

# 2021

ONLINE  
**SPRING  
CONFERENCE**  
19-21 MARCH

**UPDATED  
AGENDA**

**CONFERENCE  
DAILY  
SUNDAY**



# Contents

Welcome to the Liberal Democrat online Spring 2021 **Conference Agenda**.

This fifth edition of the **Conference Agenda – Conference Daily Sunday** – contains the agenda for the auditorium sessions at conference and information about the conduct of the sessions, plus updates from the Conference Committee. It is only available online.

**Conference Daily** updates are published on pages headed ‘Conference Daily’, and today’s updates are identified by the purple text. The green text indicates updates that have appeared previously.

Further updated editions of the **Conference Agenda – Conference Daily** – will be published on the eve of each day of conference, online at:

[www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_papers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers)

Further information, registration and conference publications (including plain text and clear print versions) are available at:



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

---

Information:	2–8
--------------	-----

---

Agenda:	9–59
Agenda index and timetable	9
Friday 19 March	12
Saturday 20 March	26
Sunday 21 March	45

---

Standing orders	60–71
-----------------	-------

---

Federal Party	72
Federal Committees	72A

---

For features, general conference information, exhibition and fringe, see the **Conference Directory**.

Conference will take place through our virtual conference venue **Hopin**. Access to all conference events requires a valid conference registration and registered attendees will be emailed details of how to log on to the Hopin platform a few days before conference – see page 2.

If you have any questions whilst at conference, please email:

[conferences@libdems.org.uk](mailto:conferences@libdems.org.uk)

# Conference information

This **Agenda** covers the sessions held in the virtual auditorium at Spring Conference.

General conference information can be found in the **Conference Directory**, available online from mid February at:

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

If you have any questions prior to or during conference please email:

[conferences@libdems.org.uk](mailto:conferences@libdems.org.uk)

If you have any tech queries, please go to the tech helpdesk in the exhibition area of the online conference (see page 4).

If you wish to communicate with the chair, submit a procedural motion or ask for a separate vote, please use the following link:

[www.libdems.org.uk/procedural-motions](http://www.libdems.org.uk/procedural-motions)

If you want to comment about the session you are in, please use the chat function; do not use chat to communicate with the chair of a session. See guidance on page 3.

## Hopin: our virtual conference venue

Registered attendees will be emailed details of how to log onto the Hopin platform at the time of their

registration. A reminder will be emailed to you a few days prior to the start of the conference.

For the best experience of conference when using a computer or laptop, Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox web browsers are recommended. To access Hopin via an iOS mobile device, Safari is the best mobile browser to use; and for an Android device, please use Google Chrome.

Ensure you turn off your ad blockers and don't have any other programs open. If something goes wrong, try refreshing your browser!

There is a short video on how Hopin works on our website:

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

After the conference the auditorium sessions will be available on YouTube.

## Hopin navigation

On the Hopin platform, the menu bar appears on the left.

### Home

View the agenda, fringe & training events and exhibition stands (one for each entity in the exhibition area).

### Auditorium

Watch the debates and speeches.

## Conference information

Members can vote on motions via polls (within Hopin).

There will be BSL signers during auditorium sessions.

### Fringe & Training

Fringe is available for all to view. Fringe events happen outside auditorium hours.

Training is only for party members to view and is run simultaneously alongside the auditorium sessions.

See the *Conference Directory* for details.

### Exhibition

You can enter this area to view the exhibition stands throughout conference, view exhibitors' videos, ask questions in the chat function and connect to their websites. See the *Conference Directory* for details.

### Networking

Chat with a randomly selected participant and share common interests.

If you wish to contact a particular individual to chat with them or have a live video link, please click onto 'people' next to the 'chat' function on the top right and find the person you wish to connect with.

## Voting

Only registered members can vote at conference. Voting will be available through Hopin and the polling function in the auditorium.

For the emergency motions ballot, mi-voice voting will be used and registered members will be emailed a link prior to conference to vote in the ballot.

## Conference Chat

In each auditorium session there will be a chat feature enabled, which allows attendees to post their views and comments about events in the auditorium.

The chat is public and visible to everybody: bear this in mind when posting. All comments in the chat must be respectful, lawful, and in keeping with the Members' Code of Conduct, accessible here:

[www.libdems.org.uk/  
code-of-conduct](http://www.libdems.org.uk/code-of-conduct)

The chat will be moderated, and if your post does not meet the required standards of behaviour, sanctions start with post deletion, and more serious breaches may lead to you having your conference access revoked and/or disciplinary action within the party.

## Conference information

Please do not use the chat to attempt to communicate with members of the FCC or the chairs and aides of debates. To raise a query with the chairs and aides use this link:

[www.libdems.org.uk/procedural-motions](http://www.libdems.org.uk/procedural-motions)

Some Q&A sessions may use the chat to solicit questions. Questions to reports should be submitted as described under 'reports' on page 7; in addition, questions may be submitted using the chat during the session and they may be selected by the chair, but that is not guaranteed.

The chat is there to facilitate interactivity in our virtual conference, but it can only do this if everyone in it behaves responsibly and with courtesy and respect towards each other and the moderators.

### Conference Extra and Conference Daily

An update to this *Conference Agenda* incorporating *Conference Extra* will be published ahead of conference, and further updates incorporating *Conference Daily* will be published each day of conference.

They will contain updates to the agenda including information from the Federal Conference Committee, changes to session timings,

amendments, topical issues, emergency motions and questions to reports.

You will be able to find *Conference Agenda* updates online at:

[www.libdems.org.uk/s21-agenda](http://www.libdems.org.uk/s21-agenda)

## Tech helpdesk

If you have any tech issues during the conference, we have a tech helpdesk located in the exhibition area (first stand) which will be open at the following times:

Friday	19 March	12.00–18.00
Saturday	20 March	09.30–18.00
Sunday	21 March	09.30–18.00

## Federal Board and Federal Conference Committee helpdesk

Members of the FB and the FCC will be available to give advice at their stands in the virtual exhibition at the following times:

Friday	19 March	16.15–17.15
Saturday	20 March	13.00–14.00 and 16.15–17.15
Sunday	21 March	13.00–14.00 and 16.15–17.15

## Debates and votes at conference

Debates on policy and business motions are at the heart of federal conference. It is through them that the party sets its policy and future direction. Unlike in other parties, Liberal Democrat members are sovereign, and what they decide really matters.

### The structure of debate on policy and business motions:



**Amendments:** all motions except emergency motions are open to amendment; amendments accepted will be published in the *Conference Daily* updates to the *Conference Agenda*.

**Communications with the chair and aide:** At the virtual conference you can contact the chair and aide team using the link:

[www.libdems.org.uk/procedural-motions](http://www.libdems.org.uk/procedural-motions)

Please note that this link is solely for formal communication with the chair and the aide on procedural motions and points of order.

**Voting:** decisions on most motions and all amendments and separate votes are by simple majority of those voting. To vote, registered members must use the polls function on Hopin. That is found by selecting the tab in the top right-hand corner when in the virtual auditorium. Vote by selecting the relevant button on the screen.

**Separate votes:** a vote to delete or retain the specified words or section. A request for a separate vote may be submitted by any party member. For agenda items on Friday the request must be submitted by the emergency motions deadline and for other days by the start of conference on the previous day, using the link:

[www.libdems.org.uk/procedural-motions](http://www.libdems.org.uk/procedural-motions)

**Counted vote:** all votes taking place at this conference will be counted by Hopin and the result will be announced by the chair.

## Speaking and voting at conference

### Eligibility to speak and vote

All party members are entitled to speak and vote in conference debates, providing they are attending conference as a party member (and not for example an exhibitor or observer).

Party members fulfilling these criteria are known as 'voting members'.

### Length of speeches

The length of speeches is shown against each motion in the *Agenda*.

A set of traffic lights will appear on the screen to show the speaker and the audience how long the speaker has left. Green means that the end of the time is at least one minute away. The amber light comes on when there is one minute to go. The red light comes on when time is up and you should stop speaking immediately.

### Applying to speak

To make a speech in a debate you must submit an electronic speaker's card online at:

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

Applications open on Monday 15 March and close at 16.00 on the day BEFORE the debate.

Speakers selected for a debate (plus a couple of reserves) will be sent an email by 21.00 on the day

before. If it is your first time speaking at this conference, you will be asked to log into a Debate Test meeting for our technical team to check your sound and vision. You will be required to download the Zoom app (or equivalent) prior to the test – a link will be in the email.

Our technical team will register you before the debate commences. 10 minutes before the start of the debate you will be asked to log out of Hopin and into a Motion meeting, which will have the same title as the agenda item. You will be able to follow the debate while waiting. The chair will ask you to stand by one speech before yours and then call you to speak when required.

Once you have finished speaking you must log out of the Motion meeting and return to Hopin. The email should answer any questions and will give you contact details to seek further help.

### Completing a speaker's card

Please remember to:

- Submit your card no later than 16.00 on the day before the debate. There is no guarantee late cards will be considered.
- Complete the card fully so that the chair knows all about you and what you want to say, and can balance the debate.

## Other conference sessions

### Emergency motions

Emergency motions are debated and voted on and make formal party policy like other motions, but refer to a substantial development since the deadline for submission of motions.

There is a slot for emergency motions at F21 on Sunday. Registered members will vote on which of the emergency motions that have been submitted they want to debate. An email will be sent shortly before conference to enable you to vote; the closing time for votes will be 19.00 on 19 March.

### Topical issue discussions

The FCC may decide to use part of this slot for topical issue discussions. This will allow members and spokespeople to discuss and comment on a political issue live at the time of conference; they do not make party policy.

Party members may submit suggested topics for a discussion, which will be considered by officers of the FCC and FPC. If a topical issue discussion is selected, it will be published in the relevant *Conference Daily* update to the *Conference Agenda*.

### Question & answer sessions

Any voting member may submit a concise question (maximum 25 words) on any subject for the Leader's Q&A (F15). Questions will

be selected by the chair and the questioner will be able to ask their question via video.

Questions may be submitted by 16.00 on the day before the session using the online form at:

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

The chair may also decide to put questions raised in the chat function during the session.

### Reports

The reports of Federal Committees and Parliamentary Parties are printed in the separate reports document. Any voting member may submit concise questions on these reports.

Questions may be submitted by 13.00 on 8 March using the online form at:

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

Questions received by the deadline above will be published in the *Conference Extra* update to the *Conference Agenda* and are guaranteed a reply, in the session or in writing thereafter. Questions may also be submitted using the same online form until 16.00 on the day before the session, or through the chat function in Hopin during the session, but will only be called if time allows and at the discretion of the chair of the session.



## Submitting amendments, emergency motions, topical issues and appeals

### Amendments and emergency motions

Amendments, emergency motions and motions for debate on The COVID-19 Pandemic (F14) must be:

- signed by 10 party members; **OR**
- submitted by one or more of: a local party, state party, regional party in England, Federal Specified Associated Organisation or Federal Party Committee.

And must be submitted by 13.00 on 8 March online at:

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

Submitters should include:

- For amendments – a short explanation of the intended effect of the amendment.
- For emergency motions – a short explanation of its emergency nature.

The deadline for amendments to F14 is 17.00 on 17 March.

### Topical issues

Suggestions for topical issues may be submitted by any party member by 13.00 on 8 March online at:

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

The title of the issue should be no more than ten words, and should

not include an expression of opinion; please include full contact details of the submitter and up to 100 words explanatory background.

### Drafting advice

Submitters are encouraged to use our drafting advice service: draft amendments and emergency motions should be submitted by 13.00 on 22 February online at:

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

### Appeals

If you wish to appeal the FCC's decision not to select your emergency motion or amendment, follow these instructions.

The appeal should come from the email address of the original contact for the motion and should be no longer than one side of A4.

It should explain why you are appealing and any new information the FCC was unaware of when it made its decision.

The email should also contain a contact name and telephone number.

Appeals should be emailed by 17.00 on 18 March to:

[appeals@libdems.org.uk](mailto:appeals@libdems.org.uk)

# Agenda index and timetable

---

## Friday 19 March

14.00–14.05	F1	Opening of Conference	12
14.05–14.30	F2	Report: Federal Conference Committee	12
	F3	Report: Federal Policy Committee	12
		<i>Conference Daily updates for F2 and F3</i>	<i>12A</i>
<i>14.35–14.45</i>	<i>F3A</i>	<i>Statement: Lifting the Cap on the UK's Nuclear Warhead Stockpile</i>	<i>12B</i>
14.50–15.55	F4	Policy motion: Supporting Business, Workers and the Self-Employed during the COVID-19 Pandemic	13
		<i>Conference Daily updates for F4</i>	<i>16A</i>
16.00–16.20	F5	Speech: Jane Dodds, Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats	17
16.20–18.45		Auditorium break and fringe (16.35 onwards)	
18.45–19.40	F6	Policy motion: Lifting Barriers to Work for Disabled People	17
		<i>Conference Daily updates for F6</i>	<i>19A</i>
19.45–20.05	F7	Presentation: Liberal Democrats in Local Government	20
20.10–21.15	F8	Constitutional amendment: Complaints Procedure	20
	F9	Constitutional amendment: Changes to the Role of the Vice-President	23

---

## Agenda index and timetable

### Saturday 20 March

09.30–09.50	F10	Reports: Parliamentary Parties	26
09.55–11.10	F11	Policy motion: <i>Giving Consumers a Fairer Deal</i> (Utilities Policy Paper)	26
		<i>Conference Daily updates for F11</i>	31A
11.15–11.25	F11A	<i>Statement: Violence Against Women and Girls</i>	31B
11.30–11.50	F12	Presentation: Liberal Democrat Mayoral Candidates	32
11.55–13.00	F13	Policy motion: Standing Up for Unpaid Carers	32
		<i>Conference Daily updates for F13</i>	35A
13.00–14.15		Auditorium break and fringe	
14.15–15.10	F14	Policy motion: The COVID-19 Pandemic	36
		<i>Conference Daily updates for F14</i>	36A
15.15–15.55	F15	Question & answer session: Rt Hon Ed Davey MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats	37
16.00–16.20	F16	Speech: Willie Rennie MSP, Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats	38
16.20–18.45		Auditorium break and fringe (17.40 onwards)	
18.45–20.00	F17	Policy motion: The EU–UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement and the Future of the UK–EU Relationship	38
		<i>Conference Daily updates for F17</i>	40A
20.05–20.45	F18	Policy motion: Acting on the Russia Report	41
		<i>Conference Daily updates for F18</i>	43
20.50–21.15	F19	Report: Federal Board	44
		<i>Conference Daily updates for F19</i>	44A
	F20	Report: Campaign for Gender Balance	44

## Agenda index and timetable

---

### Sunday 21 March

09.30–11.05	F21A	Emergency motion: A Pay Rise for NHS Staff	45
	F21B	Emergency motion: Full Reopening of Schools	45A
	F21C	Emergency motion: Protecting the Right to Protest	45C
11.10–12.10	F22	Policy motion: Autism Support	46
		<i>Conference Daily updates for F22</i>	48
12.15–13.00	F23	Policy motion: International Development	49
		<i>Conference Daily updates for F23</i>	51A
13.00–14.15		Auditorium break and fringe	
14.15–14.55	F24	Speech: Rt Hon Ed Davey MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats	52
15.00–16.20	F25	Policy motion: A Better Response to the Impact of COVID-19 on Education	52
		<i>Conference Daily updates for F25</i>	54A
16.20–18.45		Auditorium break and fringe (16.35 onwards) Consultative session ' <i>Federal England</i> ' – see <b>Directory</b>	
18.45–19.25	F26	Policy motion: Accessibility in Education	55
		<i>Conference Daily updates for F26</i>	56A
19.30–20.10	F27	Policy motion: Safe and Legal Routes to Save Lives	57
		<i>Conference Daily updates for F27</i>	59A
20.15–20.30	F28	Party Awards and close of Conference	59

---

# Friday 19 March

F1

14.00 Party business

Chair: Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC).

## **F1 Opening of Conference by Dr Mark Pack, President of the Liberal Democrats**



@markpack, #LDConf

14.05 Party business

Chair: Nick Da Costa (Vice Chair, FCC). Aides: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC) and Cllr Joe Otten.

## **F2 Federal Conference Committee Report: questions and accountability**

Mover: Geoff Payne (Chair, Federal Conference Committee).

*See notes to F3.*

## **F3 Federal Policy Committee Report: questions and accountability**

Mover: Jeremy Hargreaves (Chair, Federal Policy Committee).

