

spring conference



conference daily

saturday 10th march 2012


Updates to the *Conference Agenda and Directory*, information from the Conference Committee, timings for conference sessions, amendments, emergency motions and questions to reports; detailed information for Saturday 10th March and advance information for Sunday 11th March. Please read in conjunction with the *Conference Agenda and Directory*.



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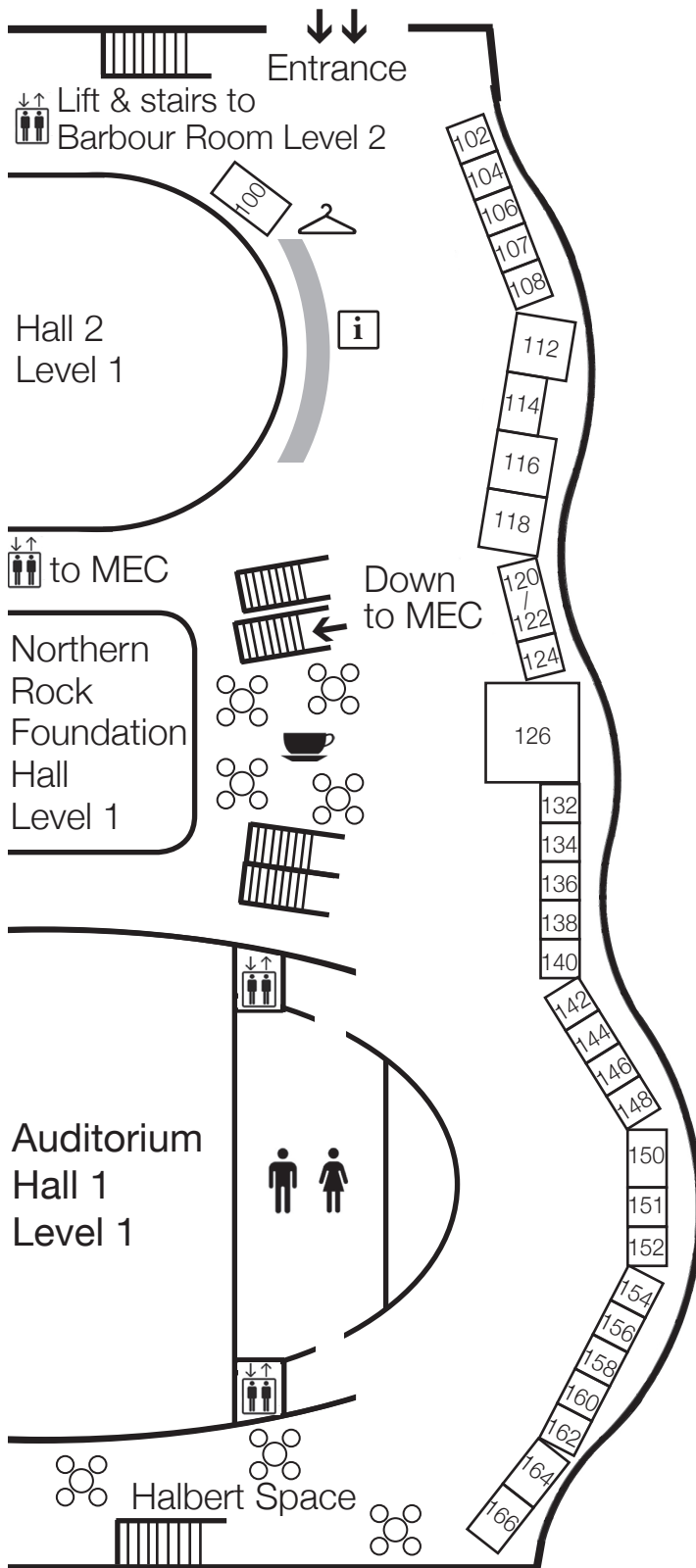
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Make sure you pick up a copy of *Conference Daily* from the Information Desk as you enter The Sage Gateshead each morning. It will be vital to your understanding of the day's business.

Conference Daily and other conference documents are available in clear print, plain text and as pdf files – please ask at the Information Desk.

venue and exhibition plan

Concourse (ground floor)



exhibitors listed by stand number

Stand	Exhibitor
100	NewcastleGateshead Tourist Information
102	North East of England Liberal Democrats
104	VisitBrighton
106	Humanist and Secular Liberal Democrats
107	ActionAid UK
108	Airport Operators' Association
112	Riso UK Ltd
114	Institution of Gas Engineers & Managers
116	Carillion
118	Local Government Association Liberal Democrats
120/122	Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors
124	Campaign for Gender Balance
126	Liberal Democrat Image
132	Women Liberal Democrats
134	Parliamentary Candidates Association
136	Liberal Youth
138	ALDES – Engineers and Scientists
140	Liberal Democrat History Group
142	CentreForum
144	Liberal Democrat Education Association
146	Prater Raines Ltd
148	EMLD
150	ALTER
151	UNISON
152	Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association
154	Liberal Democrat Christian Forum
156	Agents and Organisers Association
158	Green Liberal Democrats
160	Liberal Democrat Disability Association (LDDA)
162	<i>Liberator</i>
164	LGBT+ Liberal Democrats
166	Liberal Democrat European Group

Plans diagrammatic and not to scale

Information Desk	Lift	Catering	Exhibition stand – key to stand numbers above
Cloakroom	Stairs	Seating area	
Toilets			

exhibition update

The following exhibitors are additional to those listed in the *Conference Agenda and Directory*. A revised exhibition plan is on page 2.

Stand 107

ActionAid UK



ActionAid is a partnership between people in rich and poor countries dedicated to ending poverty and injustice.

www.actionaid.org.uk

Stand 151

UNISON

UNISON is the UK's largest public sector union. Visit stand 151, opposite the centre shop, for more information on the union's campaigning, particularly around the Health and Social Care Bill.

www.unison.org.uk/ournhs



UNISON
the public service union

fcc help desk

Members of the FCC will be available to give advice about the conduct of conference at the **Information Desk in The Sage Gateshead** from **9.00 to 12.00 on Saturday** and from **9.00 to 11.00 on Sunday**.

FCC members can also be contacted via the Information Desk outside these hours.

advertise in *conference daily*

You can promote your organisation, event or message to thousands of conference-goers by placing an advert in *Conference Daily* for Sunday 11th March. For information on rates and how to book, please visit the Information Desk in The Sage Gateshead. Booking and copy deadline: Saturday 10th March 12 noon.



**LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
LAWYERS ASSOCIATION**

Membership open to Lawyers and ALL interested in Law Reform

Fringe Meeting:

**"Tesco Law –
Every little bit helps?"**

Alternative Business Structures and the provision of legal services

Room MEC 8, The Sage Gateshead

Saturday, 10 March, 2012 6.15pm - 7.30pm

Don't Forget to visit our stand and to complete and return the 'Send a message to a Lawyer' postcards

www.LibDemLawyers.org.uk

Is There A Future For Arabs In Israel

**Fringe Meeting Saturday
March 10 - Room MEC6
1300 - 1400**

Chairman - Simon Hughes MP
Deputy Leader Liberal Democrats

Speakers

Baroness Jenny Tonge
&

Miri Weingarten

EU Advocacy Coordinator for Israel & the Occupied Palestinian Territories.
Director Jnews - Alternative Jewish Perspective on Israel - Palestine

Sandwiches & Soft Drinks Provided:

This event is organised by:
Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine

Shaping the future
and supporting communities
Join us TODAY



How can Liberal Democrat housing policy meet the needs of the North?

Join us to discuss how the party's review of housing policy can best meet the diverse needs of northern England. Speakers include: David Ward MP, Dr. Tim Leunig (LSE), and Lord John Shipley.
Chair: Charlotte Harrison, Executive Director, NHC.

Sage Gateshead
MEC 8 - LOWER FLOOR
Saturday 10th March 2012
13.00 - 14.00

**For more information contact
0191 566 1000 or visit
www.northern-consortium.org.uk**

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED



fringe guide update

The following are additional to the events listed in the fringe guide in the *Conference Agenda and Directory*.

saturday 10th march early evening 18.15 – 19.30

Liberal Reform

Introducing Liberal Reform

Liberal Reform exists to promote four-cornered freedom in the Liberal Democrats – personal, political, social and economic liberalism. Come and meet some of the founders and help us plan our activities for the next few months.

The Sage Gateshead, MEC 2



IPPR North (The Institute for Public Policy Research)

In Conversation with Vince Cable

An opportunity to hear Business Secretary Vince Cable in conversation with Richard Moss, BBC Political Correspondent for the North East and Cumbria followed by a Q&A session. Hear insights on Coalition relations and the view of the North of England from Westminster plus reflections on two years in Coalition government. Wine and canapés will be served.

The Sage Gateshead,
Northern Rock Foundation Hall



saturday 10th march mid evening 20.00 – 21.15

The Law Society of England and Wales

The last chance saloon for access to justice?

Join us for an informal drinks reception to discuss how and why Liberal Democrats must seize the final opportunity in the House of Lords to amend the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill in order to preserve access to justice for the most vulnerable.

The Sage Gateshead, MEC 2

Keep Our NHS Public

It is not too late to withdraw the Health Bill: what doctors think

This session will discuss the amendments to the Bill, Professor Allyson Pollock, author of *NHS plc*; what doctors think, Dr Clive Peedell, Oncologist and Bevan's runner; and what's next, Professor Wendy Savage, Co-Chair of KONP. Chair: Dr Charles West.

The Sage Gateshead, MEC 9

Liberal Democrats for Electoral Reform (LDER)

Inaugural Meeting

Following the referendum debacle, LDER has been established as the new proactive group for electoral reformers within the party. Guest Speaker; Lord Rennard, discussions on priorities and strategy, Short Formal Meeting (members only – join for £1)

The Sage Gateshead, MEC 7

glee club

Where? **Hall 2, The Sage Gateshead**

When? **Saturday 10th March,
10pm to 2am**

Join us for the ultimate end-of-conference celebration!

Along with the cash bar there will be a glee cocktail bar and late night nibbles available from the café.

Pick up your copy of the *Liberator Songbook* and come and 'raise the roof'!



**The Sage
Gateshead**

left luggage

A left luggage facility will be available at the **Jurys Inn NewcastleGateshead** on **Sunday 11th March between 08.00 and 15.00**. A small charge will apply which is being donated to the British Heart Foundation.

Under no circumstances will any large bags or suitcases be allowed into The Sage Gateshead.

Serious business

At Rockliffe, we view conferencing very seriously. We also recognise delegates improve their focus when enjoying time out in our excellent facilities. Quite simply, Rockliffe is best for business because we provide a rest from business.




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saturday 10th march

timetable for saturday 10th march

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

Conference representatives wishing to speak in any of the debates are requested to fill in and submit a speaker's card as soon as possible.

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09.00 – 09.05 F1	Formal opening of conference by Fiona Hall MEP	
09.05 – 09.20 F2	Report: Federal Conference Committee	9
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10.20 – 11.15 F5	Policy motion: <i>Giving Young People a Future</i> (Policy Paper on Combating Youth Unemployment)	11
11.15 – 11.35 F6	Speeches: Brian Paddick and Caroline Pidgeon AM (London)	
11.35 – 12.45 F7	Policy motion: Making Tax Fairer	12
13.00	Deadline for questions to F12, Q&A session with the Party Leader Close of ballot box for selection of the emergency motion for debate at F19	
13.00 – 14.00	Lunchtime fringe	
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15.10 – 15.15 F9	Standing order amendment: Support For A Government Which Contains Other Political Parties	14
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17.00 – 17.40 F13	Policy motion: Public and Private Sector Pensions	15
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18.00	Deadline for questions to F16, the reports of the Parliamentary Parties	
18.15 – 02.00	Evening fringe	

Note: If agreed by conference during the report of the Federal Conference Committee (F2), the report of the Diversity and Engagement Group (F17) and the report of the Campaign for Gender Balance (F18), will be taken after F15 at the end of Saturday afternoon.

*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 and Directory**.*



Ministerial Q&A sessions

There will be a series of Ministerial Q&A sessions, where you can come along and ask questions of our Ministers and Parliamentarians on the issues relating to their responsibilities and their departments – a fantastic opportunity for members to find out more about what our Ministers and Parliamentarians are up to.

These sessions are very popular and places are limited so please arrive early to avoid disappointment.

Priority will be given to party members.

Sessions will take place in the **Northern Rock Foundation Hall, The Sage Gateshead.**

Please note that the timings have changed from those printed in the Agenda and Directory.

The sessions will take place at the following times:

09.30 – 10.30 Saturday 10th March

Q&A with Danny Alexander – Chief Secretary to the Treasury and member of the Coalition Quad.

