

Conference Daily

Spring Conference

Saturday 12th March 2016



Updates to the *Conference Agenda & Directory*, information from the Federal Conference Committee, timings for conference sessions, amendments, emergency motions and questions to reports; detailed information for Saturday 12th March and advance information for Sunday 13th March. Please read in conjunction with the *Agenda & Directory*.

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The *Agenda & Directory* and other conference publications, in PDF, plain text and clear print formats, are available online



www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers
or ask at the Information Desk in the York Barbican.

Please keep hold of this *Conference Daily* throughout conference, and make sure you pick up a copy of Sunday's *Conference Daily* from the literature collection points in the York Barbican on Sunday 13th March.

Against the politics of division, our message of
hope & optimism
is needed now more than ever.

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Being in Europe
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JOBS NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE – over 3 million UK jobs are linked to our exports with Europe (*Source: HM Treasury*), and being in Europe means more opportunities available now and for future generations.



WORKERS' RIGHTS PROTECTED – the EU protects the rights of UK workers: paid maternity leave, guaranteed holiday leave, equal pay and anti-discrimination measures all come directly from European law. If we leave Europe they could be at risk.



TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE – Britain needs to be at the forefront in the fight against climate change. And that means Britain remaining part of the EU, so we can continue to work closely with our neighbours to cut emissions and protect our natural environment.

For more information visit us at
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BRITAIN STRONGER **IN** EUROPE

Promoted by Will Straw on behalf of Britain Stronger in Europe (The In Campaign Ltd), both at St Bride's House, Salisbury Square, London, EC4Y 8EH.

Information update

FE helpdesk

The FE helpdesk is situated by the Information Desk. Members of the Federal Executive will be available to have strategic conversations with members at the following times:

Saturday	12th March	10.30–12.30
		and 14.00–16.00
Sunday	13th March	10.30–11.30

Please note that the FE helpdesk will be open to 11.30 on Sunday, not 12.30 as printed in the Agenda & Directory.

Parking

Parking is available for £5.50 at the Q car park located behind the York Barbican, Kent Street, YO10 4AH. Buy your parking token from the York Barbican and use it on your way out.

Taxis

Streamline Taxis are offering 10% off all city-wide taxi journeys during conference. Simply present your conference photo pass to the driver at the start of your journey to secure your discount. Telephone 01904 656565.

Q&A sessions

Come along to the Q&A sessions where you can ask questions of our spokespeople.

Saturday 12th March:

11.30–12.15 Foreign Affairs
12.30–13.15 DEFRA & DECC

Sunday 13th March:

10.00–11.00 Health

All in York Barbican, Lendal Room

Conference Calling

Want to learn how to do phone canvassing from home?

Drop by the Connect stand in the exhibition for practical demonstrations from Team 2016 volunteers, who will help you have a go!



Fringe update

Additions and amendments to listings in the fringe guide in the Agenda & Directory.

Fringe Saturday lunchtime 13.00–14.00

Social Liberal Forum and Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary

Safe at Last? Syrian Refugees in the UK

Panellists: Zrinka Bralo (Executive Director, Migrant and Refugee Communities Forum); Baroness Sally Hamwee (Home Affairs Spokesperson in the House of Lords); Yasmine Nahlawi (Rethink Rebuild Society: the Voice of the Syrian Community of Manchester). Chair: Mark Blackburn (Acting Director, SLF).

Novotel, Meeting Room 3

#strongerIN Lib Dem EU Referendum Campaign

EU referendum strategy briefing

Hilton, Bootham Room

Please note: this event has been cancelled

Fringe Saturday early evening 18.15–19.15

Meet the Doctors

Not fair and not safe

The NHS is under extreme attack at the moment. What is the future of the NHS? What are doctors so angry about? Chair: Dr Anna Fryer, Consultant Liaison Psychiatrist, Parliamentary Liaison Committee Member RCPsych.

Barbican, Lendal Room

Social Liberal Forum

What next for the Social Liberal Forum?

Meet with the SLF Council and Executive members to discuss what's next for Social Liberalism and share ideas for our future. Wine will be available at this event. Donations welcome.

Novotel, Meeting Room 1&2



Conference training programme

Saturday 09:30 – 10:30

Introduction to becoming an approved candidate

This session will give you a general introduction to candidate assessment and the key skills and knowledge you need to pass your approval day. Amna Ahmad & Brian Orrell for the Candidates' Office.

Novotel, Meeting Room 1&2

Please note change of venue and end time.



LIBERAL LEAVE

Making the case for a fair, free and equal Britain outside the EU



Paul Keetch, former MP for Hereford, and Liberal Democrat Shadow Defence Secretary during the invasion of Iraq:

“Liberal Democrats are internationalists to

our core – we believe in universal human rights and that nations can achieve more together than they can alone. But that should not be the same as unquestioning support for the illiberal and undemocratic institutions of the European Union. Decisions affecting people’s lives should be made as closely as possible to individuals and communities – not in secretive meetings of the EU’s Council of Ministers. **I don’t support Leave in spite of being a liberal. I support Leave because I am a liberal.**”



Anne Cremin, student in Oxford:

“I’m an internationalist and believe we should do far more to help people in the developing world break out of poverty. That means trading

with them. But unfair EU trade policies make it very difficult for developing nations to trade with us, due to tariff escalation and food export preferences. If an African country wants to export chocolate to the UK, it must pay a 30% import tariff, sometimes up to 60%. This means that EU products, while no better, are significantly cheaper. **If we want to help developing countries break out of poverty, it’s time for us to break free of the European Union.**”



Charles Anglin, former Parliamentary Candidate for Vauxhall:

“**Another Europe is possible. It’s just not on offer.** As Liberal Democrats, we believe in a fair, free and open Europe – but those of us in Liberal Leave realise the European Union has no intention of being liberal or democratic. By voting to leave, the UK would be able to better engage with the world on trade and immigration, and work to build a Europe that was open and accountable to its citizens.”