*The deadline for questions for F2 and F3 is 13.00 on 8 March. Questions selected will be published in the Conference Extra and Friday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda. These questions will be guaranteed an answer, either in the session or in writing thereafter. Questions may also be submitted online until 16.00 on Thursday 18 March, or through the chat function in Hopin during the session, but they will only be called if time allows and at the discretion of the Chair. See page 7 for further information.*

## Friday 19 March

F2

### F2 Federal Conference Committee Report

#### Q1. Submitted by Oliver Craven

This Conference's ticket was more expensive than Autumn's. Did you consider that reducing the price to attract more attendees may have raised more revenue?

#### Q2. Submitted by Oliver Craven

What measures are you taking so that the members of your committee that are directly elected are accountable to the members that elected them?

#### Q3. Submitted by Malcolm Mitchell

When I registered for this Conference, I requested and paid for having Paper copies of Agenda, Reports etc. I have not received any of these in time to be able to propose any amendments on behalf of my Local Party and have had to resort to printing material. Why is this?

### F3 Federal Policy Committee

#### Q1. Submitted by David Grace

Conference discusses particular foreign and security policy issues but has not been able to discuss Trident for four years partly because of the lack of an up-to-date defence policy. Brexit, the COVID pandemic and the current government's cavalier approach to international law, defence and international development have changed the world we live in. Will the committee please establish a working group to prepare a comprehensive security policy covering both foreign and defence policy and not treating them in isolation ?

#### Q2. Submitted by Oliver Craven

What measures are you taking so that the members of your committee that are directly elected are accountable to the members that elected them?

## Friday 19 March

F2

### Q3. Submitted by Joe Otten

Do you believe the amount of detailed and specialist policy you produce is useful, compared to a broader brush approach to more relevant issues that communicates the party's core purpose and values?

14.35 Statement

### F3A Lifting the Cap on the UK's Nuclear Warhead Stockpile

Statement by: Baroness Smith of Newnham (Lords Spokesperson on Defence).

*The FCC has exercised its discretion under Standing Order 1.7 to include in the Conference Agenda a statement on behalf of the party on a matter of great importance taking place after the deadline for the submission of emergency motions.*

**Friday 19 March**

F4

14.35 Policy motion

Chair: Jennie Rigg. Aides: Chris Adams and John Bridges.

**F4 Supporting Businesses, Workers and the Self-Employed during the COVID-19 Pandemic***14 members*

Mover: Christine Jardine MP (Spokesperson for the Economy).

Summation: Sarah Olney MP (Spokesperson for Business and Trade).

1 Conference believes that:

- 2 I. We must leave no one behind as we tackle this pandemic, and build  
3 a fairer, greener, more regionally balanced economy as we emerge  
4 from it.
- 5 II. The continuing waves of infection from the COVID-19 pandemic and  
6 the resulting restrictions make it imperative that the Government  
7 continues to support businesses – especially small businesses.
- 8 III. To protect jobs, the country needs a long-term strategy that  
9 stretches through the whole of 2021; last-minute, knee-jerk  
10 responses are unnecessarily harming the economy.
- 11 IV. To support the recovery, we need to empower people to develop  
12 new skills so that they can thrive in the technologies and industries  
13 that are key to the UK's economic future.

14 Conference notes with concern that:

- 15 i) The COVID-19 pandemic caused the UK's GDP to shrink by 11%  
16 in 2020 – the biggest economic hit our country has suffered since  
17 before the invention of the steam engine.
- 18 ii) The Government has caused enormous uncertainty for both  
19 employers and workers with last-minute announcements, short-  
20 term sticking plasters and frequent U-turns: for example, the  
21 Chancellor resisted calls to extend the Coronavirus Job Retention  
22 Scheme (CJRS) beyond October 2020 until the day it was set to  
23 expire; he then made three separate announcements extending it –  
24 first to December 2020, then to March 2021 and finally to April.



**Friday 19 March**

F4

- 25 iii) Despite the CJRS, the UK lost more than 900,000 jobs between  
26 March and September 2020, and 370,000 people were made  
27 redundant in August to October alone.
- 28 iv) Certain groups of people have been impacted particularly badly by  
29 this economic crisis, including women, Black, Asian and minority  
30 ethnic people and young workers.
- 31 v) Certain sectors have been impacted particularly badly, including  
32 hospitality, tourism, charities and the creative industries.
- 33 vi) An estimated 3 million people are excluded from the Government's  
34 income support schemes; in particular, the Government has  
35 excluded from the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme  
36 (SEISS):
- 37 a) People who became self-employed after 6th April 2019.  
38 b) Self-employed workers operating as limited companies.  
39 c) Self-employed workers earning more than 50% of their  
40 income from employment.  
41 d) Self-employed workers with profits over £50,000.
- 42 vii) Ending the CJRS and SEISS prematurely would risk mass  
43 unemployment: the Office for Budget Responsibility forecasts that  
44 unemployment will rise by another 840,000 in the second quarter  
45 of 2021, assuming the Chancellor goes ahead with his plan to end  
46 both schemes in April.
- 47 viii) Unemployment will hamper economic growth, bring down tax  
48 receipts, add pressure to the welfare state and hurt the UK's  
49 economic recovery.
- 50 ix) At just £95.85 a week, Statutory Sick Pay is not enough for claimants  
51 to survive on.
- 52 x) This crisis has greatly increased the debt burden on many small  
53 businesses: research by the Federation of Small Businesses found  
54 that 34% have increased their levels of debt, and 40% of businesses  
55 in debt now describe it as "unmanageable".

**Friday 19 March**

F4

- 56 xi) The number of people starting apprenticeships in England had  
57 already fallen before COVID-19 hit – from 500,000 in 2014–15 to  
58 393,000 in 2018–19 – and it has plummeted further during the  
59 pandemic: just 54,000 people started apprenticeships between April  
60 and July 2020, compared to 102,000 in the same period of 2019.
- 61 xii) Fraudsters have exploited the Government’s COVID-19 support  
62 schemes, but HMRC does not yet know the scale of this fraud: its  
63 planning assumption was that total fraud and error in the CJRS  
64 would be 5 to 10%, equating to between £2.3bn and £4.6bn by  
65 December 2020.
- 66 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitments to:
- 67 A. Ensure a green recovery, with a focus on reskilling existing workers  
68 and those left unemployed by the pandemic so they can participate  
69 fully in the transition to a zero-carbon economy.
- 70 B. Expand higher vocational training, including by transforming the  
71 broken Apprenticeship Levy into a wider ‘Skills and Training Levy’  
72 and developing National Colleges as national centres of expertise  
73 for key sectors, such as renewable energy.
- 74 C. Develop a COVID-19 Race Equality Strategy, to form part of a new  
75 Social and Race Equality Contract.
- 76 Conference further calls on the Government to:
- 77 1. Immediately extend the CJRS and the SEISS until at least the end of  
78 June 2021 for all sectors of the economy, with provisions for flexible  
79 furlough arrangements.
- 80 2. Fix the SEISS by extending it to cover the self-employed people who  
81 are currently excluded.
- 82 3. Establish dedicated support schemes for the worst-affected sectors,  
83 such as hospitality, tourism, charities and the creative industries.
- 84 4. Develop a long-term economic strategy, setting out how the UK will  
85 invest in new industries, jobs and training, that will create a fairer,  
86 greener, more regionally balanced economy after the pandemic.

**Friday 19 March**

F4

- 87 5. Use the extension of the CJRS and SEISS to facilitate the transition to  
88 a new greener economy.
- 89 6. Legally require companies that use the CJRS to demonstrate they  
90 are offering equal pay for equal work and treating women fairly  
91 and equally in terms of restructuring, recruitment, retention and  
92 promotion.
- 93 7. Increase Statutory Sick Pay to the equivalent of two-thirds of the  
94 National Living Wage (currently £220 per week), and extend it to the  
95 2 million workers who are currently excluded because they earn  
96 less than £120 a week.
- 97 8. Provide more support to small businesses struggling with cash flow  
98 and debt, including by:
- 99 a) Extending business rates relief, VAT reductions and tax  
100 deferrals to avoid a potential cliff-edge.
- 101 b) Extending the Bounce Back Loan Scheme, and extending the  
102 period before businesses have to repay their loans.
- 103 9. Do more to tackle fraud and error in the CJRS and other COVID-19  
104 support schemes, and to recoup taxpayers' money that has been  
104 paid to fraudsters.

*Applicability: Federal; except xi) (lines 56–60), B. (lines 70–73), and 8 a) (lines 99–100), which are England only.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 6.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 8 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 5 – is 13.00 on 8 March. Those selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Friday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.*

## Friday 19 March

F4

14.50 Policy motion

### **F4 Supporting Businesses, Workers and the Self-Employed during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

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

- 1 *In vii) (line 33), delete 'are' and insert: 'were'.*
- 2 *Delete vi) a) (line 37).*
- 3 *In vii) (lines 43-46), delete 'the Office ... in April'.*
- 4 *In 1. (line 78), delete 'June' and insert: 'December'.*
- 5 *Delete 8. b) (lines 101-102).*

### **Amendment One**

*10 members*

Mover: Oliver Jones-Lyons.

Summation: Fraser Coppin.

- 1 *After xii) (line 65), insert:*
- 2 xiii) The steep rise in corporation tax in the Spring 2021 budget will
- 3 reduce prospects for investment, hampering the economic recovery
- 4 at a time where we urgently need more investment, public and
- 5 private.
- 6 *After 9. (line 104), insert:*
- 7 10. Freeze the rate of Corporation Tax at 19%.

### **Amendment Two**

*22 members*

Mover: Lisa Smart.

Summation: John Potter.

## Friday 19 March

F4

1 *After x) (line 55), insert:*

- 2 xi) The use of regional lockdowns means that some parts of the  
3 country will be worse-affected than others, while regions dependent  
4 on sectors such as tourism will also face particular challenges. In  
5 many cases, this will exacerbate pre-existing regional inequalities.

6 *After C. (line 75), insert:*

- 7 D. Establish a £50 billion capital rebalancing fund allocated to and  
8 administered by devolved authorities to address the historic  
9 investment disparities between our nations and regions, as  
10 adopted in policy paper 136, *Fairer Share For All* (2019).

11 *After 4. (line 86), insert:*

- 12 5. Establish and resource regional investment funds, allocated to  
13 and administered by devolved authorities, to enable targeted  
14 investments in rebuilding local economies, with particular emphasis  
15 on support to small and medium sized businesses.

### Background briefing

This motion updates and develops policy on the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, reaffirming existing policy as well as calling for extension and reform of the CJRS and the SEISS, an increase to Statutory Sick Pay and a variety of other measures to support the recovery. It builds on existing policy as set out in policy motion *The Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic* (September 2020) and policy motion *A Green Recovery from the Covid-19 Pandemic* (September 2020).

## Friday 19 March

F5

16.00 Speech

Chair: Cllr Joe Otten.

### F5 Jane Dodds, Leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats



@DoddsJane, #LDConf

16.20 Auditorium break

*Please see the Conference Directory for our fringe and exhibition programme.*

18.45 Policy motion

Chair: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Aides: Cllr Joe Otten and Jennie Rigg.

### F6 Lifting Barriers to Work for Disabled People

*14 members*

Mover: Wera Hobhouse MP (Spokesperson for Equalities).

Summation: Wendy Chamberlain MP (Spokesperson for Work and Pensions).

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 A. Of the eight million working-age people in the UK who have
- 3 a disability, just 52% are in work; for non-disabled people the
- 4 employment rate is 81%, meaning the disability employment gap
- 5 stands at 29 percentage points.
- 6 B. On average, non-disabled workers earn £2.10 per hour more than
- 7 disabled workers – a disability pay gap of 20%.
- 8 C. The majority of disabled people are not born with their disabilities,
- 9 but acquire them later in life; it could happen to anyone.
- 10 D. Many employers are still hesitant to employ disabled people: in
- 11 polling commissioned by Leonard Cheshire, one in five employers
- 12 said that a declared disability would make them less likely to
- 13 employ someone; 56% said the practicalities of making workplace
- 14 adjustments was a barrier to employing disabled people, and 54%
- 15 said the cost of adjustments was a barrier.

**Friday 19 March**

F6

- 16 E. As well as the devastating impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic  
17 on their health and care, disabled people have also been  
18 disproportionately affected at work – whether through being  
19 furloughed, having their hours reduced, being unable to return to  
20 work or being made redundant.
- 21 F. A survey by Unison found that half of disabled workers have been  
22 working entirely from home during the pandemic, with another 15%  
23 working from home some of the time; 73% of these said they were  
24 as or more productive working from home, and 54% of all disabled  
25 workers felt they would benefit from being able to work from home  
26 once the pandemic is over.
- 27 G. The Chancellor’s ‘Plan for Jobs’ in response to the pandemic made  
28 only one reference to disabled people – and that was merely to  
29 state that expanding the Work and Health Programme “will have  
30 no impact on the existing provision for those with illnesses or  
31 disabilities”.

32 Conference believes that:

- 33 I. Despite progress since the Disability Discrimination Act was passed  
34 in 1995, there is still much further to go to end discrimination  
35 against disabled people – including in the workplace.
- 36 II. We must do far more to tackle barriers to work for disabled people,  
37 including by providing more support for employers to change the  
38 way they view disability.

39 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitments to:

- 40 a) Increase funding for the Access to Work scheme and raise  
41 employers’ awareness of it.
- 42 b) Make flexible working a ‘day one’ right: flexible working should  
43 be open to anyone from when they start a job, with employers  
44 required to advertise jobs accordingly, unless there are significant  
45 business reasons why that is not possible.
- 46 c) Require large employers with more than 250 employees to monitor  
47 and publish data on disability employment levels and pay gaps, as  
48 well as for gender, ethnicity and LGBT+ employees.

49 Conference further calls on the Government to:

**Friday 19 March**

F6

- 50 1. Implement a targeted strategy to support disabled people into  
51 work, with a Jobs Guarantee for newly unemployed disabled people  
52 and specialist disability employment support.
- 53 2. Give disabled people a 'day one' right to work from home if they  
54 want to, unless there are significant business reasons why it is not  
55 possible.
- 56 3. Improve the Access to Work scheme by simplifying and speeding up  
57 the application process to make it easier for employers – especially  
58 small businesses.
- 59 4. Introduce 'Adjustment Passports' to record the adjustments,  
60 modifications and equipment a disabled person has received, and  
61 ensure that Access to Work support and equipment stays with the  
62 person if they change jobs.
- 63 5. Increase Employment Support Allowance and Personal  
64 Independence Payments by £20 a week.

*Applicability: Federal.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 6.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 8 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 5 – is 13.00 on 8 March. Those selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Friday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.*



## Friday 19 March

F6

### F6 Lifting Barriers to Work for Disabled People

#### Amendment One

*10 members*

Mover: Charley Hasted.

Summation: to be announced.

- 1 *In 2. (line 53), delete 'disabled people' and insert 'every person'.*

*There will be a separate vote on the word 'newly' in 1. (line 51) of the motion.*

#### Background briefing

This motion updates and develops policy on disability equality in the workplace, reaffirming existing policy as well as calling for a package of measures to help reduce barriers to disabled people. It builds on existing policy as set out in the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019).

**Friday 19 March**

F7

19.45 Presentation

Chair: Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC).

**F7 Liberal Democrats in Local Government**

*This session will give an opportunity for Liberal Democrat leaders in local government to set out what they have been achieving for their communities.*

*Speakers to be announced.*

20.10 Constitutional amendments

Chair: Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC). Aides: Bex Scott and Chris Adams.

**F8 Complaints Procedure**

*Federal Board*

Mover: Neil Fawcett.

Summation: Alice Thomas.

- 1 Conference notes that Conference has passed two different processes
- 2 for amending the party's complaints process. When Conference last
- 3 approved the complaints process, it permitted the Federal Board to make
- 4 changes to it, provided they are afterwards reported to Conference.
- 5 However, when Conference last approved the constitutional clauses
- 6 governing the complaints process, it agreed wording that requires all
- 7 changes to come to Conference first.