Come along to ask Danny about his work in the Treasury and across Government.

11.00 – 12.00 Saturday 10th March

Q&A with our Lords and Commons Health team –

Paul Burstow, John Pugh, Judith Jolly, Shirley Williams, Liz Barker and Jonathan Marks.

Come along to discuss the progress of the Health and Social Care Bill in the House of Lords and hear first hand from our team who have been steering it through Parliament about how they are fighting to put Liberal Democrat principles at the heart of this Bill.

10.00 – 11.00 Sunday 11th March

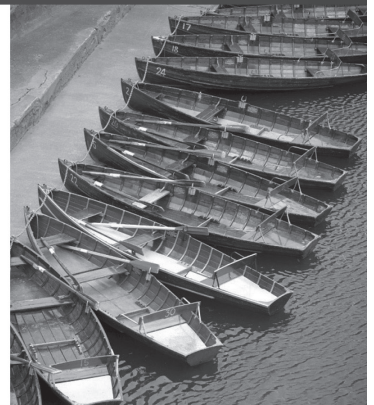
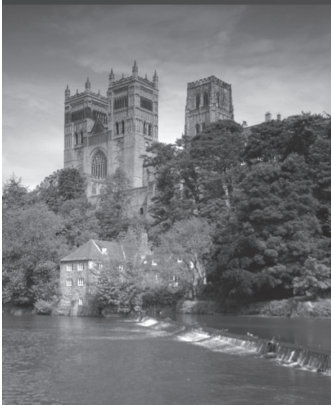
Q&A with Ed Davey – newly appointed Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change.

Come along and talk to Ed about his new portfolio; this is a great opportunity to talk to Ed about his priorities for the Department too.



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Durham
University

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09.05 Party business

F2 Federal Conference Committee Report

Note: The chair of FCC will ask for permission from conference to move the report of the Diversity and Engagement Group (F17) and the report of the Campaign for Gender Balance (F18), to be taken after F15 at the end of Saturday afternoon.

Q1. Submitted by Andrew Hudson

When will the people who submitted questions that weren't taken at Birmingham receive the answers that they were promised?

Q2. Submitted by Gareth Epps

Why have the answers to questions submitted to last Autumn's Federal Conference not been published, in contravention of Standing Order 12.4 which states that: 'After the conference the Committee shall publish the answers to all questions submitted under Standing Orders 1.5 (d) and (e) which are in order, and to all supplementary questions asked'?

Q3. Submitted by Mark Pack

In order to improve communication within the party and to help ensure members are well-informed, will the committee commence publishing a written report after each of its full committee meetings?

Q4. Submitted by Jacquie Bell

I have been a voting delegate since 1989. I was selected as an East Lothian voting rep at the AGM in November. At the weekend (4/3 after return from Scottish Conference) I received a non-voting badge.

Information sent said, if I was expecting a voting pass, to contact the local party officer who sent in the names. I thus e mailed on 4/3 a letter from the membership secretary confirming that I was a voting rep to Membership.

Yesterday (5/3) I was told by Membership it was too late to add me to the computerised list. The Membership secretary has apologised for forgetting my name off the list submitted. I was also told it was too late to add me as a substitute for one of the people whose name they do have and who I know are not going. I was told that it was not a unique situation – that others have been similarly been left off by local parties and thus without a vote.

As you can imagine it is disappointing to make the effort to come to Conference and then not be able to pay a full part in party decision making through no fault of my own. I had tried to rectify the mistake as soon as I got the pass – I had had no reason to think I would not get a voting pass and had registered as a voting delegate at the earliest opportunity. This wasn't queried at the time of registration when I might have had a chance to get the mistake corrected.

Please Conference Committee/ Conference organisers suggest ways to work with Membership on systems to ensure that this does not happen again to myself or others.



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Q5. Submitted by John Calvert

Although no one is expected to agree with every dot and comma of party policy, I certainly do not. Why is it that while it is party policy to keep the cheque book, the conference office will not accept them?

Q6. Submitted by Hywel Morgan

Whilst I thank the Chair of Conference Committee for providing speedy and comprehensive answers to the questions I tabled at Autumn conference, my experience of other party bodies is less good.

Will the Conference Committee therefore publish in their next report a breakdown of questions asked of each party body at conferences since Autumn 2010 along with figures for the number of questions which were answered within 28 days?

Will the Conference Committee consider whether there is a need to reform the way party bodies are questioned and held to account by conference (particularly in light of the move to 2 year terms) and will they report back their conclusions to the next conference?

F3 Federal Policy Committee Report

Q1. Submitted by Mark Pack

In order to improve communication within the party and to help ensure members are well-informed, will the committee commence publishing a written report after each of its full committee meetings?

Q2. Submitted by Mark Pack

Following the passage of motion F41 Community Politics at the party's autumn conference, what steps has the committee taken to implement it, and in particular Conference Calls For 2: "The party's parliamentarians and decision-making bodies to ensure that the policies and positions they develop are conducive to community politics and are worded and presented in such a way to help the community activist"?

09.20 Policy motion

F4 Europe

Federal Conference Committee has accepted the following drafting amendment to the motion:

- 1 *In 5. (line 35), delete 'of' and insert 'on', and delete 'accounts' and insert 'expenditure'.*
- 2 *After 6. b) (line 37) insert:*
- 3 c) Build a credible area of freedom, security and justice, through co-operating closely to fight
- 4 crime, ensure that family and other civil law works effectively across state borders, and
- 5 protect the basic rights and civil liberties of all our citizens.



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6 *After 6. f) (line 43) insert:*

- 7 g) Require more rigorous impact assessment of Commission proposals, to ensure that the EU
8 legislates or spends only where there is a clear added value to action at EU level.

Amendment One

11 conference representatives:

Mover: Andrew Duff MEP

Summation: To be announced

1 *After IV. (line 10), insert:*

- 2 V. Jeopardised efforts to save the euro.

3 *After B. (line 20), insert:*

- 4 C. The UK should support its EU partners in restoring financial stability as the basis for economic
5 recovery by taking decisive steps towards greater fiscal union within the Eurozone which
6 alone will restore both market and democratic confidence.

There will be a separate vote on 8 (line 47).

Background briefing:

This motion updates and develops policy on Europe in light of the outcome of the December 2011 European Council meeting. In particular, the motion creates new policy on the integration of the fiscal compact treaty with the European Union and the appointment of the President of the European Commission.