Luis Lopez, student in London:

“As someone who came to Britain from Colombia, I know it’s getting harder and harder for people from outside the EU to move to the UK. **Immigration should be based on the values**

you hold – not the passport you hold. The European Union is far too insular and has failed time and again to stand up for LGBT rights or the rights of refugees.”



Charles Shaw, a Liberal Democrat Councillor in Lincolnshire:

“The best way to secure a fair, free and open society, in which no-one is enslaved by poverty, ignorance and conformity is to have a **world**

where governments are answerable to their people and free to shape their own destiny. The EU, as it has developed, now threatens this, and plays into the hands of big banks, multi-national corporations and those who would impose uniformity against diversity.”

Want to know more about Liberal Leave or get involved?

Email us: info@liberalleave.org

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Published and promoted by P. Keetch on behalf of Liberal Leave, all at 27a Hubert Grove, London SW9 9PA.

Saturday 12th March

Timetable for Saturday 12th March

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

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

09.00–09.10	F1	Opening of Conference by Baroness Brinton	6
09.10–09.30	F2	Report: Federal Conference Committee	6
	F3	Report: Federal Policy Committee	7
09.30–10.30	F4	Policy motion: Liberal Democrat Economic Policy	7
10.30–10.50	F5	Speech: Baroness Burt	9
10.50–11.45	F6	Policy motion: Fracking	9
11.45–12.40	F7	Policy motion: Regulatory Framework for Cannabis	11
12.45–14.15		Consultative session: Agenda 2020 – Your Liberal Britain	
14.20–14.40	F8	Report: Federal Executive	12
	F9	Business motion: Appointment of the Federal Appeals Panel 2016–2020	14
14.40–15.00	F10	Speech: Caroline Pidgeon AM	14
15.00–15.45	F11	Question and answer session: Tim Farron MP	14
15.45–16.30	F12	Policy motion: Privacy and Security in a Digital Age	14
16.30–16.50	F13	Report: Diversity and Engagement Group	
	F14	Report: Campaign for Gender Balance	
	F15	Report: Federal Finance and Administration Committee	15
16.50–17.40	F16	Constitutional amendment: Allowing AOs and SAOs to enrol members to the Liberal Democrats	
	F17	Constitutional amendment: Representation of Peers on Federal Committees	
17.40–18.00	F18	Reports: Parliamentary Party	16
18.00–19.00		Consultative session: Governance Review	

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 & Directory.

The logo for Gleeds, featuring the word "gleeds" in a lowercase, sans-serif font, with a stylized "G" icon to the right.

Established in 1885, Gleeds is a leading global property and construction consultancy. We provide independent and expert advice, working with clients to solve their challenges and realise their ambitions.

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The logo for Suez Environnement, featuring a stylized circular icon to the left of the word "suez" in a bold, sans-serif font, with "environnement" in a smaller font below it.

SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK

Our core activities are dedicated to the sustainable management of resources – delivering innovative recycling and waste recovery solutions for more than 40,000 customers across the public and private sectors. We handle and put to the best use waste material through our recycling, manufacturing and energy-from-waste facilities.

Saturday 12th March

Additions and updates to the Agenda for Saturday 12th March.

F1 Opening of Conference by Baroness Brinton, President of the Liberal Democrats

Hall Aide: Jenni Lang

F2 Federal Conference Committee Report

Hall Aide: Jenni Lang

Q1 Submitted by Simon McGrath

What studies has the FCC carried out on the possibility of members being able to attend Conference remotely?

Q2 Submitted by Caron Lindsay

What is FCC's policy regarding making arrangements for members to access meetings remotely by either dialling in or over the internet and when was this policy adopted?

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Saturday 12th March

F3 Federal Policy Committee Report

Q1 Submitted by Steve Bolter

At the Autumn 2015 Conference, we voted not to support the replacement of the Trident nuclear weapon delivery system, but deferred related decisions on nuclear weapons, by commissioning a Policy Working Group.

What is the composition of the Working Party and how much progress has been made? Labour, the Greens and the SNP are making political capital out of their opposition to Trident renewal. Why are we not doing the same?

Q2 Submitted by Alisdair McGregor

Can the Federal Policy Committee update conference on the progress of the protecting children from online pornography motion which was referred back to it at the 2013 autumn conference?

F4 Liberal Democrat Economic Policy

The Federal Conference Committee has accepted the following drafting amendments to the motion:

1 *After a) (line 10), insert:*

- 2 b) The investment by Liberal Democrats in Government in sustainable transport infrastructure including
3 Crossrail, electrification of rail and buses and developing new technologies.