8 Conference believes that:

- 9 1. Requiring all changes to the complaints process, however small,
- 10 to come to Conference first is impractical and, in an extreme case,
- 11 could leave the party with a complaints process with a substantial
- 12 deficiency (or deficiencies) for some time. Such a deficiency
- 13 may prevent the party from suitably protecting members and
- 14 its reputation, or complying with a decision of a court or other
- 15 external body. This issue has been highlighted by the cancellation
- 16 of Spring conference 2020, which has caused much needed

**Friday 19 March**

F8

17 changes to the procedure to be substantially delayed.  
 18 2. Accordingly, there should be a mechanism by which the  
 19 Complaints process Procedure can be amended with immediate  
 20 effect, provided that any amendments are reported to Conference  
 21 and that conference has the opportunity to express a view on  
 22 them and hold to account those who have supported the changes.

23 Conference therefore resolves to amend the Constitution so that it is in  
 24 line with the Complaints Procedure by deleting Article 23.3 and inserting  
 25 the following:

26 23.3 The Federal Board shall have power, after appropriate  
 27 consultations, to make and from time to time vary procedures for  
 28 the handling of complaints (the "Complaints Procedures"). These  
 29 Complaints Procedures shall include an appeals process. The  
 30 Federal Board shall report any variations made to the Complaints  
 31 Procedures in its written report to conference under Article 8.7.  
 32 Such variations shall be effective from the date of approval by the  
 33 Federal Board.

*The current Federal Party constitution is available at  
[www.libdems.org.uk/constitution](http://www.libdems.org.uk/constitution)*

*The existing text of Article 23.3 of the constitution is as follows:*

23.3 The Federal Board shall have power, after appropriate consultations, to make and from time to time vary procedures for the handling of complaints (the "Complaints Procedures"). These Complaints Procedures shall include an appeals process. The Federal Board shall report any variations made to the Complaints Procedures in its written report to conference under Article 8.7. Such variations shall be effective from the date on which such report is made.

*Applicability: Federal.*

*Mover: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 6.*

**Friday 19 March**

F8

*The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 8 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 5 – is 13.00 on 8 March. Those selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Friday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.*

*Constitutional amendments require a two-thirds majority to pass.*

## Friday 19 March

F9

Chair: Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC). Aides: Bex Scott and Chris Adams.

### F9 Changes to the Role of Vice President

#### *Federal Board*

Mover: Isabelle Parasram (Vice President of the Liberal Democrats).

Summation: Ade Adeyemo.

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 I. The 2019 General Election Review (the Thornhill Review) specifically  
3 recommended that the party “embed at all levels the concerns and  
4 interests of [ethnic minority] communities”.
- 5 II. The post of Vice President is currently elected by the Federal Board  
6 rather than party members, and does not have a vote at the Federal  
7 Board.

8 Conference further notes that the Constitution refers to the Vice President  
9 as ‘the Vice President responsible for working with BaME communities’  
10 in Articles 14.3 (b) and 20.2 (d) and that ‘Ethnic minority communities’ is  
11 preferable in this context.

12 Conference believes that a post as important as this one should be  
13 elected by all party members by a process of one member, one vote, as in  
14 the case of the Party President; such a process would:

- 15 a) Be more democratic.
- 16 b) Raise more awareness of the role.
- 17 c) Give the Vice President a clearer mandate.
- 18 d) Simplify the election process.

19 Conference resolves that from the end of the current term of office, to  
20 reform the role of the Vice President (“responsible for working with BaME  
21 communities”) and the rules associated with it by:

- 22 1. Making the Vice President a voting member of the Federal Board,  
23 inserting a new Article 9.2 (j) (i):  
24 ‘a Vice President responsible for working with ethnic minority  
25 communities;’

**Friday 19 March**

F9

- 26 (renumbering subsequent articles as appropriate).
- 27 2. In Article 14.3 (b), changing 'BaME' to 'ethnic minority'.
- 28 3. In Article 20.2 (d) changing 'BaME' to 'ethnic minority' and replacing  
29 'the Federal Board' with 'the members of the Party for a term of  
30 three years starting from 1st January in the year immediately  
31 following the election and shall hold office until death, incapacity,  
32 resignation or the election of a successor; this Vice President shall  
33 be eligible for re-election once only'.
- 34 4. Making any necessary alterations to any and all further documents  
35 to be consistent across Party documentation.

*The current Federal Party constitution is available at  
[www.libdems.org.uk/constitution](http://www.libdems.org.uk/constitution)*

*The existing text of the relevant parts of the Articles are as follows:*

- 9.1. There shall be a Federal Board (FB), which shall be responsible for directing, coordinating and overseeing the implementation of the Party's strategy and the work of the Federal Party.
- 9.2. It shall consist of:
  - (i) voting members:
    - (a) ...
  - ...
- 14.3 The Committee [The FPDC] shall comprise:
  - ...
  - (b) the Vice President responsible for working with BaME communities;
  - ...
- 20.2 The Vice Presidents of the Party shall be:
  - ...
  - d) a Vice President responsible for working with BaME communities, elected by the Federal Board.

**Friday 19 March**

F9

*Applicability: Federal.*

*Mover: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.*

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 6.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion – see page 8 – and for requests for separate votes – see page 5 – is 13.00 on 8 March. Those selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Friday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.*

*Constitutional amendments require a two-thirds majority to pass.*

21.15 Close of session

# Saturday 20 March

F10

09.30 Party business

Chair: Bex Scott. Aides: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC) and Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC).

## **F10 Reports of the Parliamentary Parties**

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

*The deadline for questions to these reports is 13.00 on 8 March. Questions selected will be published in the Conference Extra and Saturday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda. These questions will be guaranteed an answer, either in the session or in writing thereafter. Questions may also be submitted online until 16.00 on Friday 19 March, or through the chat function in Hopin during the session, but they will only be called if time allows and at the discretion of the Chair. See page 7 for further information.*

09.55 Policy motion

Chair: Jennie Rigg. Aides: Nick Da Costa (Vice Chair, FCC) and Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC).

## **F11 Giving Consumers a Fairer Deal (Utilities Policy Paper)**

*Federal Policy Committee*

Mover: Sarah Olney MP (Spokesperson on Business and Energy).

Summation: Neil Stockley (Chair of the Policy Working Group).

- 1 Conference notes the importance of utility industries and infrastructures –
- 2 energy, water, telecommunications and rail:
  - 3 A. In the daily lives of everyone in the UK, as highlighted by the
  - 4 coronavirus crisis.
  - 5 B. To delivering Liberal Democrat aims of a lasting recovery from the
  - 6 coronavirus crisis and building an economy that is more balanced
  - 7 across the UK, more environmentally sustainable and more resilient
  - 8 to future shocks.



**Saturday 20 March**

F11

9 Conference believes that:

- 10 i) The current system of utility regulation will not deliver the scale of  
11 investment needed to deliver our longer-term aims.
- 12 ii) Liberalised utility markets and the regulation of network  
13 monopolies do not work to the benefit of all consumers, particularly  
14 vulnerable and disadvantaged consumers.

15 Conference calls for reforms of utility regulation to:

- 16 I. Give consumers, especially vulnerable consumers, a fairer deal.
- 17 II. Ensure that utilities contribute to Liberal Democrats' aims of  
18 establishing long-term growth across all the regions and nations of  
19 the UK and making the transition to net zero carbon by 2045 at the  
20 latest.

21 Conference therefore endorses policy paper 140, *Giving Consumers a*  
22 *Fairer Deal*, and in particular its proposals to:

23 1. Create fair retail markets for consumers by:

24 a) In energy:

- 25 i) Enabling disengaged customers to save money by  
26 bringing in collective opt-out switching.
- 27 ii) Protecting consumers using energy management and  
28 'auto-switching' services.
- 29 iii) Protecting customers from company failures by  
30 ensuring that the customers given a new supplier under  
31 Supplier of Last Resort (SoLR) receive a competitive  
32 tariff.

33 b) In telecoms:

- 34 i) Preventing mobile operators from applying roaming  
35 charges for calls to and from EU countries.
- 36 ii) Requiring companies to inform customers of the cost  
37 when they attempt to access bundled services, so that  
38 they can end the call without charge.

**Saturday 20 March**

F11

- 39                   iii)     Requiring telecoms companies to continue to provide a  
40                   webmail service at a regulated price to customers who  
41                   switch provider.
- 42    2.     Secure a better deal for consumers from network monopolies by:
- 43           a)     Eliminating regional differentials on consumer electricity bills.  
44           b)     Bringing in a simpler fares structure for rail passengers.  
45           c)     Ensuring that price reviews deliver a fair balance between  
46           promoting the interests of consumers, securing the  
47           investment needed to deliver net-zero and resilient  
48           networks and making sure there is a reasonable return for  
49           shareholders.  
50           d)     Introducing outperformance sharing mechanisms to allow  
51           consumers to share in the benefits that equity investors  
52           achieve from high gearing.  
53           e)     In telecoms, moving towards regulation of the service being  
54           provided, rather than regulating particular players in the  
55           market, as part of a package of measures to address the  
56           growing power of 'big tech' companies.
- 57    3.     Address the difficulties faced by vulnerable consumers, including  
58           elderly people, disabled people and people on low incomes by:
- 59           a)     In energy:
- 60           i)     Reforming the price cap, to target customers in  
61           vulnerable circumstances, with a new capped tariff set  
62           lower than the existing price cap.  
63           ii)    Ensuring that the Warm Homes Discount (and any  
64           successor scheme) is available to all customers in  
65           vulnerable circumstances.  
66           iii)   Ensuring that prepayment customers pay for their  
67           energy on the same basis as credit customers.
- 68           b)     In water:
- 69           i)     Asking Ofwat and the water companies to set minimum  
70           criteria for the value, scope and eligibility criteria for

**Saturday 20 March**

F11

- 71 social tariff schemes across the country.
- 72 ii) Requiring water companies to put a share of their own
- 73 profits into social tariffs.
- 74 iii) Encouraging water companies to work more
- 75 collaboratively to raise awareness of priority services
- 76 and to be more pro-active in identifying customers in
- 77 need of temporary support.
- 78 iv) Expanding opportunities for customers to reduce their
- 79 water bills.
  
- 80 4. Reduce the ‘digital divide’ between different areas of the UK and
- 81 different groups of the population by ensuring that regulation
- 82 delivers:
  
- 83 a) Telecoms services that are accessible to everyone, regardless
- 84 of where they live or their socio-economic status, and remain
- 85 available for as long as they are needed.
- 86 b) Universal coverage and good performance of telecoms
- 87 services to all consumers – our minimum standard will be
- 88 access to broadband of at least 30Mbit/s downstream and
- 89 5Mbit/s upstream at an affordable price, and this will be
- 90 reviewed as technology improves.
  
- 91 5. Strengthen consumer redress and advocacy by:
  
- 92 a) Pursuing a strategic re-design of regulation, to coordinate
- 93 advice, advocacy, redress and regulation.
- 94 b) Promoting improved coordination between the regulators, to
- 95 develop common approaches on consumer protection.
- 96 c) Giving Citizens Advice the statutory role to represent and
- 97 support consumers in telecoms, building on its knowledge
- 98 and expertise in energy.
- 99 d) Ensuring that protection is extended to areas which are
- 100 currently unregulated, such as electric vehicles, heat networks
- 101 and heat pumps.
  
- 102 6. Facilitate a more strategic approach by industries, government and
- 103 regulators to future investment by:

**Saturday 20 March**

F11

- 104 a) Issuing strategic policy statements for each of the regulated  
105 sectors, consistent with Liberal Democrats' longer-term  
106 objectives.
- 107 b) Establishing a new Railway Agency, responsible for the  
108 strategic management of the rail system and for planning  
109 new investments, working to a policy framework set by the  
110 government.
- 111 c) Modernising the way price controls are conducted, to  
112 encourage innovation by enabling more competition.
- 113 7. Ensure that regulators encourage companies and consumers  
114 to behave more consistently with our commitment to tackle the  
115 climate emergency by:
- 116 a) Giving Ofgem, Ofwat, Ofcom and the new Railway Agency a  
117 primary duty to help deliver our net-zero target and to assist  
118 in building network resilience.
- 119 b) Requiring the regulators to show how their policies and  
120 decisions are aligned with, and promote the achievement of,  
121 our emissions targets and climate adaptation policies.
- 122 8. Make utility regulators more accountable by:
- 123 a) Ensuring that Parliamentary Select Committees can scrutinise  
124 the regulators' performance in respect of their statutory  
125 duties and public policy aims, as set out in the strategic policy  
126 statements.
- 127 b) Improving monitoring and reporting, by requiring regulators  
128 to develop better and more accessible performance measures  
129 covering investment, quality of service, environmental  
130 protection and resilience.
- 131 9. Promote a public benefit company model for electricity distribution,  
132 gas distribution and water companies, so that particular economic  
133 and environmental policy objectives must be considered explicitly in  
134 the running of the companies.

*Applicability: Federal; except 3. b) (lines 68–79), which is England and Wales.*

## Saturday 20 March

F11

*Mover and summation combined: 16 minutes; movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.*

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 6.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 8 March see page 8. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Saturday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.30 Friday 19 March; see page 5.*

# Saturday 20 March

F11

## F11 *Giving Consumers a Fairer Deal*

### Amendment One

11 members

Mover: Alan Luckraft.

Summation: Linda Johnson.

1 *After a) iii) (line 32), insert:*

- 2           iv) Requiring energy companies that offer a discount to customers  
3           who buy both electricity and gas to offer the same discount  
4           to customers who can not buy gas because it is not available  
5           where they live.

### Amendment Two

11 members

Mover: Alan Luckraft.

Summation: Linda Johnson.

1 *After 7. b) (line 121), insert:*

- 2           c) Requiring the regulators to prevent energy companies making  
3           standing charges.

### Background briefing

This motion and the accompanying policy paper update and develop policy on the utilities sector (energy, water, telecommunications and rail). It aims to improve outcomes for consumers, especially vulnerable consumers and those in regions with lower quality services, and to help deliver on our environmental goals.

This builds on existing policy as set out in policy paper 139 *Tackling the Climate Emergency* (2019) and the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019).

## Saturday 20 March

F11A

11.15 Statement

### F11A Violence Against Women and Girls

Statement by: Wera Hobhouse MP (Spokesperson for Justice and Equalities)

*The FCC has exercised its discretion under Standing Order 1.7 to include in the Conference Agenda a statement on behalf of the party on a matter of great importance taking place after the deadline for the submission of emergency motions.*

**Saturday 20 March**

F12

11.30 Presentation

Chair: Chris Maines.

**F12 Liberal Democrat Mayoral Candidates**

*Mayor Dave Hodgson leads a discussion between mayoral candidates, Aidan Van de Weyer (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough) Simon Lepori (Greater Manchester), Jenny Wilkinson (West Midlands) and Stephen Williams (West of England). Introduced by Baroness Dorothy Thornhill.*

11.55 Policy motion

Chair: Chris Adams. Aides: Bex Scott and Duncan Brack.

**F13 Stand up for Unpaid Carers***13 members*

Mover: Rt Hon Sir Edward Davey MP (Leader of the Liberal Democrats).

Summation: Cllr Ruth Dombey.

- 1 Conference believes that:
  - 2 I. People who care for others – whether paid or unpaid, young or old
  - 3 – do a remarkable and important job; they deserve our support, but
  - 4 are far too often forgotten and ignored.
  - 5 II. Millions of carers face big challenges every single day: many are
  - 6 living in poverty, many find it impossible to juggle work with caring
  - 7 responsibilities, and many struggle with their own physical and
  - 8 mental health; these challenges have been made even harder by
  - 9 the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - 10 III. As this pandemic has reminded everyone, caring for people’s health
  - 11 doesn’t stop at the hospital exit or the GP’s surgery door; we can
  - 12 only truly improve the NHS if we properly support carers.
  - 13 IV. Throughout this pandemic, Ministers have let carers down and
  - 14 shown that they are just an afterthought for the Government –
  - 15 whether it’s about supporting them financially, enabling them to
  - 16 visit their loved ones in care homes, or vaccinating them against
  - 17 COVID-19.