Existing policy on Europe is set out in the Liberal Democrat Manifesto for the 2009 European Elections, *Stronger Together, Poorer Apart*, policy paper 87, *Shaping our World Through a Strong Europe* (2008), and policy paper 56, *Future of Europe* (2003).

10.20 Policy motion

F5 Giving Young People a Future (Policy Paper on Combating Youth Unemployment)

Mover: Jo Swinson MP

Summation: Linda Jack

Amendment One

Federal Conference Committee has accepted the following drafting amendment to the motion:

1 *After line 8, insert:*

- 2 Conference further acknowledges that young people in rural areas face specific barriers to
3 accessing learning and training and beginning employment including overcoming the lack of
4 access to public services such as public transport, public libraries and youth services which are
5 being cut by Councils in many rural areas.



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There will be separate votes on E. (lines 30–31), and on 5. (lines 69–70).

Background briefing:

This motion and the accompanying paper substantially update policy on youth unemployment. They include new proposals to extend the Youth Contract into the next Spending Review period, retain permanently the Youth Contract guarantee for 18-year-olds, allow schools to be assessed as 'underperforming' when too high a proportion of leavers become NEET, enabling local authorities to intervene.

Existing policies on youth unemployment are set out in the 2010 General Election Manifesto *Change that Works for You*, policy paper 96, *Free to be Young* (2010), and policy paper 80, *Freedom From Poverty: Opportunity For All* (2007).

11.35 Policy motion

F7 Making Tax Fairer

Federal Conference Committee has accepted the following drafting amendment to the motion:

1 *After II. (line 5), insert:*

2 Conference further believes that:

- 3 i) A taxation system cannot be truly fair unless it is also green. The effects of pollution and
4 carbon emissions disproportionately impact the poorest and most vulnerable in society.
5 ii) The environmental impact of goods and services is not adequately reflected in the current tax
6 system.
7 iii) The tax system needs to be re-balanced so that pollution, carbon emissions and wealth are
8 more heavily taxed and work is less heavily taxed.

10 *In line 7, after 'position and that', insert: 'environmentally sustainable'.*

Amendment One

Merton Borough

Mover: Simon McGrath

Summator: To be announced

1 *After 3. c) (line 49), insert:*

- 2 d) Ensuring that international businesses including internet based companies pay a fair level of
3 tax which reflects their revenue generated from the UK.

Amendment Two

Richmond and Twickenham

Mover: Roger Crouch

Summator: John Roberts



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1 *After 3. c) (line 49), insert:*

- 2 d) Extending the scope of inheritance tax by lengthening the period for which gifts made by
3 a donor before death are potentially exempt from inheritance tax from the current seven to
4 fifteen years.

Background briefing:

This motion re-affirms and updates policy on reform of the tax system. In particular, proposals include raising the Personal Allowance to £10,000 as soon as possible, limiting the amount of tax relief on pension contributions for the highest earners, raising the Capital Gains Tax rate and cracking down on tax avoidance and evasion.

Existing tax policy is set out in the 2010 General Election Manifesto *Change that Works for You*, and policy paper 94, *A Fresh Start for Britain* (2009), building on the policies set out in policy paper 81, *Reducing the Burden* (2007), and policy paper 75, *Fairer, Simpler, Greener* (2006).

Chief Executive Q&A

**Saturday 10th March, 15.00 – 16.00,
The Sage Gateshead,
Northern Rock Foundation Hall**

Q&A with Tim Gordon –
newly appointed Chief Executive

*Come along and talk to Tim about his new role,
give your views on what his priorities should be
and hear what he is planning for 2012
and beyond.*

For party members only



Health Bill drop-in

For party members only

Paul Burstow MP and Judith Jolly
will be available to answer any questions
conference representatives may have on the
Health and Social Care Bill.

in the
**Halbert Space
in The Sage Gateshead**

***on Saturday 10th March,
14.30 – 15.30***

***and Saturday 10th March,
17.30 – 18.30***

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14.15 Constitutional amendment

F8 Support For A Government Which Contains Other Political Parties

Amendment One

Merton Borough and 14 conference representatives

Mover: Simon McGrath

Summator: To be announced

1 *After 15.5 (line 27), insert:*

2 15.6 If after a vote at Conference

3 (a) the proposal from the Commons Party is agreed but

4 (b) the majority is less than 2/3rds then, if after further consideration, the Commons Party still
5 wishes to support the arrangement with one or more other parties then at their request
6 the Federal Executive shall arrange a ballot of all Party members pursuant to clause 6.11
7 or 8.6 of the Constitution, the consent of a majority of those voting shall be taken as
8 giving support to the arrangement.

15.35 Policy motion

F11 The Greenest Government Ever

Federal Conference Committee has accepted the following drafting amendment to the motion:

1 *After 2. a) (line 32), insert:*

2 b) Facilitating the early construction of interconnectors with the rest of Europe and in particular
3 with Norway, in order to balance rising production from UK renewable energy sources and
4 allow the UK to export excess renewable electricity in times of plentiful supply.

Amendment One

11 conference representatives

Mover: Sandy Walkington

Summator: Nik Alatortsev

1 *After 3. e) (line 60), insert:*

2 f) Continuing to extend electrification of the rail network as far and as fast as possible to
3 accelerate the achievement of a carbon-free railway and to manage the operation and
4 detailed specification of HS2 with energy efficiency as well as sheer speed in mind.

Background briefing:

This motion updates and develops policy on the environment. In particular, it calls for the adoption of an EU Energy Efficiency Directive, the introduction of a windfall tax on operators of existing nuclear stations, increased use of biofuels from environmentally sustainable sources,



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investment in green projects through the Green Investment Bank and securing agreement to a more ambitious EU target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Existing party policy on the environment is set out in conference motion *A Green Stimulus for Economic Recovery* (2011), the 2010 General Election Manifesto *Change that Works for You*, Policy Paper 93, *Our National Heritage* (2009) and policy paper 82, *Towards a Zero Carbon Britain* (2007).

17.00 Policy motion

F13 Public and Private Sector Pensions

Amendment One

21 conference representatives

Proposer: Mark Blackburn

Summator: Linda Jack

1 *After 4 (line 58), insert:*

- 2 5. Reconsider the linkage between the public sector pension age and state pension age in
3 the knowledge that not all public sector workers will be able to work to 68 or older, and at
4 minimum protect those concerned by allowing early retirement without penalty, within the
5 negotiations with the unions.
- 6 6. Ensure that low and medium earners, who are mainly part-time and women, are properly
7 protected from a decrease in living standards attributable to contribution increases, both
8 before and after the new schemes come in from 2015, within the negotiations with the unions.