4 *After 1. (line 37), insert:*

- 5 2. A commitment to invest in digital infrastructure and policy to make the UK a world leader in internet
6 connectivity, with the goal of providing ultrafast internet access across the country by 2025.

7 *After 5. (line 48), insert:*

- 8 6. Further development of transport infrastructure to improve connectivity and boost regional
9 economies, including investment in northern transport links, completing the electrification of the
10 majority of the rail network, and enhancing bus services.

11 *In 13. (line 69), after 'Land Value Taxation' insert 'and pressing for the urgent completion of the Land*
12 *Registry of land ownership, and the valuation of sites to enable this reform'.*

13 *In 15. (line 73), delete 'for more diverse ownership models including' and insert 'for more diverse home*
14 *and business ownership models including co-ownership,'.*

15 *After 15. (line74), add:*

- 16 16. Working to adjust the tax system away from subsidy of high leverage debt and tackle the bias
17 against equity investment.

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Amendment One

26 party members

Mover: Mike Tuffrey

Summation: Neil Stockley

1 *In line 2, after 'social justice' insert 'environmental sustainability,'.*

2 *After g) (line 25), insert:*

3 h) The commitments made during 2015 by all the world's nations, including the UK, to a new set of
4 Sustainable Development Goals and to limit climate change.

5 *After j) (line 31), insert:*

6 k) The acceleration of profound changes in the global economy due to digitalisation and automation
7 (the so-called fourth industrial revolution) which risks large-scale service sector job losses similar to
8 those in manufacturing.

9 *Delete 5. (lines 47–48) and insert:*

- 10 5. The decarbonisation of the economy, including the promotion of the UK's world-leading green
11 industries, such as offshore wind power, low-carbon vehicles and green finance, with continued
12 financial and other support in home markets and help with exports.
- 13 6. The implementation of the EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy to reduce waste and encourage
14 material reuse through 'closed loop' manufacturing, creating new sustainable jobs and reducing the
15 use of natural resources.
- 16 7. Using the power of public procurement to support a shift to a more sustainable economy, and
17 the inclusion of indicators of social well-being and natural capital alongside conventional GDP as
18 measures of success.

Amendment Two

Barrow and Furness, Newham Barking & Dagenham, Stroud and Tower Hamlets

Mover: Ben Sims

Summation: Chris Walts

1 *In 7. (line 52), delete 'manufacturing industry' and insert 'digital, creative and high-tech manufacturing*
2 *sectors'.*

3 *In 9. (line 60), delete 'engineering and construction' and insert 'engineering, construction, digital and*
4 *creative'.*

Background briefing

This motion reaffirms and updates policy on the economy, building on existing policy as set out in the General Election Manifesto, *Stronger Economy. Fairer Society. Opportunity for Everyone* (2015), policy paper 109, *Green Growth and Green Jobs* (2013), policy paper 105, *Sustainable Prosperity and Jobs* (2012), policy motion *Strengthening the UK Economy* (2013) and policy motion *Generating Jobs and Growth in a Time of Austerity* (2012).

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F5 Speech by Baroness Burt, Spokesperson for Business, Innovation and Skills

Chair: Jenni Lang
Aide: Pauline Pearce
Hall Aide: Cllr Paul Tilsley

F6 Fracking

Amendment One

14 party members

Mover: Sir Edward Davey
Summation: Ewan Hoyle

1 *In line 16, after 'fracking' insert 'both decisions reversing the Coalition's more cautious and democratic*
2 *approach to shale gas exploration, that implemented our existing party policy's evidence-based*
3 *approach'.*

4 *Delete lines 17–40 and insert:*

5 Conferences notes:

- 6 i) That most of the gas consumed in Britain is for heating and cooking – more than twice the quantity
7 used for generating electricity; and that renewable heat systems to replace Britain's 24 million gas
8 boiler and central heating systems are still relatively expensive, with analysis suggesting their large
9 scale deployment is unlikely to occur until the 2030s, especially in densely-populated cities.
- 10 ii) The urgency of replacing the far more climate-damaging coal from the UK's power generation
11 mix and that gas has a crucial role to play in this, at least in the next 20 years, alongside massive
12 expansion of renewable electricity and demand-side measures; and therefore also condemns the
13 Conservative Government's irrational and irresponsible decision to end the Coalition's programme
14 for Carbon Capture and Storage technology, which has the potential not only to reduce dramatically
15 carbon emissions from gas power stations but is also essential for decarbonising some industrial
16 sectors.
- 17 iii) Shale gas produced in the UK would have a lower carbon footprint than much of the gas currently
18 imported into the UK, especially Liquefied Natural Gas; and that the UK is projected to increase
19 significantly its imports of such higher carbon footprint gas, largely due to declining gas production in
20 the North Sea.

21 Conference therefore believes there is both an environmental case and an energy security case for
22 exploring the potential of shale gas in the UK, subject both to an independent review before proceeding to
23 any future large-scale commercial production and to the stringent regulatory regime brought in under the
24 Coalition Government, which the Royal Society and other independent experts believe will ensure drilling
25 and fracking is carried out safely and responsibly.