**Saturday 20 March**

F13

- 18 V. We must do far more to support our wonderful carers; the Liberal  
19 Democrats must stand up for carers and lead the way to a more  
20 caring society as we emerge from this pandemic.
- 21 VI. Supporting carers is a vital part of building a fairer society,  
22 championing social justice and achieving gender equality.
- 23 Conference notes that:
- 24 A. Carers UK estimates that there are 11.5 million people across the  
25 UK who give unpaid support to someone who is elderly, seriously ill  
26 or disabled; it estimates that, by doing so, unpaid carers are saving  
27 the Government £193 billion a year.
- 28 B. Most unpaid carers are having to spend more time looking after  
29 loved ones during the pandemic; most haven't been able to take a  
30 single break since it started; most are simply exhausted.
- 31 C. Millions of people juggle work with unpaid caring responsibilities,  
32 and this can be hard: every day, an estimated 640 people give up  
33 paid work altogether in order to care.
- 34 D. According to a survey by the Disability Law Service, 52% of carers  
35 who apply for flexible working have their applications refused.
- 36 E. The Government plans to introduce one week of 'Carer's Leave' a  
37 year, but is proposing that it be unpaid.
- 38 F. 900,000 full-time unpaid carers – most of them women – rely on  
39 Carer's Allowance, which at only £67.25 a week is the lowest benefit  
40 of its kind.
- 41 G. Many carers are currently excluded from receiving Carer's  
42 Allowance, including:
- 43 i) Carers in full-time education or studying for 21 hours or more  
44 a week.
- 45 ii) Carers earning more than £128 a week – less than 15 hours a  
46 week on the National Living Wage.
- 47 iii) Carers who spend less than 35 hours per week on their caring  
48 responsibilities.

**Saturday 20 March**

F13

- 49 H. Thousands of carers are facing extreme financial hardship: a recent  
50 survey by Carers UK found that more than a third of those on  
51 Carer's Allowance are struggling to make ends meet; many have  
52 been struggling for months, often relying on foodbanks to feed  
53 themselves and the people they care for.
- 54 I. In response to the outbreak of the pandemic, the Government  
55 increased the Universal Credit standard allowance and the Working  
56 Tax Credit basic element by £20 a week above the planned uprating  
57 in April 2020, but Conservative Ministers have refused to increase  
58 Carer's Allowance.
- 59 J. Liberal Democrats successfully campaigned alongside carers and  
60 carers organisations to add unpaid carers to the priority list for  
61 vaccination against COVID-19.
- 62 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitments to:
- 63 a) Introduce a statutory guarantee of regular respite breaks for unpaid  
64 carers.
- 65 b) Make flexible working a 'day one' right: flexible working should  
66 be open to anyone from when they start a job, with employers  
67 required to advertise jobs accordingly, unless there are significant  
68 business reasons why that is not possible.
- 69 c) Introduce a package of carer benefits including free leisure centre  
70 access and self-referral to socially prescribed activities and courses,  
71 as well as free bus travel for young carers and young adult carers.
- 72 d) Lift the ban on carers in full-time education receiving Carer's  
73 Allowance.
- 74 Conference further calls on the Government to support unpaid carers by:
- 75 1. Providing emergency funding for respite care so that carers can  
76 take breaks.
- 77 2. Introducing paid Carer's Leave.
- 78 3. Making caring a protected characteristic under the Equality Act  
79 2010.
- 80 4. Requiring employers to make reasonable adjustments to enable  
81 employees with caring responsibilities to provide that care.

**Saturday 20 March**

F13

- 82 5. Raising Carer's Allowance by £20 a week.  
83 6. Increasing the Carer Element of Universal Credit by £20 a week, so  
84 carers' other benefits are not reduced as a result.  
85 7. Increasing the Carer Premium and Carer Addition by £20 a week  
86 as well, and providing an equivalent payment to carers who are  
87 entitled to Carer's Allowance but not receiving it, so older carers on  
88 low incomes also benefit.  
89 8. Raising the amount carers can earn before losing Carer's Allowance  
90 from £128 to £160 a week and reducing the number of hours' care  
91 per week required to qualify for it.  
92 9. Providing additional funding to local authorities and relevant leisure  
93 providers to enable them to provide a package of carer benefits.

*Applicability: Federal; except a) (lines 63–64), c) (lines 69–71), 1. (lines 75–76) and 9. (lines 92–93), which are England only.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 6.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 8 March; see page 8. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Saturday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.30 Friday 19 March; see page 5.*

**13.00 Auditorium break**

*Please see the Conference Directory for our fringe and exhibition programme.*

**Saturday 20 March**

F13

**F13 Standing Up for Unpaid Carers**

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

1 *After J. (line 61), insert:*

2 K. Many carers face the prospect of the death of the person whom  
3 they are caring for: even more so during the pandemic.

4 *After 9. (line 93), insert:*

5 10. Making receipt of Carer's Allowance an eligibility criterion for the  
6 Government's Funeral Expenses Payment.

**Amendment One**

*10 members*

Mover: Charley Hasted.

Summation: to be announced.

1 *After VI. (line 22), insert:*

2 VII. Access to education and employment are vital in helping to lift  
3 people out of poverty and deprivation and that current lack of  
4 support for Carers and welfare benefits rules actively prevents this.  
5 VIII. It is essential that widespread reforms are enacted to better protect  
6 and support Carers and those they care for and for the benefit of  
7 society.

8 *After J. (line 61), insert:*

9 K. 63% of carers also have a Disability or long term health condition  
10 themselves – sometimes as a result of their caring responsibilities.  
11 The most recent statistics available (2010) showed 27% of unpaid  
12 carers were claiming Disability Living Allowance in their own right.

13 L. In June 2020 it was found that at at least an additional 4.5m people  
14 have had to take on caring responsibilities due to the pandemic.

**Saturday 20 March**

F13

- 15 M. In 2019 it was found that 51% of carers provide at least 50 hours of  
16 care per week.
- 17 N. Caring is often not a 1:1 relationship – approximately 10% of carers  
18 care for more than one person and a significant number of disabled  
19 people have more than one unpaid carer – situations the current  
20 rules on carer’s allowance fail to consider.
- 21 *In 1. (line 76), after ‘breaks’ insert: ‘; this should replace the care provided*  
22 *by the carer on a 1:1 basis without any requirement for the disabled*  
23 *person to go into a respite care centre (unless they want to) or accept a*  
24 *reduction in care hours’.*
- 25 *In 8. (line 90), after ‘£160 a week’ insert: ‘introduce tapering off after this*  
26 *point so that unpaid carers are not subject to a cliff edge removal of*  
27 *benefits when they try to move into employment,’.*
- 28 *In 9. (line 93), after ‘benefits’ insert: ‘including access to training and*  
29 *support as required e.g. manual handling, first aid, dementia care and*  
30 *understanding their rights as a carer’.*
- 31 *After 9. (line 93), add:*
- 32 10. A commitment to move towards at least 80% of referrals to Mental  
33 Health and Occupational Therapy services to be fulfilled within 8  
34 weeks and 100% within 16 weeks.
- 35 11. Further reforming claimant rules on carers allowance to allow  
36 people to combine the hours they care for different people in a  
37 claim and to allow for multiple people to claim Carer’s Allowance for  
38 the same person where they all meet entitlement rules.

**Background briefing**

This motion updates and develops policy on unpaid carers, reaffirming existing policy, as well as introducing a package of measures to improve the lives of carers.

This builds on existing policy as set out in the policy motion *Young Carers* (September 2019) and the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019).

**Saturday 20 March**

F14

14.15 Policy motion

Chair: Nick Da Costa. (Vice Chair, FCC). Aides: Chris Adams and Bex Scott.

**F14 The COVID-19 Pandemic**

*To ensure a timely and relevant debate on the COVID-19 pandemic, the Federal Conference Committee have decided to reserve this space on the agenda and to invite members to submit motions about the health response to the pandemic up to the emergency motions deadline.*

*The deadline for submission of motions on the pandemic is 13.00 on Monday 8 March. The selected motion will be available online the following week and will be published in the Conference Extra and Saturday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 17.00, Wednesday 17 March. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Saturday Conference Daily update to the Conference Agenda.*

*The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.30 on Friday 19 March; see page 5.*

**Saturday 20 March**

F14

**F14 Fixing the Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic***Federal Policy Committee*

Mover: Munira Wilson MP (Spokesperson on Health, Wellbeing &amp; Social Care).

Summation: Baroness Brinton (Lords Spokesperson on Health, Wellbeing &amp; Social Care).

- 1 Conference records its deep sorrow and outrage at the suffering and
- 2 loss of life caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, both here in the UK and
- 3 globally, which has resulted in more than one hundred thousand deaths
- 4 in the UK since our Autumn conference, a period of only six months.
  
- 5 Conference regrets the enormous economic damage caused by the virus
- 6 and the hardship many people are facing, with the poorest, women and
- 7 young people being hit hardest. Conference further regrets the social
- 8 damage inflicted by the pandemic and the severe impact it has had on
- 9 people's mental health and wellbeing, including as a result of incidences
- 10 of domestic violence increasing dramatically over the last year.
  
- 11 Conference pays tribute to NHS staff, social care workers and volunteers
- 12 that have worked tirelessly to get as many people vaccinated as efficiently
- 13 and safely as possible, and have cared for those ill with COVID-19.
- 14 Conference further pays tribute to the scientists and experts that
- 15 helped to develop safe and highly effective vaccines in under a year, an
- 16 unprecedented achievement.
  
- 17 Conference also welcomes the successful actions of local government in
- 18 creating local systems involving ethnic, faith and other community leaders
- 19 to drive up testing, tracing, isolating and vaccination rates amongst hard
- 20 to reach individuals and communities.
  
- 21 Conference believes that it is clear that the UK Government failed to learn
- 22 the lessons from earlier in the pandemic and failed to prepare for the
- 23 Winter of 2020/21; in particular conference believes that:
  - 24 I. The Government has consistently been too late to put the country
  - 25 into lockdown despite rising infections and deaths.
  - 26 II. Ministers failed again to communicate clearly the importance of
  - 27 restrictions introduced to contain the virus, with mixed messaging,
  - 28 consistent conflation of guidance and rule of law, and several

## Saturday 20 March

F14

- 29 dithering U-turns.
- 30 III. The Government was dishonest about the effects the Christmas  
31 relaxation of restrictions would have on the spread of the virus and  
32 the subsequent increase in deaths.
- 33 IV. The confusion over the decision to shut schools just a day after  
34 the Prime Minister insisted it was safe to keep them open was  
35 extremely disruptive.
- 36 V. There continues to be a failure to take full advantage of the  
37 strengths and expertise of local government.
- 38 VII. The Government's failure to impose proper restrictions at borders  
39 has led to an increased number of deaths in the UK.
- 40 VIII. The test, trace and isolate system continues to fail to contact people  
41 who have come into contact with the virus and still does not provide  
42 adequate support for those required to self-isolate.
- 43 IX. Low vaccination rates amongst care workers reflects the difficulty  
44 many have had in booking appointments given their long hours and  
45 demanding work, loss of earnings without compensation, and the  
46 distance some must travel to vaccination centres.

47 Conference further notes that the Government broke the law by failing  
48 to report details of all contracts it has signed during the Covid pandemic;  
49 these deals were worth hundreds of millions of pounds and the public  
50 have a right to know how this money was spent and which companies  
51 were contracted to supply the Government.

52 In addition to reaffirming the motion passed at Autumn Conference 2020  
53 (The Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic), conference calls  
54 on the Conservative Government to:

- 55 1. Fix the self-isolation scheme by:
- 56 a) Guaranteeing a payment equal to minimum wage to ensure  
57 that no one is forced to come out of isolation for lack of  
58 money.
- 59 b) Supporting the dependents of those isolating.
- 60 c) Providing appropriate accommodation free of charge to those  
61 who cannot easily self-isolate at home.
- 62 d) Putting in place and funding local public health teams, working  
63 with the NHS, to check in daily on those isolating to ensure  
64 they have everything they need to continue their isolation.



## Saturday 20 March

F14

- 65 2. Mend the broken Track and Trace scheme by making much better  
66 use of existing expertise in local government.
- 67 3. Launch an independent public inquiry as promised by Boris Johnson  
68 immediately, so that lessons can be learnt as to how to handle  
69 future outbreaks and/or pandemics.
- 70 4. Reject the need for 'vaccine passports' – conference believes that  
71 'vaccine passports' for domestic use:  
72 a) Disproportionately impact those that have not yet had their  
73 vaccination and would lead to a two-tier system between those  
74 who have been vaccinated and those who have not.  
75 b) Disadvantage people with certain medical conditions and those  
76 under the age of 18 who cannot be vaccinated  
77 c) Are difficult to enforce and could be open to forgery.
- 78 5. Implement simultaneous and immediate rollout of UK-purchased  
79 vaccines via COVAX, at the same time as it is happening in the UK, as  
80 requested by the WHO.
- 81 6. Support those working in the NHS and social care, and emergency  
82 services by:  
83 a) Ensuring they have the protective equipment they need.  
84 b) Providing them with adequate mental health support.  
85 c) Giving them a pay award that properly recognises their service.  
86 d) Granting all foreign nationals working in the NHS and social  
87 care indefinite leave to remain.
- 88 7. Increase support for disabled people through the social care,  
89 housing, education and mental health systems and safeguard their  
90 rights by scrapping the relaxations within the Coronavirus Act.
- 91 8. Support those with 'Long Covid' by:  
92 a) Committing to carrying out urgent research into the long-  
93 term effects of COVID-19 disease with the aim of identifying  
94 treatments and causes.  
95 b) Developing a register for those suffering from Long Covid and  
96 create care pathways to ensure that all practitioners have the  
97 guidance to treat long-term COVID-19 patients effectively.

## Saturday 20 March

F14

- 98 9. Tackle the disproportionate impact of coronavirus on black,  
99 asian and minority ethnic communities, and introduce a cross-  
100 government Race Equality Strategy.
- 101 10. Constantly assess and learn from countries that have successfully  
102 managed outbreaks of the virus, in particular, Australia, New  
103 Zealand, Taiwan and South Korea.
- 104 11. Apply quarantine to all travellers to England, not just to those  
105 travelling from so called 'red list' countries where there is a high  
106 prevalence of new variants.
- 107 12. Improve mental health support during the pandemic by:  
108 a) Properly signposting the mental health support available  
109 during the coronavirus crisis.  
110 b) Increasing the level of funding for mental health charities  
111 offering support during the coronavirus crisis.  
112 c) Providing additional investment in mental health services.
- 113 13. Ensure that migrants are not prevented from accessing vaccines,  
114 healthcare or financial support, by:  
115 a) Suspending the 'no recourse to public funds' rule.  
116 b) Ending immigration checks and upfront charging in the NHS.  
117 c) Establishing a firewall to prevent public agencies from sharing  
118 personal information with the Home Office for the purposes of  
119 immigration enforcement.

*Applicability: England only; except 5 (lines 78–80), 6 d) (lines 86–87), 13 a) (line 115) and 13 c) (lines 117–119), which are Federal.*

*Mover: 7 minutes; summation of motion and movers and summation of any amendments: 4 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 6.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 17.00, Wednesday 17 March. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Saturday Conference Daily update to the Conference Agenda.*

*The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.30 on Friday 19 March; see page 5.*

# Saturday 20 March

F14

## Amendment One

*Young Liberals*

Mover: Lucy Tonge.

Summator: Janey Little.

- 1 *In 7. (line 90), after 'the Coronavirus Act' insert: 'and rejecting the blanket*
- 2 *issuing of 'do not attempt cardiopulmonary resuscitation' decisions*
- 3 *(DNACPRs)'.*

*There will be separate vote on 4. (lines 70–77).*

## Background briefing

This motion updates and develops policy on COVID-19, reaffirming existing policy as well as introducing numerous measures to reduce the impact of COVID-19. Notably, it calls for a rejection of a 'vaccine passport' and makes recommendations for improving the test, trace and isolate systems.

It builds on existing policy as set out in policy motion *The Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic* (September 2020).

## Saturday 20 March

F15

15.15 Question & answer session

Chair: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC). Aides: John Bridges and Chris Maines.

### F15 Rt Hon Sir Edward Davey MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats

*Members may put questions on any topic to the Leader of the Liberal Democrats. Concise questions (maximum 25 words) may be submitted via the website until 16.00 on Friday 19 March or using the conference chat whilst the session is in progress. See Page 7.*

16.00 Speech

Chair: Jenni Lang.

### F16 Willie Rennie MSP, Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats



@willie\_rennie, #LDConf

16.20 Auditorium break

*Please see the Conference Directory for our fringe and exhibition programme.*

**Saturday 20 March**

F17

18.45 Policy motion

Chair: Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC). Aides: Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC) and Cllr Joe Otten.

**F17 The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement and the Future of the UK-EU Relationship***37 members*

Mover: Layla Moran MP (Spokesperson on Foreign Affairs).

Summation: Duncan Brack.