Background briefing:

This motion creates new policy on the system of private and public sector pensions. Key proposals include reforming pension scheme actuarial valuation rules, lifting overly interventionist regulatory practices, simplifying occupational defined contribution pension schemes, merging local government pension schemes and investigating the extension of the Pensions Regulator's Online Toolkit.

17.40 Party business

F14 Questions to Federal Executive Report

Q1. Submitted by Mark Pack

In order to improve communication within the party and to help ensure members are well-informed, will the committee commence publishing a written report after each of its full committee meetings?

Q2. Submitted by Mark Pack

Following the passage of motion F41, Community Politics, at the party's autumn conference, what steps has the committee taken to implement it, and in particular Conference Calls For 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6?



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Q3. Submitted by Simon McGrath

How many people from each of category applied for the leadership programme? How many were successful?

Was anyone not included in the Programme because they were not in an under-represented Group?

Will the full report on the recruitment process, which has been widely circulated by made available to all members?

Q4. Submitted by Simon McGrath

When will the report into the AV Referendum and the 2011 local elections be published?

F15 Questions to Federal Finance and Administration Committee

Q1. Submitted by Cllr. Ron Beadle

This question refers to the Membership and Development section of the report: could you provide the total membership of the party for each quarter from May 2010 to March 2012, expressed by region and state parties?

Q2. Submitted by Hywel Morgan

I only received a copy of your reply to my question regarding ministerial tithes a few days ago. In that answer you stated: "The budget for 2012 has not yet been settled. For the purposes of the outline budget, the projected tithe income has been established with reference to money received so far. There is no requirement on ministers to pay their tithes in a particular way or by a particular point in the financial year. Therefore I am confident that – following my discussions with Alistair Carmichael – we will be able to revise that figure upwards during the budget-setting process."

- i) The Treasurer produced budgets for 2011 presented to conference in Spring 2011 and Autumn 2011 which had an entry of £40,000 income from Ministerial tithes in that year. How was this figure arrived at?
- ii) The figure in the outline budget for 2012 presented to Autumn conference was £30,000. Has the Treasurer been able to revise this figure upwards or downwards during the year following his discussions with the Chief Whip?

Q3. Submitted by Hywel Morgan

A further part of your answer to me (regarding MP contributions) stated: "Yes - I am satisfied that our MPs are making appropriate contributions and that those that haven't yet in this financial year will do so. I regularly meet Alistair Carmichael and this is an item that we monitor jointly. As with the ministerial tithes, I am not prepared to go into details."

- i) This answer seems contradictory. How can you have been satisfied that our MPs "are making appropriate contributions" when seem are apparently yet to do so?
- ii) Of those MPs who hadn't made a contribution at the time of your previous answer how many did so in the remainder of the financial year?
- iii) How many times in the 2011 financial year did you meet with the Chief Whip to monitor this?



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- iv) If you are not willing to provide further details then, given the clear recommendation of the Bones Commission regarding “tithes” from elected Liberal Democrats and the fact that such contributions are mandatory for elected councillors in England will you give full reasons for your refusal?

Q4. Submitted by Hywel Morgan

The draft budget in the FFAC report is broken down into the following headings:

Income:

Direct mail appeals and standing orders
LD Calling
Fundraising income
POLD restricted income
Federal levy
Conference
Lib Dem News
Cross charges to state parties
Policy Development Fund
WFD Admin fees
ELDR Grant income
Affinity
Regional draws
Interest Receivable

Expenditure:

Chief Executive’s department
Elections & Skills
Membership
Finance & Resources
Commons Whips
SAOs
ELDR/LI
PDF grants to Scotland & Wales



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However previous draft budgets – including the 2012 draft budget present to Autumn Conference in 2011 used these headings:

Income:

Direct mail appeals and standing orders
Ministerial tithes
LDCalling
Fundraising income
POLD restricted income
Federal levy
Conference
Lib Dem News
Cross charges to state parties
Policy Development Fund
WFD Admin fees
ELDR Grant income
Affinity
Interest receivable
London Rent
Regional draws

Cost of sales:

Appeals costs
Fundraising costs
Conference
Lib Dem News

Expenditure:

Staff costs:

Campaigns
Office of the Chief Executive
Commons Whips
Conference
Finance & Resources
Fundraising Unit
International
LDCalling
Lib Dem News
Membership
Policy
Media & Communications
Restructuring costs

Departmental non-staff costs:

Campaigns
Office of the Chief Executive
Conference
Finance & Resources
International
LDCalling
Membership
Media & Communications
Policy
Fundraising
Commons Whips

Campaigns & Development:

Campaigns & elections

Central costs:

Depreciation
Organisational staff costs
Communications
1975 Pension scheme
Audit fees
Bank charges
Irrecoverable VAT
Committee expenses
Services to MPs
Grants to party units
Grants to Scotland & Wales



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This change makes it difficult to compare figures on a like for like basis and no explanation as to the rationale behind this change is made in the accompanying report. Why has this change been made, will the Party Treasurer publish a draft budget containing figures in categories which allow a meaningful comparison to be made to previous budgets?

Q5. Submitted by Hywel Morgan

Is the figure for budgeted income for 2012 a net or gross figure? Will the Party Treasurer publish budget figures for the cost of sales as has been the previous practice?

Q6. Submitted by Hywel Morgan

The draft budget presented to Autumn conference showed a budgeted income of £5,340,000 (gross) £4,494,000 (net) (compared to a £5,323,047 and £4,525,522 in 2011). The budget presented to this conference shows a budgeted income of £6,466,000. As there is no explanation in the accompanying report of why these figures have increased so dramatically could the Treasurer provide one?

Q7. Submitted by Hywel Morgan

The draft budget presented to Autumn conference showed a budgeted expenditure of £4,376,500 (compared to £4,325,111 in 2011). The budget presented to this conference shows a budgeted expenditure of £6,266,000. What is the reason for this sharply increased figure?

Q8. Submitted by Hywel Morgan

The draft budget presented to Autumn conference 2012 listed £331,000 budgeted expenditure for the Office of the Chief Executive. The draft budget presented to this conference lists just over £2.3 million to be spent on the Chief Executive's department. Assuming the Chief Executive has not expanded his department 7 fold in 6 months what spending headings are now being grouped under this category?