26 Conference therefore calls on the British Government to:

- 27 1. Ensure the current exploratory stage for shale gas in the UK is subject to the strictest regulations and
28 oversight, with the urgent restoration of local democratic accountability for planning decisions over
29 shale gas sites, and that this exploratory stage ends no later than 2019.
- 30 2. Establish an independent review of all aspects of the evidence of the role shale gas can play,

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31 alongside massive investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency, to contribute towards
32 the UK's heating, cooking and electricity generation needs in the next 20 years, as part of the UK's
33 overarching need to decarbonise by 2050 and to meet our obligations under the Climate Change
34 Act and international agreements, with this review commencing after the current exploratory stage is
35 completed and reporting to Parliament no later than 2020.

36 3. Only proceed with any large-scale commercial production of shale gas in the 2020s if:

- 37 a) The independent review proves that the use of UK produced shale gas would make a positive
38 contribution to Britain's efforts to tackle climate change between 2020 and 2050.
- 39 b) The independent review proves that the UK's shale gas reserves can be exploited in a manner
40 that is environmentally safe and safe for health and local communities.
- 41 c) The independent review proves that the alternative gas supplies that Britain would be forced to
42 use would be more environmentally damaging and riskier in terms of security of supply.
- 43 d) A programme to develop and deploy Carbon Capture and Storage technology in the UK is re-
44 started at the earliest possible opportunity.

Background briefing

This motion significantly develops policy on fracking in England by calling for an outright ban. Existing policy, which allowed for fracking subject to a number of conditions on environmental protection and community benefit, is set out in the General Election Manifesto, *Stronger Economy. Fairer Society. Opportunity for Everyone* (2015), and policy paper 109, *Green Growth and Green Jobs* (2013), as amended by conference.

Bus tours offer

York City Sightseeing Hop On Hop Off bus tours are offering conference-goers 50% off their tour prices.

Present your conference photo pass to the driver for 24 hours unlimited use for just £6.50 over the conference weekend.

Information from the literature points or
[www.city-sightseeing.com
/tours/united-kingdom/york.htm](http://www.city-sightseeing.com/tours/united-kingdom/york.htm)

Book now for Brighton Conference

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Conference App

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To download the App visit App Store or Google Play



For Blackberry / Windows Phone please visit www.libdemconference.org.uk



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F7 Regulatory Framework for Cannabis

Chair: Geoff Payne (Vice Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

Aide: Andrew Wiseman (Chair, Federal Conference Committee)

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

- 1 *After e) (line 53), insert:*
- 2 f) No promotion of cannabis products should depict the smoking of tobacco.

Amendment One

Liberal Youth

Mover: Lee Dargue

Summation: Emily Tester

- 1 *After vi) (line 24), insert:*
- 2 vii) That evidence exists suggesting heavy use of cannabis in mid-late teens may impair memory
- 3 formation and retention in early adulthood.
- 4 *After D. (line 37), insert:*
- 5 E. The safer-to-use cannabis provided through a regulated market, along with educational programmes
- 6 and effective signposting, can help support teenagers to reduce or stop usage of cannabis, thus
- 7 lowering the risk of memory damage in adulthood.
- 8 *In 2. (line 62), after 'drug use' insert ';* such programmes should include, but not be limited to, public
- 9 health care providers (especially primary care), secondary schools, Further and Higher Education settings,
- 10 prisons and detention centres'.

Background briefing

This motion develops policy on the legal regulation of cannabis in the UK. Existing policy is set out in the General Election Manifesto, *Stronger Economy. Fairer Society. Opportunity for Everyone* (2015), and policy paper 118, *Doing What Works to Cut Crime* (2014).

Lib Dem Photo Wall

The Lib Dem Photo Wall is back! Come and find us next to the exhibition and have your message and picture taken.

Open on Saturday
09.30–10.30, 13.30–14.30, 17.30–19.00

Glee Club

Join us for the ultimate end-of conference celebration!

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

Novotel, Fishergate Suite

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F8 Report of the Federal Executive

Hall Aide: Cllr Paul Tilsley

Q1 Submitted by Mick Taylor

The long awaited report into the 2015 General Election has now been published.

- a) Will the Chair of FE give the party an assurance that the report will be acted upon with despatch with action being taken on all its recommendations before the next conference and preferably before the May elections and the referendum?
- b) Will the Chair of FE give an assurance to the party that the recommendations of the report into the 2014 European Elections will also be fully implemented in the same timescale?
- c) Will the Chair of FE give the party the assurance that the review of the party's central office functions and staff will take into account the clearly identified failures of leadership both political and professional and that this will be reflected in the revised organisation?
- d) Will the Chair of FE give an assurance that the FE will give serious consideration to locating the bulk of HQ functions outside of London to cut costs with the result of freeing up more money for campaigning?

Q2 Submitted by Alisdair McGregor

Can the Federal Executive provide an explanation as to why the party has not selected European election candidates in time for them to campaign and raise their profile in the European referendum, despite the fact that the referendum was well known to be coming?

Q3 Submitted by Alisdair McGregor

Can the Federal Executive provide an update on the progress of the 2014 European elections review, and a timetable for the implementation of any recommendations therefrom?

Q4 Submitted by Sarah Noble

What steps are the Federal Executive taking to ensure that our pastoral care structures are not abused by third parties to further engage in harassment?