- 1 Conference believes that the Conservative government's EU-UK Trade and
- 2 Cooperation Agreement:
  - 3 A. Is a threadbare deal, bad for jobs, business, security, and the
  - 4 environment.
  - 5 B. Is the only 'free' trade deal in history to put up new barriers to trade
  - 6 instead of pulling them down, and leaves the UK services sector in
  - 7 total limbo.
  - 8 C. Represents a comprehensive betrayal of the promises made by the
  - 9 Leave campaigns during the referendum and by the Conservatives'
  - 10 2019 election manifesto.
- 11 Conference further believes that this botched deal will make the British
- 12 people poorer and less safe by, among other things:
  - 13 i) Erecting new and significant non-tariff barriers to trade in UK goods
  - 14 and services with the EU, putting at risk at least 3.3 million jobs, and
  - 15 pushing many businesses already struggling as a result of COVID-19
  - 16 over the edge.
  - 17 ii) Putting up barriers to future foreign investment in the UK through
  - 18 creating permanent uncertainty over the UK's potential future
  - 19 divergence from EU standards.
  - 20 iii) Withdrawing from Europol, Eurojust and the Schengen Information
  - 21 System database.
  - 22 iv) Removing the rights to free movement of UK citizens to live, work,
  - 23 study and retire within the EU.
  - 24 v) Failing to put in place any frameworks for UK-EU cooperation on

**Saturday 20 March**

F17

- 25 foreign, external security or defence policy.
- 26 vi) Ending UK participation in the Erasmus programme.
- 27 Conference condemns the UK government for ensuring that the bill  
28 implementing the new treaty was pushed through Parliament with only a  
29 charade of democratic accountability and no opportunity to scrutinise its  
30 flaws.
- 31 Conference accordingly congratulates the Liberal Democrat parliamentary  
32 parties in the Commons and Lords for opposing the bill.
- 33 Conference notes that the Labour Party supported the bill, leaving the  
34 Liberal Democrats as the only major UK-wide pro-European party in  
35 Parliament.
- 36 Conference further notes that the new Agreement will be reviewed  
37 every five years and that, in any case, provides for the UK to join EU  
38 programmes by mutual agreement.
- 39 Conference believes that the future UK–EU relationship must be  
40 strengthened, to the benefits of both the UK and EU, and recognises that  
41 there are many ways in which this could be achieved, including, but not  
42 limited to, UK membership of the EU Customs Union, the European Single  
43 Market or both, and closer cooperation over health, climate change,  
44 environment, crime and policing, education, scientific research, foreign,  
45 security and defence policy.
- 46 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrats' support for a longer-term  
47 objective of UK membership of the EU, as set out in the September 2020  
48 conference motion 'The UK and Europe'.
- 49 Conference therefore:
- 50 1. Instructs the Federal Policy Committee to carry out a programme of  
51 work, including consulting widely within the party, to determine the  
52 best possible future framework for the UK–EU relationship across  
53 all policy areas, with the aims of:
- 54 a) Demonstrating the benefits to UK citizens and businesses of

**Saturday 20 March**

F17

- 55 a much closer relationship compared to the government's  
56 inadequate measures; and  
57 b) Maximising public support for eventual UK membership of  
58 the EU.
- 59 2. Calls on the Liberal Democrat parliamentary parties in the  
60 Commons and Lords to expose the inadequacies of the  
61 government's arrangements and to promote the benefits of closer  
62 relations between the UK and EU.

*Applicability: Federal.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 6.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 8 March; see page 8. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Saturday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.30 Friday 19 March; see page 5.*

# Saturday 20 March

F17

## F17 The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement and the Future of the UK-EU Relationship

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

- 1 *In vi) (line 26), after 'Erasmus' insert: 'Plus'.*

### Amendment One

*15 members*

Mover: David Chalmers.

Summation: [Adrian Hyyrylainen-Trett](#).

- 1 *After vi) (line 26), insert:*
- 2 Conference notes with alarm that many highly negative impacts have
- 3 already become apparent, even before full restrictions are applied,
- 4 including: higher business costs in all sectors, especially those exporting
- 5 to the UK's main European market, through the extra burdens of red tape
- 6 and higher transport costs; rising job losses in the fishing, agricultural
- 7 and financial services industries; a rise in skill shortages across the British
- 8 economy, and key services, notably health and social care, as an 'expert
- 9 exodus' gathers pace; and the creation of significant barriers to musicians
- 10 and actors performing in the EU.
- 11 Conference condemns the UK Government for risking its commitment
- 12 to uphold the Northern Ireland Protocol, potentially undermining the
- 13 beneficial impacts of the Good Friday Agreement and eroding trust in the
- 14 UK as an international partner.

### Amendment Two

*13 members*

Mover: Mark Johnston.

Summation: Baroness Ludford (Lords Spokesperson on Europe).

- 1 *After a) (line 56), insert:*
- 2 b) Recommending roadmaps for the UK to rejoin the Customs
- 3 Union, Single Market and other EU agencies and programmes as
- 4 appropriate.



# Saturday 20 March

F17

## Background briefing

This motion updates and develops policy on UK-EU trade and the future of UK-EU cooperation, in particular responding to the Government's EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement and instructing the Federal Policy Committee to undertake further work on how to achieve a closer relationship with the EU.

It builds on existing policy as set out in the policy motion *The UK and Europe* (September 2020).

## Saturday 20 March

F18

20.05 Policy motion

Chair: [Cara Jenkinson](#). Aides: Jennie Rigg and Nick Da Costa (Vice Chair, FCC).

### F18 Acting on the Russia Report

*14 members*

Mover: Layla Moran MP (Spokesperson on Foreign Affairs).

Summation: [Jamie Stone MP \(Spokesperson for Defence\)](#).

- 1 Conference notes that the Intelligence and Security Committee of
- 2 Parliament's 'Russia Report' was published in July 2020, after many
- 3 months of delay by the Conservative Government.
  
- 4 Conference notes with particular concern the report's findings that:
  - 5 I. "The UK is clearly a target for Russia's disinformation campaigns
  - 6 and political influence operations".
  - 7 II. The Conservative Government failed to take action to protect
  - 8 the UK against potential Russian interference in the 2016 EU
  - 9 referendum, and has commissioned no retrospective assessment of
  - 10 whether such interference took place.
  - 11 III. The Government has continued to fail to take the threat that Putin's
  - 12 Russia poses to our democracy seriously, despite clear evidence
  - 13 that it interfered to help Donald Trump become US President in
  - 14 2016.
  - 15 IV. Lax regulation has turned London into a "laundromat" for illicit
  - 16 finance, and the National Crime Agency lacks the resources
  - 17 required to tackle it.
  - 18 V. Members of the Russian elite with close links to Putin are, through
  - 19 involvement in political organisations and donations to political
  - 20 parties, in positions "to assist Russian influence operations" in the
  - 21 UK.
  
- 22 Conference further notes with concern that:
  - 23 A. Transparency International has identified more than £5 billion
  - 24 worth of UK properties bought using suspicious wealth, one fifth of
  - 25 which originates from Russia.

**Saturday 20 March**

F18

- 26 B. The Government has still not introduced legislation to establish a  
27 public beneficial ownership register of overseas entities that own  
28 UK property, despite promising it nearly five years ago.
- 29 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitments to:
- 30 i) Take big money out of politics by reforming party funding in line  
31 with the Committee on Standards in Public Life's 2011 report,  
32 including a cap on donations.
- 33 ii) Substantially increase funding for the National Crime Agency.
- 34 Conference calls on the Government to:
- 35 a) Commission a wide-ranging and properly-funded investigation into  
36 potential Russian interference in our democracy, including the 2016  
37 EU referendum, and publish the report as soon as possible.
- 38 b) Make it a national security priority to protect the UK's democratic  
39 processes – including local democracy – from any threats or  
40 interference, with proper resourcing and clear ministerial  
41 responsibility.
- 42 c) Introduce the Registration of Overseas Entities Bill without further  
43 delay.
- 44 d) Amend the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018 to  
45 include serious and organised crime as grounds for introducing  
46 sanctions.
- 47 e) Cease its attempts to undermine parliamentary scrutiny, including  
48 by interfering in the membership of committees.
- 49 Conference further calls for the independence of the Intelligence and  
50 Security Committee to be strengthened by:
- 51 1. Enabling the Houses of Parliament to elect its members.  
52 2. Giving it the power to decide what it publishes and when.

*Applicability: Federal.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 6.*

## Saturday 20 March

F18

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 8 March; see page 8. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Saturday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.30 Friday 19 March; see page 5.*

### Background briefing

This motion responds to the publication of the Intelligence and Security Committee's 'Russia Report' and updates and develops wider policy on security.

It builds on existing policy in the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019) and policy paper *Safe and Free* (September 2016).

**Saturday 20 March**

F19

20.50 Party business

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC). Aides: Bex Scott and Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC).

**F19 Federal Board Report: questions and accountability**

Mover: Dr Mark Pack (President of the Liberal Democrats).

*The Federal Board report is the chance for party members to hear how the party is being run and what is being done to implement the election review, and to put questions direct to the Party President.*

*See notes to F20.*

**F20 Campaign for Gender Balance Report: questions and accountability**

Mover: Julia Cambridge (Vice Chair, Campaign for Gender Balance).

*The deadline for questions to F19 and F20 is 13.00 on 8 March. Questions selected will be published in the Conference Extra and Saturday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda. These questions will be guaranteed an answer, either in the session or in writing thereafter. Questions may also be submitted online until 16.00 on Friday 19 March, or through the chat function in Hopin during the session, but they will only be called if time allows and at the discretion of the Chair. See page 7 for further information.*

21.15 Close of session

## Saturday 20 March

F19

### F19 Federal Board

#### Q1. Submitted by Oliver Craven

When will the Steering Group proposals come to Conference?

#### Q2. Submitted by Oliver Craven

What measures are you taking so that the members of your committee that are directly elected are accountable to the members that elected them?

#### Q3. Submitted by David Grace

The Party's website is a nightmare to use. Even when there is useful information on it, it is hard to find and there is no search facility or obvious or intuitive route. For most information a party member would require, you have to select the small button Go to main site and then the next small button More.

Does the Board have any plans to improve the site? If not, will they please make some and inform the membership. In any case will the Board please report back on progress at the Autumn Conference this year.

#### Q4. Submitted by David Hewitt

Our federal Facebook Page is the only part of the National Media we directly control.

Why are we not making more of it? Why are we not outsourcing to SKILLED, EXPERIENCED volunteers, possibly using some form of intern agreement, like we did during the Coalition years?

*In addition to the vote on the report as a whole, there will be a separate vote on the proposals in Appendix 3. Appendix 1 of the report has been withdrawn.*

## Sunday 21 March

F21

### 09.30 Emergency motions or topical issue discussions

Chair: Duncan Brack. Aides: Bex Scott and Chris Adams.

*This slot has been reserved for the debate of emergency motions and / or discussion of topical issues.*

*Three emergency motions were submitted that were in order and the FCC agreed that there is sufficient time for all three to be debated as F21A, F21B and F21C.*

*Emergency motion timing – mover of motion: 5 minutes; all other speakers: 3 minutes.*

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in these debates see page 6.*

#### **F21A Emergency motion: A Pay Rise for NHS Staff**

*10 members*

Mover: Munira Wilson MP (Spokesperson on Health, Wellbeing & Social Care).

Summation: Baroness Brinton (Lords Spokesperson on Health, Wellbeing & Social Care).

- 1 Conference recognises the sacrifice and hard work of all NHS staff, who
- 2 have worked tirelessly to keep us safe throughout this pandemic and
- 3 have cared for thousands of patients ill with COVID-19.
  
- 4 Conference further recognises the efforts of NHS staff and volunteers in
- 5 vaccinating millions so efficiently and safely.
  
- 6 Conference notes its disappointment and dismay that the Department for
- 7 Health and Social Care has recommended that NHS workers receive a pay
- 8 increase this year of 1% which, as many have noted, amounts to a real-
- 9 terms pay cut due to the rise in inflation expected this year.
  
- 10 Conference further notes the future pressures on the NHS workforce.
- 11 Including, the growing backlog of postponed medical appointments,
- 12 specifically operations and urgent cancer care, and the shortage of nurses
- 13 and midwives in the NHS, estimated to be 50,000 and 3,000 respectively
- 14 even before the pandemic.

## Sunday 21 March

F21

- 15 Conference believes that NHS workers should receive a proper and  
16 substantial pay rise above inflation in 2021. Not only as a reward for  
17 their service but in an effort to retain experienced staff and attract new  
18 members to the workforce.
- 19 Conference further believes that increased mental health and  
20 psychological support is needed to help front line staff who may have  
21 become traumatised or ill over the last year.
- 22 Conference reaffirms its gratitude to all NHS staff and health and social  
23 care workers.

*Applicability: England only.*

### Background briefing

This emergency motion creates new policy in response to the government's announcement of a 1% pay rise for NHS Staff, calling for a substantial pay rise above inflation in 2021.

### F21B Emergency motion: Full Reopening of Schools

*10 members*

Mover: [Cllr Hina Bokhari](#).

Summation: [Cllr Lucy Nethsingha](#).

- 1 Conference notes that:
- 2 1. On the 8th March 2021, following a period of partial closure, schools  
3 and colleges in England re-opened, in full, to 10 million people.
  - 4 2. The Government's own Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies  
5 (SAGE) recommended a phased reopening of schools.
  - 6 3. Concerns have been expressed by major education organisations  
7 – including the NEU, Association of School and College Leaders and  
8 National Association of Head Teachers – that having all pupils return  
9 at the same time risks causing a surge in coronavirus cases and  
10 calling instead for a phased return of pupils.
  - 11 4. With the exception of offering asymptomatic testing to pupils  
12 and staff, and secondary pupils being asked to wear masks, the



## Sunday 21 March

F21

13 Government have taken no other steps to ensure schools are safer  
14 for pupils and staff.  
15 5. The Chancellor's Budget on the 3rd March 2021 failed to provide  
16 any additional funding to schools to help them meet the full costs  
17 associated with reducing the risks of coronavirus transmission.

18 Conference believes that:

- 19 A. Young people have already suffered enormous disruption to their  
20 education and spent months isolated from their peers, while  
21 parents have been exhausted from the colossal efforts of juggling  
22 home schooling and their own work.  
23 B. It is right that, as we start to lift lockdown restrictions, schools  
24 opening more widely should be a top priority - but that it is equally  
25 important that this is done in a way which ensures they are able to  
26 stay open, safely, for good.  
27 C. School leaders, teachers and support staff have worked tirelessly  
28 to ensure schools are as safe as possible during the pandemic and  
29 should be applauded for their efforts, but that they have been left  
30 with completely inadequate support from the Government.  
31 D. The Government should have followed scientific advice when  
32 making the decision about how and when the wider opening of  
33 schools would happen.  
34 E. School leaders and Public Health Directors should be given greater  
35 powers to decide the best way to open and keep schools open  
36 safely, in a way that works for the students, parents and teachers of  
37 each school.  
38 F. In Wales, under the leadership of the Liberal Democrat Education  
39 Minister, Kirsty Williams, there has been a phased reopening of  
40 schools, in line with scientific advice.

41 Conference therefore calls for:

- 42 i) Government to immediately empower schools to use rotas which  
43 would enable social distancing in classrooms and help reduce  
44 transmission and suppress the R rate.  
45 ii) Government to trust school leaders to decide the best way to open  
46 schools safely and keep them open safely, subject to the approval of  
47 local Public Health Directors.  
48 iii) Government to issue guidance on the use of fines for non-

## Sunday 21 March

F21

- 49 attendance at school, to exempt pupils who live with someone who  
50 is clinically extremely vulnerable, until clear evidence is available  
51 about the impact of fully reopening schools on coronavirus  
52 transmission rates.
- 53 iv) Government to distribute additional funding to schools and local  
54 authorities to implement measures to reduce the risk of virus  
55 transmission including: additional school transport so that bubbles  
56 are respected, ventilation units for every classroom and additional  
57 cleaning, and to make the process of distributing those funds as  
58 easy as possible.
- 59 vi) Government to continue the roll out of laptops and tablets to  
60 pupils from low-income households who need one in order to learn  
61 remotely during periods of self-isolation or full closures of schools.
- 62 vii) Government to continue to closely monitor the evidence of  
63 the impact which the full reopening of schools has on rates of  
64 coronavirus transmission; and if this has contributed to a rise in  
65 cases by the Easter holidays, to reconsider the use of rotas as an  
66 additional safety precaution at this point.

*Applicability: England only.*

### Background briefing

This motion creates new policy in response to the full reopening of schools in England on the 8th of March.