Q9. Submitted by Hywel Morgan

How much does the Treasurer expect Ministerial tithes will bring in during 2012. If this will be significantly below the £40,000 figure in the budget for 2011 will he explain why that is the case?

Q10. Submitted by Hywel Morgan

The budget presented to conference only achieves a surplus because of a significant increase in fundraising income. This has more than doubled from the figure in the draft budget presented to Autumn conference (which was itself a significant increase from the 2011 budget). Can the Treasurer confirm that:

- 1) This is a sustainable budget target to have set.
- 2) Whether this figure is net or gross of any additional fundraising costs incurred?
- 3) If additional fundraising costs have been incurred what those are?
- 4) What contingency plans are in place if this fundraising target is not met.
- 5) Whether the outturn accounts for January and March indicate whether or not this target is being met.



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Q11. Submitted by Hywel Morgan

Due to the failure of Connect to be an adequately working system when first launched the party has by way of compensation provided local parties with an additional 3 months free trial. What effect does this have on budget projections for 2012?

Q12. Submitted by Hywel Morgan

The Bones report made an "urgent" recommendation in 2008 that it be a condition of becoming an elected Liberal Democrat (at all levels) that you tithe to the party. Is the Chair of FFAC satisfied that all our MPs and MEPs have complied with this recommendation? What discussions has he had with the Whips of the relevant parliamentary parties about achieving full compliance with this recommendation?

Q13. Submitted by Hywel Morgan

Will the Treasurer give a commitment that any questions not answered at conference due to either lack of conference time or the need to obtain additional information will be answered within 28 days of conference and published in Liberal Democrat News?



Don't break up the NHS

UNISON members are speaking up against the Health and Social Care Bill because fragmentation, instability and inequity will not allow NHS staff to deliver the healthcare that patients and their families deserve.

And it's not just UNISON opposing the Bill. Other NHS staff, patient organisations and the public are all concerned about the future of the NHS if this Bill becomes law.

If you share these concerns we are asking you to speak up against the Bill too.

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The Last Chance Saloon for Access to Justice?

Saturday 10 March

20:00 – 21:15, room MEC 2 in the Sage Gateshead – All welcome

The Government's Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill is nearing the completion of its Parliamentary stages. Without amendment it threatens to seriously undermine fair and equal access to justice – a fundamental tenet of a liberal society.

Come and join the Law Society, colleagues and fellow delegates for an informal drinks reception to discuss how and why Liberal Democrats must seize this final opportunity in Parliament to amend the Bill in order to preserve access to justice for the most vulnerable.



**SOUND OFF
FOR JUSTICE**

"The removal of legal aid as proposed could have many unintended consequences. I hope that we shall be able during the passage of the Bill to make changes which guarantee effective access to justice for all. That means access to good-quality, face-to-face, free advice from a qualified person, and representation when it is needed for those without their own resources to enable them to pursue their right to equality under the law"

Lord John Shipley, Second Reading, November 2011

"It is clear that Part 1 of the Bill, if it passes into law, will narrow access to justice... It is essential then that the areas where access will be narrowed are carefully chosen and the most vulnerable... protected. It seems that many noble Lords... feel that these important aims may not yet have been entirely achieved by the Bill so that if Part 1 passes into law unrevised, the pain will... fall disproportionately on the weakest and the most vulnerable"

Lord Ken Macdonald, Lords Second Reading, November 2011

"I have one objective in these considerations: if I do not think that a Bill was in the right place when it began, I want to ensure that it ends up in the right place by the time it becomes law..."

Simon Hughes MP, Commons Report Stage, October 2011

"These are not easy times for the country... Times like these can breed protectionism and populism. So times like these are when liberals are needed most. Our party has fought for liberal values for a century and half: justice, optimism, freedom. We're not about to give up now"

Nick Clegg, Conference Speech, September 2011

advance notice for sunday 11th march

09.00 Party business

F16 Parliamentary Party Reports

Questions to Commons

Q1. Submitted by Andrew Hudson

What is the group's position on the proposed changes in the rules for migrant domestic workers including the removal of the right to change employer?

Q2. Submitted by Mark Pack

Motion F41 Community Politics, passed at the party's autumn conference, included Conference Calls For 2: "The party's parliamentarians and decision-making bodies to ensure that the policies and positions they develop are conducive to community politics and are worded and presented in such a way to help the community activist". What steps have the Parliamentary Party taken since the passing of the motion in order to help achieve this?

Q3. Submitted by Hywel Morgan

The Bones report made an "urgent" recommendation in 2008 that it be a condition of becoming an elected Liberal Democrat (at all levels) that you tithe to the party. Is the Chief Whip satisfied that all our MPs and MEPs have complied with this recommendation? What amendments have been made to the standing orders of the Parliamentary Party in order to achieve full compliance with this recommendation?

Questions to Lords

Q1. Submitted by Mark Pack

Motion F41 Community Politics, passed at the party's autumn conference, included Conference Calls for 2: "The party's parliamentarians and decision-making bodies to ensure that the policies and positions they develop are conducive to community politics and are worded and presented in such a way to help the community activist." What steps have the Parliamentary Party taken since the passing of the motion in order to help achieve this?

Questions to Europe

Q1. Submitted by Mark Pack

Motion F41 Community Politics, passed at the party's autumn conference, included Conference Calls For 2: "The party's parliamentarians and decision-making bodies to ensure that the policies and positions they develop are conducive to community politics and are worded and presented in such a way to help the community activist". What steps have the Parliamentary Party taken since the passing of the motion in order to help achieve this?



advance notice for sunday 11th march

09.30 Emergency motion or topical issue

One emergency motion to be selected by ballot. Please see page 26 for further information.

10.00 Policy motion

F20 Trusted, Professional and Effective: British Policing at its Best

Amendment One

37 conference representatives

Mover: Gareth Epps

Summation: Suzanne Fletcher

1 *At end (after line 63), insert:*

2 Conference calls on the Government to ensure, using primary legislation if necessary, that the
3 principle of accountability in the police is not eroded by any move to offer services for tender by the
4 private sector. Conference calls on Liberal Democrats in Government to oppose any relaxation of
5 the rules that prohibit frontline services from being offered to tender.