Q5 Submitted by Gareth Epps

Why did the Federal Executive sign off a radical staff restructure months before the investigation into the calamitous 2015 General Election campaign concluded what lessons needed to be learnt?

Q6 Submitted by Jennie Rigg

Which party bodies and organisations did Federal Executive consult prior to submitting the diversity motion that is before this conference?

After the vote is taken on the FE Report, there will also be a vote on whether to approve the new committee election regulations. The new regulations are printed in the FE Report and are also set out below:

COMMITTEE ELECTION REGULATIONS

1. The Chair of the Federal Appeals Panel shall be the Returning Officer. The rules of the Federal appeals panel shall make provision for a process to replace the Chair in this role if necessary. The Chief Executive shall

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be the Acting Returning Officer. The Deputy Acting Returning Officer will be the Head of Compliance and Constitutional Support. Other Deputy Acting Returning Officers may be appointed if required.

2. The Federal Executive shall draw up a timetable for each year's receipts of nominations, dispatch and return of ballot papers and the counting of the votes for each election covered by these regulations. The Returning Officer may make provision for voters who wish to do so to cast their ballots electronically, and to view the candidates' election addresses electronically. The Returning Officer may carry out electronic communications with the electorate to facilitate the election.
3. Nominations may be submitted by:
 - (a) Any Local Party;
 - (b) Any Regional Party;
 - (c) Any State Party;
 - (d) Any Specified Associated Organisations; or
 - (e) Any ten party members.

and must be accompanied by the written consent of the candidate. For the election of Councillor Reps see rule 15(b).

4.
 - (a) Each candidate shall be entitled to include in the mailing of ballot papers for each election in which he or she is a candidate a personal election address covering up to one side of A5 paper, printed by and at the expense of the Federal Party. Election address artwork in camera ready form as a high resolution PDF or text-only Word document must reach the Acting Returning Officer at an address and by a date to be notified.
 - (b) The Returning Officer may make provision for voters to view the candidates' election addresses electronically as well as, or instead of, through the postal mailing.
 - (c) Each candidate shall be responsible for supplying material that verifies, to the satisfaction of the Acting Returning Officer, any statement in his or her personal election address claiming that he or she is endorsed by any individual or organisation. Such material must accompany the candidate's personal election address artwork.
 - (d) Candidates must not carry out any activities during the election period which may be viewed as treating.
5. The Returning Officer may make provision for voters who wish to do so to cast their ballots electronically. Any online voting system shall prompt members to look at candidates' manifestos prior to voting.
6. The names and addresses of party members are confidential and shall not be released for the purposes of the election.
7.
 - (a) No official party publication may accept advertisements in support of or in opposition to candidates.
 - (b) Candidates may not use official party publications to specifically promote their candidacy but all other articles are permissible.
8. No material published or circulated by or on behalf of a candidate shall defame by name or implication any other candidate and no candidate shall so defame any other candidate in the course of personal canvassing.
9. The Returning Officer shall have the power to disqualify before declaration of the result, or unseat if declared elected, any candidate who is found to be in breach of regulations 4 or 8, but shall not exercise such power without first offering any such candidate the right to make representation, and having regard thereto.
10. All contested elections shall be conducted by secret ballot and the single transferable vote. Counts shall be conducted in accordance with the current edition of the Electoral Reform Society's publication How to Conduct an Election by the Single Transferable Vote. If the Specified Proportions of men and women are not elected by the operation of the above rules, the Returning Officer shall conduct such further counts as he or she considers necessary and declare elected those members of the under-represented sex and declare not elected those members of the over-represented sex who would or would not have been elected to committees with such larger and smaller numbers of members as would cause the correct number of that sex to be elected.

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11. Casual vacancies occurring shall be filled by recounting the original ballot papers in the election, passing over any preferences for any candidate causing a vacancy. If necessary, further counts shall be conducted using the principles set out in regulation 10 to ensure that all candidates originally elected so remain and that the Specified Proportions of men and women are maintained.
12. Any party member may lodge, in writing, a formal complaint of infringement of election regulations forthwith upon becoming aware of any alleged infringement and not more than 21 days after the declaration. The written complaint should be addressed to the Acting Returning Officer and specify in detail the nature of the infringement. The Returning Officer shall then decide, in full consultation with the Acting Returning Officer, whether there is sufficient evidence and grounds to uphold the complaint, but shall not do so without offering any candidate concerned the right to make representations, and having regard thereto.
13. Appeals against decisions of the Returning Officer must be referred to the Federal Appeals Panel within 14 days of the decision. For the purposes of appeals under these regulations the Chair of the Federal Appeals Panel shall not act as a member of the Federal Appeals Panel, and other Panel members shall appoint one of their number as Acting Chair.
14. If a complaint is made prior to the declaration of the result, the Returning Officer shall have the power to postpone such declaration until the determination of such complaint or, where an appeal is made against his decision, until the determination of such appeal.
15. (a) These Regulations shall be used for the biennial elections to the Federal Executive, Federal Conference Committee, Federal Policy Committee, International Relations Committee and ELDR Delegation.
(b) They shall also be used for the election of Principal Councillor Representatives on the Federal Executive and the Federal Policy Committee except section three shall read: Nominations shall be submitted by any two Principal Councillors with valid membership and must be accompanied by the written consent of the candidate.