### F21C Emergency motion: Protecting the Right to Protest

*13 members*

Mover: Alistair Carmichael MP (Spokesperson for Home Affairs).

Summation: Daisy Cooper MP (Spokesperson on Education).

- 1 Conference notes with alarm the Conservative Government's plans to
- 2 restrict the right to protest through a wide-ranging new Police, Crime,
- 3 Sentencing and Courts Bill, including new powers to prevent peaceful
- 4 protests.
  
- 5 Conference believes that:

## Sunday 21 March

F21

- 6 I. The right to protest is a fundamental human right and a vital part of  
7 any democratic society; from the slave trade to women's suffrage,  
8 workers' rights to the Iraq War, protests have been an essential way  
9 for people to make their voices heard.
- 10 II. The Conservatives' proposals would seriously undermine that right  
11 and lead to people being unnecessarily criminalised simply for  
12 exercising it.
- 13 III. These latest plans are part of this Conservative Government's  
14 broader assault on the rule of law and its anti-democratic attempts  
15 to silence any opposition to its policies.
- 16 Conference condemns:
- 17 A. Priti Patel's consistently hostile attitude towards peaceful protests,  
18 including her description of Black Lives Matter protests as "utterly  
19 disgraceful", "dreadful" and "illegal".
- 20 B. The Conservatives' repeated attacks on the European Convention on  
21 Human Rights and the Human Rights Act, which protect everyone's  
22 rights to freedom of expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and  
23 freedom of association with others.
- 24 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrats' opposition to any attempts  
25 to weaken the Human Rights Act or undermine the rule of law in any way.
- 26 Conference strongly opposes the Government's attempts to restrict the  
27 right to protest, and calls on the Home Secretary to drop these proposals.

*Applicability: Federal.*

### Background briefing

This motion creates new policy in response to the government's Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill.

## Sunday 21 March

F22

### 11.10 Policy motion

Chair: Nick Da Costa. Aides: Chris Maines and Chris Adams.

### F22 Autism Support

#### *Young Liberals*

Mover: Katharine Macey.

Summation: Janey Little.

#### 1 Conference notes that:

- 2 i) Autism is a part of daily life for 2.8 million people in the UK.
- 3 ii) The National Autistic Society found that 80% of autistic people wish  
4 they had more information about laws around autistic individuals.
- 5 iii) Currently every autistic person has the right to a needs assessment  
6 under the Autism Act 2009, completed by an assessor with the  
7 skills, competency and knowledge of autism sufficient to undertake  
8 that assessment – however this is not always accessible for  
9 individuals.
- 10 iv) Only 8% of autistic people and 5% of family members felt that  
11 health and care services had improved since the Autism Act.
- 12 v) Only 16% of diagnosed autistic individuals are in full time  
13 employment and 32% in part time employment, but many  
14 adults remain undiagnosed due to unnecessary hurdles in the  
15 assessment system.
- 16 vi) 77% of unemployed diagnosed autistic individuals want to work.
- 17 vii) Misdiagnosis of autistic individuals is far too common – especially  
18 in ethnic minorities, women, girls and non-binary individuals.
- 19 viii) Due to social misunderstandings, autistic individuals can  
20 unknowingly end up on the wrong side of the law – 4.5% of young  
21 offenders in Feltham have a diagnosis.
- 22 ix) Autistic people are up to seven times more likely than the general  
23 population to be involved in the criminal justice system.
- 24 x) Autistic people and their families may be eligible for a Blue Badge  
25 to access disabled parking spaces.
- 26 xi) Autistic individuals are included in many invisible disability  
27 campaigns including the London 'Please offer me a seat' campaign.

**Sunday 21 March**

F22

28 Conference believes that:

- 29 a) Every individual should be able to achieve their potential –  
30 neurodivergent or neurotypical.
- 31 b) Autistic and other neurodivergent individuals not only are equal  
32 workers but can provide unique perspectives and be a substantial  
33 addition to the workplace.
- 34 c) A diagnosis should not be a label, it is a tool there to support  
35 individuals in getting the help needed.

36 Conference resolves that:

- 37 1. Guidance on employment must be updated to ensure the Equality  
38 Act 2010 is fulfilled and employers can support autistic individuals  
39 in their employment.
- 40 2. Education about neurodivergence should be included on the  
41 curriculum in the same way mental health is currently.
- 42 3. Diagnosis must be made more accessible, by stopping gatekeeping  
43 and reducing steps required for diagnosis to be official in NHS  
44 terms.
- 45 4. Wait lists for diagnosis must be reduced by increasing funding and  
46 space for diagnosis.
- 47 5. Autistic women, girls, non-binary individuals and ethnic minorities  
48 must have equal access to support and diagnosis.
- 49 6. There should be increased training for teachers to acknowledge  
50 neurodiverse individuals, to both recognise behaviour and support  
51 different styles of learning.
- 52 7. There should be further improvements to the Autism Act 2009, to  
53 create obligations on employers and local authorities to support  
54 autistic people with their care assessments.
- 55 8. Autistic offenders should be met with support and not punishment  
56 when the crime is non-violent.
- 57 9. Sensory spaces should be provided for autistic individuals engaging  
58 with the justice system – whether as complainants or defendants or  
59 witnesses or staff.
- 60 10. Autism must not be represented as decreasing quality of life.

*Applicability: England only; except 1. (lines 37–39), which is Federal; and 8. and 9. (lines 55–59), which are England and Wales.*

## Sunday 21 March

F22

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 6.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 8 March; see page 8. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Sunday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.30 Saturday 20 March; see page 5.*

*There will be a separate vote on 'when the crime is non-violent' in 8. (line 56).*

### Background briefing

This motion creates new policy in relation to Autism, calling for a variety of measures to improve the lives of people with Autism.

## Sunday 21 March

F22

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 6.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 8 March; see page 8. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Sunday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.30 Saturday 20 March; see page 5.*

## Sunday 21 March

F23

### 12.10 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Joe Otten. Aides: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC) and Nick da Costa.

### F23 International Development

*19 members*

Mover: Layla Moran (Spokesperson on Development).

Summation: Alistair Fernie.

- 1 Conference notes that:
  - 2 A. The UK Government announced in June 2020 the integration of  
3 the Department for International Development (DFID) and the  
4 Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) into a new Foreign,  
5 Commonwealth and Development Office; the decision was taken  
6 with little sector consultation and in advance of the Government's  
7 'Integrated Review' of its international policies.
  - 8 B. The '2020 Aid Transparency Index' found that DFID is one of the  
9 world's most transparent donors, rating it as "very good"; but other  
10 ODA spending government departments do not meet the same  
11 standards.
  - 12 C. The UK Government announced in November 2020 its intention to  
13 renege on its commitment to spend 0.7% of Gross National Income  
14 (GNI) on Official Development Assistance (ODA) and introduce  
15 legislation to reduce this to 0.5%, despite the reduction resulting  
16 anyway from the fall in GNI.
  - 17 D. Coronavirus poses particular challenges to development, not least  
18 in potentially reversing decades of progress in reducing poverty.
  - 19 E. The UK can play a key role in supporting developing countries to  
20 address the immediate consequences of the pandemic – through  
21 providing humanitarian aid and support for health system.  
22 strengthening – but also in supporting their longer-term recovery,  
23 which has important implications for our own future prosperity.
  - 24 F. A high-quality international development programme, as part  
25 of an open, generous, globally-engaged UK will not only be of  
26 direct benefit to those who need that support, but also sends  
27 an important message about our values and priorities, and a



**Sunday 21 March**

F23

28 recognition that many of the challenges we face can only be  
29 addressed as a global community.  
30 G. The Liberal Party committed in 1970 to 0.7% gross national income  
31 (GNI) aid spending, the first UK political party to do so; and it was  
32 the Liberal Democrats who enshrined this commitment in law while  
33 in Coalition Government.

34 Conference reaffirms its commitment to:

- 35 1. Retaining DFID as a separate Department of State with its own  
36 Cabinet Minister.
- 37 2. Maintaining the UK commitment to spend 0.7% of GNI on ODA,  
38 recognising that the programme will reduce substantially anyway in  
39 the short term as a result of the overall reduction in GNI caused by  
40 the impact of coronavirus.
- 41 3. Ensuring that the UK plays a significant role in supporting  
42 developing countries address the economic and health  
43 consequences of coronavirus, including through playing a proactive  
44 role in debt forgiveness and relief initiatives.
- 45 4. Ensuring that the use of ODA continues to be consistent with  
46 the OECD/DAC rules/guidelines, and with UK legislation, and  
47 in particular its primary purpose should remain the economic  
48 development of, and poverty reduction within, the partner country.
- 49 5. Ensuring that a Parliamentary select committee with a remit of  
50 examining all British Government ODA expenditure is retained, as  
51 well as the Independent Commission on Aid Impact (ICAI).
- 52 6. Ensuring that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), agreed  
53 in September 2015, lie at the heart of the UK's international  
54 development policy, recognising that the five 'Ps' of Prosperity,  
55 People, Planet, Peace and Partnerships provide an overarching  
56 framework for progress.
- 57 7. Reinvigorating internationalism and multilateralism, noting that  
58 challenges like climate change and pandemics have no respect for  
59 national borders and can only be addressed by countries working  
60 together.
- 61 8. Re-establishing the development education programme, linked to  
62 the SDGs, to increase public understanding of the links between  
63 progress elsewhere and the UK and the universal nature and  
64 applicability of the SDGs.

## Sunday 21 March

F23

*Applicability: Federal.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 6.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 8 March; see page 8. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Sunday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.30 Saturday 20 March; see page 5.*

### 13.00 Auditorium break

*Please see the Conference Directory for our fringe and exhibition programme.*

# Sunday 21 March

F23

## F23 International Development

### Amendment One

61 members

Mover: Pippa Heylings.

Summation: Keith Melton.

1 *After D. (line 18), insert:*

2 E. Mitigation from, and adaptation to, Climate Change, while  
3 recovering from the consequences of the pandemic, places  
4 enormous additional financial pressures on all countries,  
5 particularly the poorest and most climate-vulnerable. Without  
6 international support, these countries will find themselves in  
7 permanent crisis mode.

8 *After G. (line 33), insert:*

9 Conference restates the Liberal Democrat belief that each generation is  
10 responsible for the fate of our planet and, by safeguarding the balance of  
11 nature and the environment, for the long-term continuity of life in all its  
12 forms.

13 *After 3. (line 44), insert:*

14 4. Ensuring that the UK plays a global leadership role in increasing  
15 funding to developing countries to help mitigate and build resilience  
16 against the twin threats of climate change and biodiversity loss.

### Background briefing

This motion updates and develops policy on international development, as well as responding to the government's announcement of the merger of the Department for International Development and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. It builds on existing policy in policy paper 132 *Britain at the Heart of a Changing World* (2018) and the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019).

## Sunday 21 March

F24

14.15 Speech

Chair: Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC).

### **F24 Speech by The Leader of the Liberal Democrats, the Rt Hon Sir Edward Davey MP**



#LDConf

15.00 Policy motion

Chair: Chris Adams. Aides: Duncan Brack and Cllr Joe Otten.

### **F25 A Better Response to the Impact of COVID-19 on Education**

*Cambridge*

Mover: Cllr Cheney Payne.

Summation: Cllr Lucy Nethsingha.

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 i) Young people's education and opportunities have been hit hard by  
3 COVID-19.
- 4 ii) The cumulative impact of disruption to education during the  
5 COVID-19 pandemic has not been evenly spread among those  
6 in education, and that those with fewer resources have been hit  
7 disproportionately hard.
- 8 iii) The impact on educational opportunities has also been unevenly  
9 spread across English regions, with some regions hit with far  
10 greater disruption to schooling than others.
- 11 iv) The pandemic has had a very serious impact on young people's  
12 mental health, as well as their educational opportunities.
- 13 v) LGA analysis shows spending by local authorities on youth services  
14 nationally has reduced by 69 per cent since 2010/11, from £1.4  
15 billion to £429 million, with the loss of more than 4,500 youth work  
16 jobs and the closure of 750 youth centres. Such youth services  
17 offer young people safe places to meet, support them to succeed  
18 in school, training, or employment, and help them avoid long-term

**Sunday 21 March**

F25

- 19 unemployment, mental health problems, and being lured into  
20 criminal activity.
- 21 vi) The pandemic has made the need for such services greater than  
22 ever.
- 23 vii) Meanwhile the National Citizen Service (NCS) receives an estimated  
24 95 per cent of the Government's youth services budget, despite only  
25 one in six eligible young people taking part and a fall of eight per  
26 cent in participants in the past year; National Citizen Service offers  
27 just two to four weeks of voluntary activity for 16 to 17-year-olds,  
28 receiving £1.26 billion in government funding from 2016 to 2020.
- 29 viii) The government's apprenticeship levy has cost businesses millions  
30 of pounds, but there has been little or no analysis of the impact of  
31 the levy.
- 32 ix) Much of the apprenticeship levy remains unspent.

33 Conference believes that:

- 34 a) More must be done to ensure that the impact of the pandemic on  
35 the life chances of young people is recognised and urgent action  
36 must be taken to ensure that young people are not disadvantaged  
37 in the long term.
- 38 b) Given the uneven nature of the impact of the pandemic on children  
39 in different areas of England and with different home circumstances  
40 and access to online learning, to continue to base the assessment  
41 of GCSEs, AS and A levels on exams alone would be deeply unfair.
- 42 c) Investment is needed in youth work, mental health support and  
43 pastoral care in schools to ensure young people are able to recover  
44 from both educational and emotional damage as a result of the  
45 pandemic.
- 46 d) Some of the National Citizen Service funding would be better spent  
47 on all-year-round provision for young people of all ages, rather than  
48 a time-limited programme which is restricted to a narrow age group  
49 and is attracting only a relatively small number of teenagers.
- 50 e) At this time of national crisis, which is hitting the work opportunities  
51 of the young particularly hard, young people at the start of their  
52 careers should be the main beneficiaries of unspent apprenticeship  
53 levy money.

54 Conference therefore recommends that:

**Sunday 21 March**

F25

- 55 1. Given the ongoing disruption to education in many areas of  
56 England, over a prolonged period, while the move to alternative  
57 assessment is welcome for students due to take exams in 2021,  
58 thought needs to be given now to how students taking exams in  
59 2022 can be assessed fairly.
- 60 2. The money allocated to the National Citizens Service and the £500  
61 million Youth Investment Fund programme for 2020 and 2021 be  
62 passed to local authorities to provide expanded and targeted year-  
63 round youth work and education recovery programmes to improve  
64 the mental health and wider life chances of young people hit by the  
65 pandemic.
- 66 3. Any apprenticeship levy money unspent by companies which would  
67 be clawed back by the Treasury be allocated to local authorities in  
68 partnership with FE colleges and schools to ensure the maximum  
69 number of apprenticeship placements are available for young  
70 people leaving school and college in 2021.
- 71 4. Such local authority funded apprenticeship schemes should be  
72 granted flexibility over the work placement requirements until July  
73 2022, as the need to get young people into training is urgent, and  
74 the number of employers with whom to partner in such schemes is  
75 likely to be restricted in the coming year.

*Applicability: England only.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 6.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 8 March; see page 8. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Sunday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.30 Saturday 20 March; see page 5.*

**16.20 Auditorium break**

*Please see the Conference Directory for our fringe and exhibition programme.*

# Sunday 21 March

F25

## F25 Better response to the Impact of COVID-19 on Education

### Amendment One

*Sheffield*

Mover: Shaffaq Mohammed.

Summation: Colin Ross.

1 *After iii) (line 10), Insert:*

- 2 iv) The Education Policy Institute report of a survey of schools on the  
3 financial implications of the pandemic for schools concluded that  
4 “school budgets are likely to be under increased pressure” and  
5 that “the pressure will be felt most in schools with high levels of  
6 disadvantage”.

7 *After iii) (line 12), insert:*

- 8 iv) In Wales, Kirsty Williams as Education Minister has identified  
9 ways to mitigate many of these impacts and turn some of them  
10 into opportunities to improve education in the long run. Wales  
11 has also introduced a ‘Pupil Development Grant’ to support more  
12 disadvantaged pupils.  
13 v) Pupils with Special Educational Needs have been left even further  
14 behind and have experienced greater delays in EHCPs.

15 *After b) (line 41), insert:*

- 16 d) Many of the approaches pioneered in Wales could also be beneficial  
17 in England, in particular programmes to tackle holiday hunger and  
18 support access to digital tools.