10.45 Policy motion

F21 Civil Liberties

Federal Conference Committee has accepted the following drafting amendment to the motion:

1 *After 3. b) (line 37), insert:*

2 c) The equality impact of surveillance is too little researched, too little known and of crucial
3 importance to the cohesion of our society.

Amendment One

Greater Reading

Mover: Dr Jenny Woods

Summation: Jason Mehmet

1 *After 4. e) (line 96), insert:*

2 5. The right to privacy to be protected by:

3 a) Ensuring that there shall be no interception of telephone calls, SMS messages, social
4 media, internet or any other communications without named, specific and time-limited
5 warrants;

6 b) Guaranteeing that any communications data kept by service providers in accordance
7 with the EU Data Retention Directive are kept securely by the service providers, and that
8 they be only released to government bodies with strict and strengthened safeguards;

9 c) Ensuring that service providers are not mandated by law to collect communications data



advance notice for sunday 11th march

- 10 by any method that would also provide access to content information, unless specifically
11 authorised by a warrant;
- 12 d) Ensuring that service providers are not mandated by law to collect third-party
13 communications data for non-business purposes by any method;
- 14 e) Renegotiating the EU Data Retention Directive and changing how it is implemented into
15 UK law, to provide a better balance towards privacy.

Amendment Two

Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association

Mover: Geoff Payne

Summator: James Sandbach

1 *At end (after line 97), add:*

- 2 6. The protection of fair and equal access to justice, through:
- 3 a) A properly funded system whereby access to legal advice and representation before the
4 courts is not denied to those otherwise unable to bear the costs.
- 5 b) The continued provision of legal aid, for those who cannot afford to pay for legal services,
6 in serious cases where a failure to provide legal services may lead to injustice.
- 7 c) The continued provision of free legal advice and assistance to all held in custody
8 regardless of means and merits.
- 9 d) The continued provision of legal aid to those who qualify in appeals cases where there
10 are grounds of appeal, and ensuring that the scope of civil legal aid covers appropriate
11 legal help and assistance in categories of law where the issues raised are of substantial
12 importance to the assisted person and which cannot be settled by alternative dispute
13 resolution (ADR).
- 14 e) Adequately supporting ADR and other means of resolving civil legal problems through the
15 training and provision of mediation and conciliation services, and through direct support
16 of Citizens Advice Bureaux and Law Centres.
- 17 f) The implementation of the party's policy on Access to Justice debated at Conference in
18 2011.

There will be separate votes on 2. a) (lines 58–60) and on 2. b) (lines 61–62).

Scan this to access the
consultation papers and
policy papers online:



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During conference we will be tweeting live
from the auditorium. Follow us at:
www.twitter.com/libdemconf

emergency motions ballot

One emergency motion will be selected by ballot to be debated on Sunday morning. Please vote using the attached ballot paper and return it to the ballot box in the Auditorium in The Sage Gateshead between 09.00 and 13.00 on Saturday 10th March.

Emergency motion 1: Behind Closed Doors – Justice and Security Green Paper

Hackney

1 Conference notes the proposal in the Government's Justice and Security Green Paper to extend
2 the use of Closed Material Procedure (CMP) and Special Advocates to all civil litigation and coronial
3 inquests at the instigation of the Minister.

4 Conference recognises that, if adopted, these proposals will overturn centuries old fair trial
5 protections; give the Executive unprecedented control over disclosure in court proceedings;
6 infringe the freedom of the press; and undermine public confidence in government and the judicial
7 process.

8 Conference notes that this issue has become urgent in recent weeks due to:

- 9 a) The statement of the Prime Minister on 2nd March 2012 that the Green Paper proposals need
10 to be brought forward in legislation.
11 b) Media reporting which has brought this issue to the public forefront.
12 c) The ongoing inquiry into the proposals by the Joint Committee on Human Rights which is due
13 Report back before the parliamentary Easter recess.
14 d) The widely reported Government commitment to bring forth a parliamentary bill implementing
15 these proposals.
16 e) The expectation that such a parliamentary bill will be announced in the Queen's Speech on
17 9th May 2012.

18 Conference reaffirms its belief in the importance of the principle of open justice, the right to a fair
19 trial and that transparency is a fundamental aspect of democratic accountability.

20 Conference declares its opposition to the Green Paper proposals and calls on Liberal Democrat
21 parliamentarians and Ministers in the Coalition Government to:

- 22 1. Reject these proposals.
23 2. Veto any proposed bill seeking to implement the Paper's proposals.

Emergency motion 2: Protecting our NHS: the Shirley Williams Motion

15 conference representatives

1 Conference notes:

2 A) That during the Lords Report Stage of the Health and Social Care Bill in February and March
3 2012 Liberal Democrats, in conjunction with peers from other benches, have achieved
4 significant changes to the Conservative Health Secretary's original Health and Social Care Bill.

5 B) Taking the lead from the motion passed at Spring Conference 2011 Liberal Democrats in the
6 House of Lords have worked successfully to:



emergency motions ballot

- 7 i) Guarantee the Secretary of State's responsibility for a comprehensive health service, his
8 power to intervene if things go wrong and his accountability to Parliament.
9 ii) Ensure that competition in the NHS is in the interests of patients, based on quality not
10 price.
11 iii) Secure the commissioning process against damaging conflicts of interest.
12 iv) Ensure that any profits from treating private patients in Foundation Trust hospitals are
13 invested in the NHS.
14 v) Underpin the independence of public health.
15 vi) Place a duty on the National Commissioning Board and CCGs to address and report on
16 progress in reducing health inequalities as part of how their performance is assessed.
17 vii) Place on all service providers an equal duty to provide NHS education and training; and
18 viii) Put the NHS in the vanguard of medical research.

19 Conference further:

- 20 1. Confirms the commitment of Liberal Democrats to a comprehensive national health service
21 accessible to all and free at the point of need.
- 22 2. Welcomes the changes made to the Bill, which meet the main demands made by Conference
23 at Sheffield, including:
- 24 a. Making Monitor's top priority the interests of NHS patients, not competition.
25 b. Ending Labour's policy of giving preferential terms to the private sector.
- 26 3. Supports the Liberal Democrat team in the House of Lords in its endeavours to ensure that
27 the Bill is further amended to:
- 28 a. Remove reviews by the Competition Commission from the Bill.
29 b. Retain Monitor's regulation of Foundation Trusts after 2016.
30 c. Ensure that individual Foundation Trusts have to justify in advance any substantial
31 increase in their private income.
- 32 4. Calls on Liberal Democrat peers to support the Third Reading of the Bill provided such further
33 amendments are achieved.
- 34 5. Calls Liberal Democrats nationally and locally to work with Royal Colleges, NHS staff, patients
35 and carers groups and local authorities in the interests of upholding the NHS as a public
36 service, ensuring its ability to meet the challenges of an ageing society despite constrained
37 financial circumstances, and securing better health outcomes for all.