F9 Appointment of the Federal Appeals Panel 2016–2020

Note: The report of the Federal Appeals Panel is normally published once a year at the Autumn conference, however last year's report was not ready in time and has been published with the written reports at this conference. There will be a report session with the opportunity to ask questions on both last year's report and this year's report at the Autumn conference 2016.

F10 Speech by Caroline Pidgeon AM, London Mayoral Candidate

Hall Aide: Jon Ball

F11 Question and Answer Session with Tim Farron MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Aide: Mary Reid

F12 Privacy and Security in a Digital Age

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

- 1 *In a) (line 40), after 'religion' insert 'or belief'.*

Background briefing

This motion develops and updates policy in response to the current Investigatory Powers Bill before Parliament. Existing policy on privacy and the surveillance powers of the police and security services is set out in the General Election Manifesto, *Stronger Economy. Fairer Society. Opportunity for Everyone* (2015), policy motion *A Digital Bill of Rights* (2014), and policy motion *Civil Liberties* (2012).

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F15 Report of the Federal Finance and Administration Committee

Q1 Submitted by Spencer Hagard

Would you please describe the measures that you are taking to ensure that fundraising by the Party at UK national level is coordinated with the fundraising efforts of Local Parties, rather than risking cutting across and undermining them?

Q2 Submitted by Jennie Rigg

How does the FFAC disseminate information on decisions it has reached both to the wider party and to its members, other than this report?

Q3 Submitted by Simon McGrath

In light of the need to move out of Great George St what consideration has been given to moving those parts of HQ which do not need to be in London to a cheaper location?

F18 Parliamentary Party Reports

Q1 Submitted by Andrew Hudson

Did the party in the Lords support the rights of agency workers and supply teachers who refuse to strike break in the trade union bill?

Q2 Submitted by Andrew Hudson

Has the party in the commons opposed the recent regulations restricting local authorities from adopting ethical procurement policies?

Q3 Submitted by Steve Bolter

Labour, the Greens and the SNP are making political capital out of their opposition to Trident renewal. Why are we not doing the same? Do we have to wait until the Working Party makes its post-Trident recommendations?

Q4 Submitted by Andrew Hudson

What is the Parliamentary Parties' position on the extension of Sunday trading hours?

Left luggage

On Sunday 13th March your hotel should be able to store your luggage for you after checkout. Alternatively, you will be able to leave your luggage at the Novotel where a charge of £1 per item will apply.

Equal Ever After

Lynne Featherstone will be signing her book on same-sex marriage, 'Equal Ever After', on the Lib Dem Image stand from 17.15 today.

Sunday 13th March

Advance notice for Sunday 13th March.

F19 Emergency Motion

One emergency motion, selected by the ballot, will be debated at F19.

F20 Electing Diverse MPs

The FCC wishes to make it clear that it considered this motion and its proposed amendments (including those amendments that were not selected) in the light of the detailed provisions of the Equality Act 2010, the guidance issued under the Act and related equalities legislation.

The Federal Conference Committee has accepted the following drafting amendments to the motion:

- 1 *In I. (line 3), after 'religion' insert 'or belief', and after 'sex' insert ', gender identity'.*
- 2 *After VII. (line 24), insert:*
- 3 VIII. The proportion of Liberal Democrat councillors who are female has stayed flat at around one third for
- 4 25 years.
- 5 *After C. (line 96), insert:*
- 6 D. Working in conjunction with ALDC, the 2020 Candidate Diversity Task Force shall undertake a project
- 7 to encourage a more diverse local government base including identifying any barriers which exist for
- 8 currently under-represented groups. It will also consider good practice from council groups across
- 9 the country that more accurately reflect the diversity of their communities.
- 10 *After 6. (line 130), add:*
- 11 7. Ask ALDC to submit recommendations within twelve months to the three State Parties on measures
- 12 that should be taken to ensure gender balance and diversity across both council groups and
- 13 amongst selected council candidates.

Amendment One

East Midlands

Mover: Rebecca Thomas

Summation: Adam Wain

- 1 *In 1. (line 98), delete 'for an all-women shortlist or an all-disabled shortlist, or' and insert 'to'.*
- 2 *In 1. (line 100), delete 'other'.*
- 3 *Delete 4. and 5. (lines 115–124).*
- 4 *In 6. (line 125), delete 'In addition to the one seat identified in 5. above,'.*
- 5 *In 6. (lines 127–128), delete 'without returning a Liberal Democrat MP'.*

Sunday 13th March

Amendment Two

12 party members

Mover: Ruwan Uduwera-Perera

Summation: Sarah Noble

- 1 *In B. (line 69), after 'co-ordinate' insert 'and monitor'.*
- 2 *After C. (line 96), insert:*
- 3 D. Campaign to amend the Equality Act 2010 to remove the restrictions on shortlists for candidate
- 4 selections for people from under-represented groups.
- 5 *In 3. (line 114), after 'Great Britain' insert 'and set out to each Local Party the options they can take to*
- 6 *improve diversity, including the use of 'banding' when shortlisting, and the potential to reserve places on*
- 7 *shortlists for people from under-represented groups within the terms of Section 104 of the Equalities Act.*
- 8 *State Parties should report on the implementation of each of these measures'.*

Footnote: The final part of this amendment refers to positive action measures permitted by the Equalities Act 2010, including the ability to shortlist candidates from under-represented groups ahead of other candidates on a tied score.