19 *After 1. (line 59), insert:*

- 20 2. Options should be developed to continue support to digital learning  
21 post pandemic. In particular, to support wider participation in less  
22 popular subjects such as Further Mathematics and Modern Foreign  
23 Languages in schools where they may not otherwise be available.

24 *In 2. (line 61), delete ‘be passed ... pandemic’ and insert: ‘be allocated*

## Sunday 21 March

F25

- 25 directly to schools for a 'Covid Catch-Up Premium' for at least the life term  
26 of this parliament so that they can put in place the necessary education  
27 recovery programmes'.

*There will be a separate vote on lines 24–27 of Amendment One.*

### Amendment Two

*10 members*

Mover: Daisy Cooper MP (Spokesperson for Education).

Summation: to be announced.

1 *After a) (line 37), insert:*

- 2 b) Educational and emotional recovery should go hand-in-hand,  
3 combining opportunities for play, social interaction and learning.

4 *Before 1. (line 55), insert:*

- 5 1. The Government to commit to ensuring that every child has  
6 the chance to reclaim the opportunities for learning and social  
7 interaction that they have lost out on in the last year due to school  
8 closures including, but not limited to, educational, sporting, creative  
9 clubs run during school holidays and that this should be the key  
10 focus of educational policy for the coming parliament
- 11 2. The Government to set out a comprehensive ten year roadmap  
12 of measures it will put in place to support children and young  
13 people at every stage of their education, to recover from both the  
14 educational and emotional upheaval they have experienced due to  
15 the coronavirus pandemic.
- 16 3. The Government to offer pupils who are due to leave school this  
17 year an optional additional year of fully funded education, including  
18 support with living costs where needed, delivered in colleges and  
19 universities, before they move on to higher education, training or  
20 into the world of work.



## Sunday 21 March

F25

### Background briefing

This motion updates and develops education policy, specifically dealing with how to manage the impact of COVID-19 on education.

It builds on existing policy in the policy motion *The Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic* (September 2020), the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019), and policy paper 128 *Every Child Empowered: Education for a Changing World* (2018).

## Sunday 21 March

F26

18.45 Policy motion

Chair: Cllr Jon Ball (Vice Chair, FCC). Aides: Nick Da Costa (Vice Chair, FCC) and Duncan Brack.

### F26 Accessibility in Education

*Young Liberals*

Mover: Sam Cumber.

Summation: Janey Little.

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 i) Being able to easily access online learning resources and activities  
3 is imperative for networks, learning and communication in the  
4 modern digital age, allowing people to collaborate and overcome  
5 physical barriers and limitations.
- 6 ii) Many young people cannot access the internet for various reasons,  
7 such as regional or financial inequality.
- 8 iii) During a time where educational institutions are being disrupted,  
9 either due to COVID-19 or other reasons, technology is important  
10 for the continuation of learning, allowing teachers and students to  
11 access each other and share work and resources.
- 12 iv) Under the leadership of Liberal Democrat Education Minister,  
13 Kirsty Williams, the re-purposing of existing stocks of laptops and  
14 distribution of internet routers to disadvantaged learners happened  
15 far more quickly in Wales than in England, Scotland and Northern  
16 Ireland.

17 Conference believes that:

- 18 a) Those unable to access online learning resources and activities for  
19 financial or other reasons are at a significant disadvantage.
- 20 b) Material should be readily available in all formats (including large  
21 print, audio and Braille).
- 22 c) Internet connections vary across the country and can affect the  
23 usability and efficacy of some technologies.
- 24 d) Every student should have access to online resources and up-to-  
25 date technology and software.

**Sunday 21 March**

F26

- 26 e) Where modules are disrupted through emergencies such as  
27 COVID-19, colleges and universities should adopt a no-detriment  
28 policy when grading students.
- 29 Conference calls for:
- 30 1. The government to offer universities funding to establish digital  
31 inclusion bursaries for items such tablets or laptops for students  
32 from disadvantaged families in order to help with home and remote  
33 learning.
- 34 2. The government to ensure every disadvantaged family and students  
35 have access to broadband that would be sufficient enough for  
36 home learning, by requiring internet service providers to offer a  
37 social tariff for broadband.
- 38 3. Universities to offer guidance on working and learning from home.
- 39 4. Greater communication between Universities and government to  
40 allow them to deliver these bursaries.
- 41 5. The use of 4G/5G routers as a temporary fix for places without  
42 a proper broadband infrastructure in order to improve internet  
43 access in parts of the country where internet speeds are slow.

*Applicability: England only.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 6.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 8 March; see page 8. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Sunday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.30 Saturday 20 March; see page 5.*

# Sunday 21 March

F26

## F26 Accessibility in Education

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

- 1 In b) (line 21), after 'Braille' *insert: 'and via assistive technology products*
- 2 *and services for pupils with SEND'.*
  
- 3 *In e) (line 26), delete 'modules' and insert: 'courses'.*
  
- 4 *In e) (line 28), after 'students' insert: 'and, in cases where no-detriment is*
- 5 *not possible, appropriate adjustments and guarantees'.*
  
- 6 *In 1. (line 33), after 'learning' insert: 'including assistive technology products*
- 7 *and services to meet the needs of students with SEND and any training*
- 8 *required to support students and teachers in making use of these'.*

### Amendment One

*10 members*

Mover: Aleisha Stansfield.

Summation: Thom Campion.

- 1 *Delete ii) (lines 6-7), and insert:*
  
- 2 ii) Young people cannot access the internet for various reasons, such
- 3 as regional or financial inequality. These often intersect, particularly
- 4 in rural areas, many of which lack broadband access and also suffer
- 5 from high levels of poverty. Similarly, poorer parts of metropolitan
- 6 areas are affected by both underinvestment and persistent poverty.
  
- 7 *After 5. (line 43), add:*
  
- 8 6. The government to conduct a comprehensive review into digital
- 9 exclusion among children and young people, including both
- 10 long-running challenges and those exacerbated by the Covid-19
- 11 pandemic.
- 12 7. The government to tackle digital exclusion by developing and
- 13 funding a strategy that addresses the findings of this review.

## Sunday 21 March

F26

### Background briefing

This motion updates and develops education policy, specifically for improving access to digital technology for disadvantaged families and regions.

It builds on existing policy in the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019).

**Sunday 21 March**

F27

19.30 Policy motion

Chair: Chris Maines. Aides: Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC) and Cara Jenkinson (Vice Chair, FCC).

**F27 Safe and Legal Routes to Save Lives***13 members*

Mover: Tim Farron MP (Spokesperson on Communities and Local Government).

Summation: Alistair Carmichael MP (Spokesperson on Home Affairs).

1 Conference believes that:

- 2 I. Refugees who have been forced to flee their homes to escape war  
3 and persecution are some of the most vulnerable people in the  
4 world; we must do all we can to protect them.
- 5 II. The UK has a proud history of providing sanctuary to those in  
6 need, but now the Conservative Government is turning its back on  
7 refugees and failing to live up to our obligations to them.
- 8 III. Providing refugees with safe and legal routes to sanctuary in the UK  
9 is the best way to combat people smuggling and human trafficking,  
10 and to prevent people from making dangerous attempts to cross  
11 the Channel or the Mediterranean.
- 12 IV. The UK must welcome refugees and treat all seekers of sanctuary  
13 with dignity and compassion.

14 Conference notes with dismay the lack of safe and legal routes to  
15 sanctuary in the UK. In particular:

- 16 a) The Government closed the "Dubs scheme" for unaccompanied  
17 refugee children elsewhere in Europe after resettling just 480  
18 children.
- 19 b) The Government closed the UK's refugee resettlement schemes in  
20 March 2020. In July 2019, it announced a new "global resettlement  
21 scheme" to replace these schemes from 2020, but it has not yet  
22 opened the new scheme or committed any funding for refugee  
23 resettlement beyond 2021–22.
- 24 c) The Government has chosen to withdraw the UK from the Dublin

**Sunday 21 March**

F27

- 25 System, which enables people applying for asylum in the EU to be  
26 reunited with their family members in another member state.
- 27 d) Unlike every EU country except Denmark, the UK does not allow  
28 unaccompanied child refugees to sponsor family members to join  
29 them; Liberal Democrat peer Baroness Hamwee has tabled the  
30 Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill that would rectify this.
- 31 e) In December, the Government changed the rules governing asylum  
32 applications so the Home Office can declare claims inadmissible  
33 if the applicant has passed through or has a connection to a “safe  
34 third country” – even if that country refuses to readmit them; this  
35 is a breach of the UK’s commitments under the 1951 UN Refugee  
36 Convention.
- 37 f) The Government plans to introduce new legislation to further  
38 restrict people’s rights to claim asylum in the UK.

39 Conference condemns the Conservative Government’s heartless and  
40 inhumane response to desperate people attempting to seek sanctuary in  
41 the UK.

42 Conference calls on the Government to provide safe and legal routes to  
43 sanctuary in the UK by:

- 44 1. Immediately restarting refugee resettlement and making a new,  
45 fully-funded commitment to resettle 10,000 vulnerable refugees  
46 each year.
- 47 2. Establishing a new Dubs Scheme to resettle a further 10,000  
48 unaccompanied child refugees from elsewhere in Europe over the  
49 next ten years.
- 50 3. Guaranteeing the rights of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children  
51 in Europe to be reunited with family members in the UK.
- 52 4. Supporting Baroness Hamwee’s Bill to expand family reunion rights  
53 so that unaccompanied child refugees in the UK can sponsor close  
54 family members to join them.
- 55 5. Providing all unaccompanied asylum-seeking children with support  
56 and specialist legal advice.
- 57 6. Upholding the Refugee Convention, reversing the recent changes  
58 to asylum rules that contravene it, and abandoning plans to further  
59 restrict the right to seek asylum.

## Sunday 21 March

F27

*Applicability: Federal.*

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

*For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see page 6.*

*The deadline for amendments to this motion is 13.00, Monday 8 March; see page 8. Amendments selected for debate will be published in the Conference Extra and Sunday Conference Daily updates to the Conference Agenda. The deadline for requests for separate votes is 09.30 Saturday 20 March; see page 5.*

### 20.15 Party business

Chair: Geoff Payne (Chair, FCC).

### F28 Party Awards

*The Leaders Award:*

*A new award given for exemplary leadership skills at any level in the party, open to all members who have taken on the hard work of leading others to success.*

*Albert Ingham Award:*

*Named for one of the party's great election agents, Albert Ingham, this award is open to any election agent or senior member of a campaign team. It is awarded for excellence, tenacity or novelty in campaigning from which others could learn.*

*The Bertha Bowness Fischer Award:*

*Named for the party's, and country's, first woman to become a qualified election agent, this award is open to any newer (less than two years) member of the party. It is awarded to those who have shown outstanding energy and/or ingenuity in supporting their new-found political home.*

### 20.30 Close of Conference



# Sunday 21 March

F27

## F27 Safe Routes to Save Lives

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

- 1 *After IV. (line 13), insert:*
- 2 VI. Upon arrival in the UK, asylum-seekers should receive support  
3 necessary for their physical and mental wellbeing, and that protects  
4 their human dignity (including adequate healthcare, sanitation, and  
5 physical security) which the facilities at camps such as the Napier  
6 and Penally Barracks fail to provide.
- 7 VII. The inhumane conditions to which asylum-seekers are subjected  
8 at camps such as the Napier and Penally Barracks breach the UK's  
9 refugee and human rights obligations.
- 10 *After 6. (line 59), add:*
- 11 7. The closure of facilities such as the Napier and Penally Barracks,  
12 and for provision of alternative accommodation for asylum-seekers  
13 which ensures adequate healthcare, sanitation, and physical  
14 security, and which facilitates their fair and effective access to the  
15 asylum system.

## Amendment One

*Liberal Democrat Christian Forum*

Mover: Andrew Burrell.

Summation: Lizzie Jewkes.

- 1 *After IV. (line 13), insert:*
- 2 V. Many child refugees and victims of human trafficking arrive in  
3 the UK with little or no English or having experienced trauma or  
4 exploitation, and need support navigating the challenging and  
5 confusing immigration, care, legal and other services they encounter  
6 on their arrival.
- 7 *After f) (line 38), insert:*
- 8 g) The Conservative Government has delayed the full rollout of

## Sunday 21 March

F27

9 a system of independent guardians in England and Wales to  
10 represent, support and safeguard child victims of human trafficking  
11 in their interactions with different agencies and processes, despite  
12 having legislated for it in 2015.

13 *In 5. (line 56), after 'advice' insert: 'including by appointing an independent*  
14 *guardian for each child, prioritising those children who are victims of*  
15 *human trafficking'.*

### Amendment Two

22 members

Mover: Dr Ruvi Ziegler.

Summation: Dr Bradley Hiller-Smith.

1 *After IV. (line 13), insert:*

2 V. Creating pathways for submission of humanitarian visa applications  
3 prior to arrival in the UK is a humane and effective way of reducing  
4 dangerous irregular journeys.

5 *After 6. (line 59), add:*

6 8. The creation of pathways for submission of humanitarian visa  
7 applications, including at embassies and consulates at countries of  
8 origin and at channel crossings.

### Background briefing

This motion updates and develops policy towards refugees, adopting a fairer and more humane approach.

It builds on existing policy in the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019) and policy paper 131 *A Fair Deal for Everyone: Prosperity and Dignity in Migration* (2018).

# Standing orders

## Standing orders – glossary of terms

### **Business motion**

A proposal to conduct the affairs of the Party in a particular way or to express an opinion on the way affairs have been conducted.

### **Business amendment**

A proposal to change a business motion. Any such proposal should be significant, should be within the scope of the original motion and must not be a direct negative.

### **Committee**

Throughout these standing orders, Committee means the Federal Conference Committee unless otherwise qualified.

### **Constitutional amendment**

A proposal to change the constitution of the Party.

### **Secondary constitutional amendment**

An amendment to a constitutional amendment. This must not introduce new material.

### **Consultative session**

A meeting where selected areas of policy or strategy are considered in greater depth than is possible in full debates.

### **Day visitor**

Someone who has paid the appropriate day visitor fee. Day visitors are not entitled to speak or vote in full sessions of conference.

### **Emergency motion**

A proposal which relates to a specific recent development which occurred after the deadline for submission of motions. Emergency motions must be brief.

### **Emergency amendment**

An amendment to a motion which relates to a specific event which occurred after the deadline for the submission

of amendments. It must be brief and uncontentious.

### **Full session**

Any part of the conference agenda during which debates, topical issue discussions or discussion of business, including formal reports, takes place. This specifically excludes formal speeches such as those by the Leader or Party Officers.

### **Point of order**

A suggestion to the chair of a debate that the conduct of the debate, as laid down in the standing orders, has not been followed correctly.

### **Policy motion**

A proposal to adopt a new policy or reaffirm an existing one. This includes motions accompanying policy papers.

### **Policy amendment**

A proposal to change a policy motion. Any proposal should be of significant importance, should be within the scope of the original motion and must not be a direct negative.

### **Policy paper**

A paper prepared by the Federal Policy Committee and submitted to conference for debate under the terms of Article 7.4 of the Federal Party constitution.

### **Procedural motion**

A proposal that the conduct of a debate should be changed in a specific way. Procedural motions are:

#### **Move to next business**

A proposal that the conference should cease to consider an item of business and immediately move to the next item on the agenda.

#### **Reference back**

A proposal to refer a motion or

## Standing orders

amendment to a named body of the Party for further consideration.

### Request for a count

A request to the chair that a specific vote be counted and recorded rather than decided on the chair's assessment of a show of voting cards. *[Note: this does not apply to a virtual conference.]*

### Separate vote

A request to the chair of a debate that a part or parts of a motion or amendment should be voted on separately.

### Suspension of standing orders

A proposal to relax specific standing orders for a stated purpose.

### Special conference

An additional meeting of the conference requisitioned by the Federal Board, Federal Policy Committee, conference itself or 2% of party members, in not fewer than 10% of local parties, under the provisions of

Article 6.3 of the Federal constitution.

### Standing order amendment

A proposal to change these standing orders.

### Secondary standing order amendment

An amendment to a standing order amendment. This must not introduce new material.

### Topical issue discussion

A discussion on a policy issue of significant and topical relevance, conducted without a vote.

### Voting member

A member attending conference who has satisfied the requirements for attendance and has paid the registration fee presently in force for party members as agreed by FCC, and who is not a day visitor [or observer].

