
15 organisations and donations to political parties, in positions "to assist Russian influence  
16 operations" in the UK.
- 17 Conference further notes with concern that:
- 18 A. Transparency International has identified more than £5 billion worth of UK properties  
19 bought using suspicious wealth, one fifth of which originates from Russia.
- 20 B. The Government has still not introduced legislation to establish a public beneficial  
21 ownership register of overseas entities that own UK property, despite promising it more  
22 than four years ago.
- 23 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitments to:
- 24 i) Take big money out of politics by reforming party funding in line with the Committee on  
25 Standards in Public Life's 2011 report, including a cap on donations.
- 26 ii) Substantially increase funding for the National Crime Agency.
- 27 Conference calls on the Government to:
- 28 a) Commission a wide-ranging and properly-funded investigation into potential Russian  
29 interference in our democracy, including the 2014 Scottish independence referendum and



# Emergency motions ballot

- 30 the 2016 EU referendum, and publish the report as soon as possible.
- 31 b) Make it a national security priority to protect the UK's democratic processes – including
- 32 local democracy – from any threats or interference, with proper resourcing and clear
- 33 ministerial responsibility.
- 34 c) Introduce the Registration of Overseas Entities Bill without further delay.
- 35 d) Amend the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018 to include serious and
- 36 organised crime as grounds for introducing sanctions.
- 37 e) Cease its attempts to undermine parliamentary scrutiny, including by interfering in the
- 38 membership of committees.
- 39 Conference further calls for the independence of the Intelligence and Security Committee to be
- 40 strengthened by:
- 41 1. Enabling the Houses of Parliament to elect its members.
- 42 2. Giving it the power to decide what it publishes and when.

*Applicability: Federal.*

## Spokespeople Q&A sessions

There will be four Q&A sessions during conference where you can ask questions of our spokespeople.

### **Foreign affairs and looking beyond the end of the Brexit transition period**

Baroness Northover (Lords Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs)  
Baroness Ludford (Lords Spokesperson for Europe)  
Layla Moran MP (Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs & International Development)  
Chair: Chris Maines

**Saturday 10.00–10.40 in the auditorium**

### **The climate emergency**

Lord Oates (Lords Spokesperson on Climate Change)  
Baroness Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville (Lords Spokesperson for the Environment)  
Lord Teverson (former Lords Spokesperson for Energy)  
Sarah Olney MP (Spokesperson for the Climate Emergency, Business & Energy and Transport)  
Chair: Belinda Brooks Gordon

**Saturday 16.00–16.50 in the fringe**

### **Coronavirus: the economic, work and educational legacy**

Lord Fox (Lords Spokesperson on Business)  
Baroness Kramer (Lords Spokesperson for the Economy)  
Lord Storey (Lords Spokesperson for Education)  
Daisy Cooper MP (Deputy Leader and Spokesperson for Education)  
Sarah Olney MP (Spokesperson for the Climate Emergency, Business & Energy and Transport)  
Chair: Cllr Joe Otten

**Saturday 18.00–18.45 in the auditorium**

### **Coronavirus: the health approach and the impact on communities and society**

Baroness Brinton (Lords Spokesperson for Health)  
Baroness Pincock (Lords Spokesperson for Communities & Local Government)  
Lord Shipley (former leader of Newcastle City Council)  
Munira Wilson MP (Spokesperson for Health, Wellbeing and Social Care)  
Chair: Chris Maines

**Sunday 16.00–16.50 in the fringe**

Voting members can submit concise questions (maximum 25 words) on the subject of the session, until 16.00 on Friday 25 September via the website at:

[www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_submissions](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_submissions)

or using the conference chat whilst the session is in progress.