F21 A Fairer Deal for Private Renters

Hall Aide:

There will be separate votes to delete 1. (lines 27–28) and to delete 4. (lines 32–34).

Background briefing

This motion develops and updates policy on the private rented sector, in particular on mandatory licensing of landlords. Existing policy is set out in the General Election Manifesto, *Stronger Economy. Fairer Society. Opportunity for Everyone* (2015), policy motion *Protecting Private Tenants* (2014) and policy paper 104, *Decent Homes for All* (2012).

Emergency motions ballot

There will be a single ballot to select one of the following items to be taken at F19 at 09.00 on Sunday 13th March. Ballot papers should be returned to the ballot box in the auditorium before 12.40 on Saturday 12th March.

Academic Freedom and Lobbying

Association of Liberal Democrat Engineers and Scientists

1 Conference is concerned by the new clause announced by the Cabinet Office in February banning
2 organisations in receipt of government grants from using those funds to engage in lobbying activities.
3 This is defined as activities which could influence government, Parliament, political parties, or legislative or
4 regulatory action.

5 Conference notes that:

- 6 i) Receipt of research funds depends on researchers being able to demonstrate impact: a requirement
7 which is at odds with the ban.
8 ii) The government is yet to introduce proper transparency measures to disclose lobbying activity, with
9 in-house corporate lobbyists exempted from having to register.
10 iii) While there is provision for ministers to make individual exceptions, the clause creates an
11 unnecessary bureaucratic hurdle which could hinder engagement between government and subject
12 experts.
13 iv) In recent years, media controls on Canadian federal scientists stifled public discussion of several
14 important environmental discoveries and led to international criticism; these measures are now being
15 reversed by the Liberal government.

16 Conference believes that:

- 17 a) Publicly funded researchers are an invaluable resource of expertise.
18 b) Restricting their ability to contribute to the design and evaluation of policy would damage the liberal,
19 democratic principle of ensuring policy is informed by reliable evidence and increase the likelihood of
20 influence by populist pressure groups or corporate interests.
21
22

23 Conference therefore calls on the government to:

- 24 1. Delay implementation of any new restrictions until there has been time for proper Parliamentary
25 scrutiny.
26 2. Ensure that researchers are not prevented in any way from contributing appropriately to policymaking
27 procedures.

Party Funding Reform

12 party members

1 Conference notes:

- 2 I. Widespread, apparent breaches of constituency spending limits by Conservative candidates at the
3 2015 election, as reported in the Daily Mirror and other media.
4 II. Attempts by the Conservative Government to reform party finance rules for Labour and the trade
5 unions, through their Trade Union Bill, with no balancing provision to cap individual donations by
6 corporations and millionaires.

Emergency motions ballot

- 7 III. The successful Liberal Democrat initiative to set up a special House of Lords Select Committee on
8 Trade Union Political Funds and Political Party Funding, and the unanimous cross-party view of that
9 Committee that the Trade Union Bill will “have an impact on party funding and that it is very far from
10 commanding...consensus” and “the political parties should live up to their manifesto commitments
11 and make a renewed and urgent effort to seek a comprehensive agreement on party funding
12 reform”; and the majority view of the Committee that “the question of whether to extend...opt-in
13 [arrangements for political funds] to existing union members must only be considered as part of the
14 cross-party discussions on party funding reform, and should not be dealt with in this Bill”.
- 15 IV. Public opinion polling by the Electoral Reform Society which suggests 75% of the public believe big
16 money has too much influence on political parties.
- 17 V. Manifesto commitments by all parties to secure a comprehensive package of funding reform.

18 Conference believes:

- 19 A. That the spirit of the existing law on constituency spending is being routinely breached
- 20 B. That the Conservative Government is making a concerted attempt to load the political dice in favour
21 of their own party, through:
- 22 a) Unilateral reforms to the trade union relationship with Labour.
- 23 b) Ending the transition period to individual electoral registration early, in order to influence the
24 boundary review.
- 25 c) Pushing ahead with a boundary review based on incomplete electoral registers.
- 26 C. The public deserve a political system in which influence, access, honours, and seats in the House of
27 Commons cannot be bought and sold.
- 28 D. The first two years of a Parliament are a vital window in which to achieve agreement on reform,
29 before the starting gun for the next election sounds.

30 Conference calls on:

- 31 1. The Government to remove the party funding reform elements from the Trade Union Bill, and to re-
32 convene cross-party talks.
- 33 2. All parties to agree a comprehensive package to go into a new Party Funding Bill, which should
34 include:
- 35 a) A cap on individual and corporate donations of no more than £10,000.
- 36 b) Arrangements for trade unions to collect individual donations from their members, through a
37 process of transparent “opt-in” consent.
- 38 c) A reduction in overall national expenditure limits, as recommended by the Committee on
39 Standards in Public Life.
- 40 d) Controls on the amount of ‘national’ expenditure which can be allocated to any one
41 constituency, as exist already for non-party campaigners.
- 42 e) A redistribution of existing spend on political parties (e.g. through Freepost election address
43 mailings) and on government advertising to introduce a fair, transparent and affordable system of
44 public funding, which will ensure elections hang on millions of votes not millions of pounds.