Emergency motion 3: Violence in Syria

10 Conference representatives

1 Conference condemns:

- 2 i) Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's brutal slaughter of his own people and his repeated
3 targeting of civilians, resulting in the loss of over 7,500 lives.
4 ii) Syrian government officials, including Bashar al-Assad, who are responsible for ordering
5 crimes against humanity and other gross human rights violations, including executing
6 deserters and torturing detainees, as reported by the United Nations-appointed independent



emergency motions ballot

- 7 international commission of inquiry on Syria.
8 iii) Continued Iranian, Russian and Chinese backing of the Assad regime.
9 iv) The Russian and Chinese veto in late January of a UN Security Council Resolution, proposed
10 by the Kingdom of Morocco on behalf of the Arab League, which called for a peaceful end to
11 the crisis in Syria.
12 v) The Assad regime hindering humanitarian organisations reaching those Syrian civilians caught
13 in the violence and in need of food, water, sanitation provisions and medical attention.

14 Conference welcomes:

- 15 A. The diplomatic effort the UK Coalition Government is making to coordinate pressure on the
16 Assad regime, particularly in working with the European Union, United Nations, Arab League
17 and Friends of Syria group.
18 B. The appointment of former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan as the joint Special Envoy to
19 Syria for the UN and Arab League.
20 C. The Government's decision on 29 February to suspend the services of the British Embassy in
21 Damascus and withdraw all diplomatic staff.

22 Conference calls for:

- 23 1. Continued political momentum and peaceful international pressure, with support from the
24 Arab League, for an immediate ceasefire and unhindered access to the Syrian men, women
25 and children affected by the violence and in need of humanitarian relief.
26 2. Continued support for the Syrian National Council to encourage a more united and
27 representative Syrian opposition toward a peaceful and more democratic Syria.
28 3. The Government to support the UN High Commission for Refugees in its efforts to assist the
29 thousands of Syrian refugees who have fled to Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey.
30 4. The Government to engage more actively and directly with our NATO ally Turkey to address
31 this situation on its borders.
32 5. The Government to build on the EU sanctions agreed on 27 February, which further restrict
33 the Assad regime's sources of revenue.
34 6. Those Syrian officials accused of crimes against humanity to be brought to justice.

Emergency motion 4: Withdrawal of the Health and Social Care Bill

Shrewsbury & Atcham, Winchester, St Ives, Mid Worcestershire, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Warwick and Leamington, Camberwell & Peckham and 204 conference representatives

1 Conference applauds:

- 2 i) The excellent work by Liberal Democrat peers in scrutinising and removing some of the most
3 damaging elements of the Health & Social Care Bill at Report Stage in the House of Lords.
4 ii) The new amendments announced by Nick Clegg and Baroness Williams on February 28th to
5 reduce the threat of US-style marketisation of healthcare posed by the competition clauses of
6 the Bill.

7 Conference notes however that, despite these changes, the Government has failed to convince
8 the public or NHS staff that the NHS will be improved by the Bill, and that since January 11th
9 ever more health organisations and professional bodies have moved from critical engagement to
10 outright opposition to the Bill.



emergency motions ballot

11 Conference further believes that:

- 12 a) The implementation of the Bill will be deeply disruptive and distracting to efforts to achieve the
13 unprecedented efficiency savings required of the NHS each year.
- 14 b) The Bill will make essential re-structuring of hospital services and true integration of health
15 and social care more difficult.
- 16 c) The increasing opposition to the bill as it reaches its final stages, even among those who were
17 formerly supportive, makes it clear that Andrew Lansley's original Bill was so deeply flawed
18 that it is not possible to make it fit for purpose through amendment.

19 Conference therefore calls on all Liberal Democrats to work together to achieve the withdrawal or
20 defeat of this flawed and unpopular Bill and ensure that future reform:

- 21 1) Builds on those elements of the bill introduced by our parliamentarians that have gained wide
22 support.
- 23 2) Guarantees an equitable, publicly accountable, universal and comprehensive health service
24 as set out by Conference last Spring.
- 25 3) Excludes further unnecessary and disruptive top-down reorganisation as explicitly ruled out
26 by the coalition agreement.



Packed Lunch Bags
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25% off Draft Beer and House Wine

Celebrate the start of the conference
5.00pm - 5.30pm Friday 9th March



Breakfast : Michael Straker Cafe 7am - 11.30am
Serving Northumberland Sausage & Bacon Stotties, Home Baked Pastries, Fruit and Freshly Ground Coffee

Lunch : Michael Straker Cafe 12noon - 3pm
Serving Home made Soup of the Day, Carved Roast Sandwiches, Daily Chef Specials, Fresh Baguettes, Panini s and Flat Breads plus much more!

Lunch : Brasserie 12noon - 3pm
We will be offering an express lunch service in our Brasserie - 2 course £9.95, three course £12.95

Afternoon Tea : Michael Straker Cafe & Brasserie 3pm - 5pm
Afternoon Tea for two £9.95 - served in the Cafe or Brasserie

Dinner Service : Michael Straker Cafe & Brasserie 5pm - 9pm
Offering a wide range of Home Cooked Fresh Food

Late Service
Cafe will be open until the building closes offering late night snacks

Conference Catering at
The Sage Gateshead

Iconic Venue, Iconic Food



Afternoon Treat

Enjoy a Home made Tray Bake or Scone with a pot of Tea or Filter Coffee for just £2.95

FILTER COFFEE £1.00



Late Night Cocktail Bar

Visit the Cocktail Bar on Hall 2 and also enjoy late night snacks in the cafe on Saturday 10th March

Emergency Motions Ballot Paper

Please vote by listing your preferences in order (1, 2, 3 etc.)

Emergency motion 1: Behind closed doors – Justice and Security Green Paper	
Emergency motion 2: Protecting our NHS: the Shirley Williams Motion	
Emergency motion 3: Violence in Syria	
Emergency motion 4: Withdrawal of the Health and Social Care Bill	

Please return this paper to the ballot box in the Auditorium in The Sage Gateshead between 09.00 and 13.00 on Saturday 10th March.

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