Rough Sleepers

Barrow and Furness

- 1 Conference expresses its concern that the figures released by the Department of Communities and Local
2 Government on 26 February show that the estimated number of people sleeping rough in England has
3 increased by 30% in a year from 2744 in Autumn 2014 to 3569 in Autumn 2015.

Emergency motions ballot

4 Conference notes that of the people counted, 26% were in London; 67% were new (seen for the first time
5 in 2014–15); 21% had been seen sleeping rough in the previous period; 14% were female; and 12% were
6 under 26.

7 Conference believes that the numbers are likely to increase owing to the compulsory selling off of social
8 housing, the lack of affordable housing and housing benefit cuts.

9 Conference opposes the use of Public Space Protection Orders to criminalise rough sleepers.

10 Conference calls for:

- 11 1. Accommodation for homeless people to be exempt from housing benefit cuts.
- 12 2. A statutory obligation for local authorities to offer shelter to homeless people.
- 13 3. Access to daytime services such as health care, washing facilities and facilities for the
14 preparation of food for homeless people.
- 15 4. Repeal of the Vagrancy Act.

Towards a Stable and Peaceful Syria

11 party members

1 Conference condemns:

- 2 A. The sustained violent suppression of democratic opposition by the regime of President Assad in
3 Syria and the resulting humanitarian catastrophe.
- 4 B. The reign of violent, sectarian terror that Daesh is spreading in parts of Syria.

5 Conference notes with concern:

- 6 i) The targeting of legitimate opposition groups in Syria by the Russian army.
- 7 ii) The severity of the humanitarian disasters that have been created by the conflict in Syria and the
8 resulting instability across the region.
- 9 iii) The increasingly sectarian nature of the Syria conflict.
- 10 iv) The strain that the resulting refugee crises is putting on countries in the region, in particular the strain
11 on Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.
- 12 v) The lack of safe and legal routes for refugees which is leading to millions attempting dangerous
13 crossings into Europe.
- 14 vi) The inability of countries across Europe to work towards a cohesive solution to the refugee crisis in
15 our continent, and the resulting rise in anti-refugee rhetoric and violence.
- 16 vii) Escalating violence between the Turkey and the Kurdish minorities in Turkey and across the region.

17 Conference welcomes:

- 18 a) The Department for International Development's continued commitment to providing humanitarian
19 aid to all those who are suffering in the region.
- 20 b) The UK government's hosting of the Syria Donor conference in February 2016 to encourage
21 international partners to help fund support in Syria.

22 Conference believes that a strong EU with Britain at its core will be more effective in helping the Syrian
23 people and in facing down the mischievous policies of certain states intervening in Syria for their own
24 ends, than would be the case if Britain were to leave the EU.

Emergency motions ballot

25 Conference calls on the UK government to:

- 26 1. Play a leading role alongside the European Union in the Geneva III process and the current tentative
27 cessation of hostilities, including ensuring the participation of women in peace talks.
- 28 2. Support the moderate opposition groups in Syria and where possible protect them from abuses by
29 the Assad Regime and Russia.
- 30 3. Investigate the creation of humanitarian corridors and no fly zones over Syria.
- 31 4. Continue to work closely with our international allies to stop and reverse the spread of Daesh in
32 Syria, Iraq and beyond.
- 33 5. Increase the number of refugees the UK takes both from the region and from within Europe, and
34 work with the European Union to create safe and legal routes in order to end the dangerous passage
35 of peoples across the Mediterranean.
- 36 6. Maintain its commitment to provide regular updates to the Parliament on the status of military
37 operations in Syria.



As a party we aim to build a truly liberal and social democracy in today's Britain – we call it Liberal Britain for short. But what would it actually look like?

Pitch your vision at our consultation session, then host your own discussion event back home. You can find an event pack on our website: www.liberalbritain.org.

Please fill out the statements below, then hand this card into the Speakers' Table. You can also give it to a volunteer wearing a Your Liberal Britain badge.

1. You can tell we don't yet live in a truly Liberal Britain because:

(Max 10 Words)

2. In a Liberal Britain, people's lives would be improved because:

(Max 10 Words)

3. In building Liberal Britain, we'd revolutionise our _____ by:

(Max 10 Words)

4. **Now stop.** Look back over your answers, and think about what ties them all together. Then complete this sentence in no more than ten words:

"In sum, for me, Liberal Britain is a country where:

(Max 10 Words)

Tweet to @LiberalBritain, or use #LiberalBritain

Why not let the whole party hear your thoughts? Write a blog post for LibDemVoice (send it to voice@libdemvoice.org), join the debate on Your Liberal Britain's Facebook page, or tweet #LiberalBritain.

Please add me to the Your Liberal Britain e-mailing list! And follow us on Twitter: @LiberalBritain

Name: _____ (Just for our mailing list: your answer is anonymous!)

Email address: _____

I want to organise an event! Please email me the materials.

Emergency motions ballot paper

Please vote by indicating your preferences in order (1, 2, 3, 4).

Emergency motion	Preference
Academic Freedom and Lobbying	
Party Funding Reform	
Rough Sleepers	
Towards a Stable and Peaceful Syria	

Please return this ballot paper to the ballot box in the auditorium before 12.40 on Saturday 12th March.

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