## Standing Orders for a conference held remotely

- a) In the event that the Federal Board determines it is impossible to hold a conference under the normal rules, and instead summons a special meeting of the conference to be held remotely, or the Committee otherwise directs that a conference shall be conducted remotely, these Standing Orders shall apply.
- b) A remote conference shall be conducted in accordance with the Standing Orders that apply to a conference not conducted remotely ('the original Standing Orders'), save that:
  - i) All references in the original Standing Orders to votes, whether by ballot, show of hands or show of voting cards, shall instead be conducted via an online poll or alternative secure method of online voting, designated by the Committee; similarly all references to speakers cards shall be taken to mean electronic speakers' cards.
  - ii) Any communications with the chair must be made via an online channel designated by the Committee for that purpose and advertised to voting members prior to the commencement of a debate.
  - iii) In original Standing Order 6.2, the reference to the Chief Steward shall also include lead moderators designated by the Chief Steward.
  - iv) Original Standing Order 8.7 shall apply save that the Committee may set a deadline in respect of any given full session for the receipt

## Standing orders

- of electronic speakers' cards; the chair shall have discretion to accept electronic speakers' cards after the deadline.
- v) Original Standing Orders 9.1, 9.2, 11.5 and Procedural motion 3 (Request for a Count) in the Glossary of Terms, shall not apply; instead, voting members shall, when appropriate, be directed by the chair to vote using the online voting tool made available to them. Standing Order 2.3 shall not apply.
  - vi) In original Standing Order 10.1, any voting member may signal to the Chair via the designated online channel that they are moving a point of order, in lieu of rising in their place.
  - vii) As, by necessity, all votes shall be counted votes, original Standing Order 11.5 shall not apply; instead, the chair shall ensure the result of the counted vote is publicised to members, via the appropriate online channel.

## Standing orders for a conference held physically

### 1. The conference agenda

#### 1.1 What is on the agenda

The agenda for each meeting of conference, other than a special conference, shall include time for:

- a) One or more consultative sessions; save that the Committee may decide not to hold any consultative sessions at a spring conference.
- b) A business session or sessions for the consideration of reports from the Parliamentary Parties as listed in Article 17 of the Federal Party's Constitution, the Federal Board, the Federal Policy Committee and the Federal Conference Committee together with, when appropriate, reports from any other body the Committee considers appropriate, accounts, the annual report, a motion accompanying the proposed strategy of the party, business motions, constitutional amendments and standing order amendments.
- c) Policy motions (including motions accompanying policy papers).
- d) Emergency motions.
- e) Topical issue discussions.
- f) Any other business which the

Committee thinks appropriate.

The time to be allocated to each type of business and the order of that business shall be decided by the Committee provided that conference may decide not to take any particular item on the agenda.

#### 1.2 Conference or council of state parties

In addition, time before or after any meeting may be agreed with the relevant state party for a meeting of the conference or council of that party.

#### 1.3 Right to submit agenda items

- a) Reports to conference may be submitted only by the bodies listed in paragraph 1.1(b).
- b) Business motions (including amendments and emergency business motions and amendments), constitutional amendments and secondary constitutional amendments, standing order amendments and secondary standing order amendments may be submitted by the Federal Board, Federal Policy Committee, state parties, regional parties in England, local parties, Specified Associated Organisations and 10 party members. Business motions,

## Standing orders

standing order amendments and secondary standing order amendments may also be submitted by the Federal Conference Committee.

- c) Motions accompanying policy papers may only be submitted by the Federal Policy Committee.
- d) Policy motions (including amendments, emergency policy motions and amendments) may be submitted by the Federal Policy Committee, state parties, regional parties in England, local parties, Specified Associated Organisations and 10 party members.
- e) Proposals for topical issue discussions may be submitted by any party member.

### 1.4 How motions and amendments are submitted

All motions and amendments must be submitted to the Committee. They must identify a person authorised to agree to their being composited or redrafted. The detail of methods of submission will be notified for each conference via the party website.

### 1.5 The deadlines by which motions, amendments, reports and questions to reports must be submitted

The Committee shall specify:

- a) The closing date for the receipt of policy motions (including motions accompanying policy papers), business motions, constitutional amendments and amendments to standing orders, which shall be at least eight weeks before the start of conference.
- b) The closing date for the receipt of amendments to motions published in the agenda and emergency motions, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference.
- c) The closing date for the submission of written reports from the bodies listed in paragraph 1.1(b), which will be set so as to enable their distribution with

the agenda. Any supplementary report submitted later than this deadline may only be tabled at conference with the permission of the Committee.

- d) The closing date for the submission of questions to any of the reports listed in the agenda, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference, except for questions to the reports of the Parliamentary Parties in the House of Commons, House of Lords and European Parliament, where the closing date shall be at least one hour before the start of the business session at which the report is due to be considered.
- e) Notwithstanding 1.5(d), questions may always be submitted to any of the reports listed in the agenda arising from events occurring after the deadline specified in 1.5(d). The deadline for these questions shall be one hour before the start of the business session at which the report is due to be considered.
- f) The closing date for proposals for topical issue discussions, which shall be at least two days before the start of conference

### 1.6 Notification of deadline

All dates specified under Standing Order 1.5 shall be publicised to party members and bodies entitled to submit motions. Publication in the party newspaper/magazine and website may be treated as notice for this purpose.

### 1.7 Later deadlines in special circumstances

In special circumstances the Committee may specify later dates than those indicated above. In particular, where developments which, in the opinion of the Committee, are of great importance have taken place after the closing date for emergency motions and questions to reports, the Committee may make time

## Standing orders

available for an additional emergency motion or for a statement to be made on behalf of the Party or for additional questions to be submitted to reports.

### 2. Consultative sessions

#### 2.1 The subjects for consultative sessions

The subjects for debate at consultative sessions shall be chosen by the Committee on the advice of the Federal Policy Committee and, where appropriate, the Federal Board, and published in the agenda. Two or more such sessions may be held simultaneously.

#### 2.2 Speaking at consultative sessions

Any member of the Party may be called to speak at a consultative session and, with the approval of the chair, non-members with relevant expertise may also be called.

#### 2.3 Voting at consultative sessions

At the discretion of the chair a vote by show of hands may be taken to indicate the weight of opinion among members present on any issue that has been debated. *[Note: this Standing Order will NOT apply to a virtual conference; voting will be undertaken in a different way if needed.]*

### 3. The agenda

#### 3.1 The shortlisting of motions

The Committee shall draw up the agenda and shall decide which of the motions duly submitted shall be included in it. The Committee may allocate time for one or more policy or business motions to be selected by ballot. Copies of motions not selected shall be available for inspection and will be supplied to any party member on payment of a copying charge and postage.

#### 3.2 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders

Save as detailed below in Standing Order 4.3, all proposed amendments to the constitution or standing orders must be selected for debate.

#### 3.3 Balance between State and Federal policy debates

The Committee shall, in drawing up the agenda, have due regard to the balance of State and Federal policy debates and in particular shall as far as possible organise the agenda so that all matters which relate solely to one or more state parties but not all State Parties or the Federal Party shall be considered at either the beginning or the end of the conference.

### 4. Selection of motions and amendments

#### 4.1 Compositing or otherwise altering motions

In drawing up the agenda the Committee shall seek to reflect the range of views in the Party as indicated by the motions and amendments submitted. The Committee may:

- a) Treat any severable part of a motion or amendment as a separate motion or amendment.
- b) Redraft a motion or amendment so as to improve expression, remove inaccuracy or superfluity or take account of new developments.
- c) Composite similar motions or amendments.

#### 4.2 Selection of amendments

The Committee shall decide which of the amendments duly submitted to each motion shall be selected. No amendment shall be selected if, in the opinion of the Committee it is insubstantial, outside the

## Standing orders

scope of the motion, or tantamount to a direct negative of the motion.

### 4.3 Motions for the amendment of the constitution or standing orders

The Committee may refuse to select a motion for amendment of the constitution or standing orders if, in their opinion, it is:

- a) Similar in effect to another motion which has been selected for debate or ballot at the same meeting of conference.
- b) Similar in effect to a motion that has been rejected at either of the last two meetings of conference.
- c) In the case of amendments to the constitution, incomplete in that it leaves unamended some other part of the constitution which contradicts the meaning of the amendment.
- d) In the case of amendments to standing orders, incomplete in that it leaves unamended some other part of standing orders which contradicts the meaning of the amendment.
- e) Ambiguous.

### 4.4 Emergency motions

The Committee may reject an emergency motion if:

- a) It is similar in effect to another motion that has been selected for debate or ballot.
- b) It is similar in effect to a subject chosen for a topical issue discussion.
- c) It is unclear as to its meaning or intent or is, in the opinion of the Committee, too poorly drafted to provide a sensible basis for debate.
- d) It falls outside the definition of emergency motions.

No amendment shall be taken to any motion selected under this Standing Order.

### 4.5 Ballots for emergency motions

All emergency motions, except those rejected under Standing Order 4.4, must

be placed either on the agenda for debate or in a ballot for selection by Conference. The Committee may hold separate ballots to select which of a range of emergency policy motions and which of a range of emergency business motions to debate. If one or more ballots is held the Committee shall circulate the text of all balloted motions to the voting members as soon as practicable and shall specify a closing time for the ballot. Following the counting of any ballots the Committee shall organise the debates on the motions in the order chosen by conference in the ballots.

### 4.6 Emergency amendments

The Committee shall have complete discretion whether to select emergency amendments for debate.

### 4.7 Topical issue discussions

The choice of subjects for topical issue discussions shall be made by the Officers of the Committee in consultation with the Officers of the Federal Policy Committee. In choosing the subjects, the Officers shall have regard to the significance and topicality of the subjects proposed and whether they are likely to provoke a lively discussion.

## 5. Special meetings

### 5.1 Timetabling of special meetings

The Committee shall, as soon as practicable after the requisitioning of a special meeting of the conference, fix a date for the meeting, draw up the agenda and, if appropriate, specify a date for the submission of amendments. The meeting shall deal only with the business stated in the notice of requisition save that the Committee may allow time for emergency motions and for business which is formal or, in its opinion, uncontentious.



# Standing orders

## 5.2 Preferred timescales for special meetings

In setting dates for the submission of motions and amendments and giving notice thereof and of the conference itself the Committee shall endeavour to follow the timescales laid down elsewhere in these standing orders but, where this is not practicable, the Committee shall set such dates as it sees fit.

## 6. Appeals

### 6.1 Appeals against rejection of motions

The Committee shall provide written reasoning to the nominee of the proposers for the rejection of any motion or amendment. The proposers may appeal, in writing, to the next meeting of the Committee. Any such appeal shall provide reasons why, in the opinion of the proposers, the expressed reasons for rejection are not valid. If the appeal is allowed, the motion or amendment shall be treated as an emergency motion or amendment according to the stage of the agenda-setting process at which the appeal has been allowed.

### 6.2 Appeals against exclusion from conference

Any person excluded from conference by a decision of the Chief Steward shall have the right of appeal to the Committee at the next of its regular meetings. The exclusion shall remain in force pending the appeal. *[Note: this Standing Order will apply with modifications to a virtual conference: the Chief Steward may designate people to act as lead moderators for the conference chat.]*

## 7. The chair

### 7.1 Who chairs conference

The President, if present, shall normally

take the chair at the formal opening and closing of conference and when the Party Leader is making a formal speech from the platform. At all other sessions the chair shall be appointed by the Committee. Normally no person shall chair more than one session at any meeting.

### 7.2 The chair's aide

The Committee may appoint an aide or aides to assist the chair of each session.

## 8. Conduct of debate

### 8.1 Variation in the order of business

The Committee may propose to the conference a variation in the order of business as set out in the agenda. Such variation shall be put to the vote and shall take effect if approved by a majority of those voting.

### 8.2 Withdrawal of motions and amendments

Once the Committee has included a motion or amendment, or part of a motion or amendment, in the agenda, may not be withdrawn except by leave of conference.

### 8.3 The order of debate

The Committee shall direct the order of debate. Generally, however, a motion will be moved and immediately thereafter the amendments and options will be moved in the order directed by the Committee. There will then be a general debate. The movers of amendments and options (or their nominees) shall have the right of reply in the same order (except that where an amendment or option has not been opposed during the debate, the chair of the session shall have the right to direct that its movers shall not exercise their right of reply), after which the mover of the motion (or the mover's nominee) shall have the right of reply. Votes shall then be taken on

## Standing orders

the amendments and options in the order in which they have been moved and, finally, on the substantive motion. The Committee may direct that part of any motion or amendment or groups of amendments may be the subject of a separate debate.

### 8.4 Topical issue discussions

The Committee shall direct the order of the discussion. Normally the proposer of the subject shall speak first, and a representative of the Federal Policy Committee shall speak last.

### 8.5 Who may speak

All voting members may speak at a full session of conference. Additionally, the Committee may invite any person to address the conference as a guest. Neither such provision shall prejudice the right of the chair of a session to select speakers.

### 8.6 The special rights of the Federal Committees

Provided that the Federal Policy Committee is not proposing the motion or any of the amendments to be taken in a debate on a policy motion or on motions relating to the policy-making processes of the Party it shall have the right to nominate a person to report its views on the subject before the conference. The Federal Board shall have similar rights on business motions or motions to amend the constitution, as shall the Federal Conference Committee on motions relating to the proceeding and procedures of the conference and to amend standing orders. Such a person shall be called to speak for the same length of time as the person replying on behalf of the mover of the motion.

### 8.7 The selection of speakers

Voting members wishing to speak in any debate shall submit a speaker's card, prior to the commencement of the debate in which they wish to speak, stating whether

they wish to speak for or against an amendment, the motion or part of the motion. The chair shall be responsible for the choice of the speakers and shall attempt to provide a balanced debate between the different viewpoints in the conference, but may announce a departure from this rule if there is an overwhelming preponderance of members wishing to speak on the same side. The chair shall have the discretion to accept speakers' cards after the start of the debate. Save as provided for in these standing orders, no person may speak more than once in any debate. *[Note: this Standing Order will apply with modifications to a virtual conference: speaker's cards must be submitted electronically and by no later than 16.00 on the day before the relevant debate, although the chair has a discretion to accept cards submitted after the deadline.]*

### 8.8 The length of speeches

The Committee shall set out in the agenda time limits for speeches.

## 9. Voting at conference

### 9.1 The method of voting

Voting cards shall be issued at each meeting to voting members. The Committee may direct that voting on any issue be by ballot. Subject thereto all votes at full sessions shall be taken by show of voting cards.

*[Note: this Standing Order will NOT apply to a virtual conference if the new set of Standing Orders for a virtual conference is passed; instead a secure online poll or alternative shall be used.]*

### 9.2 Counting of votes

A vote by show of voting cards shall be counted:

- a) If the Committee has so directed.
- b) If the chair so directs.

# Standing orders

c) As the result of a procedural motion under Standing Order 11.5 below. A recount will only be held if the chair is not satisfied that the first count was accurate. *[Note: this Standing Order will NOT apply to a virtual conference.]*

## 9.3 Separate votes

A separate vote may be taken on a part of a motion or amendment:

- a) On the direction of the Committee.
- b) At the discretion of the chair.
- c) As a result of a procedural motion under Standing Order 11.4 below.

## 10 Points of order

### 10.1 Making a point of order

Any voting member may rise on a point of order which shall be taken immediately except that, during a vote, no point of order shall be taken that does not refer to the conduct of the vote. The chair's decision on all points of order shall be final. *[Note: this Standing Order will apply with modifications to a virtual conference: the chair must be contacted via [debates@libdems.org.uk](mailto:debates@libdems.org.uk).]*

## 11 Procedural motions

### 11.1 Next business

- a) A voting member may, during any full conference session, submit, in writing, a request that conference move to next business, giving the reasons to do so. The submission shall not exceed 75 words.
- b) The chair may either take the request immediately upon receipt, or at the end of any speech currently being made. If more than one request is received the chair shall decide which to take. No more than one request may be taken in respect to any motion or report.
- c) When the request is to be taken, the

chair shall read the statement of reasons and ask conference whether it wishes to consider the request to move to next business. If conference decides, by a simple majority of those voting, to do so, the person who made the request may speak. The chair may allow other speakers. All speeches under this standing order shall be limited to two minutes. If conference decides not to debate the proposal, it falls.

- d) The proposal shall require a two-thirds majority of those voting being to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.

### 11.2 Reference back (moved by a voting member)

- a) A voting member, who has not already spoken in the debate, may, at any time before the chair has asked the first speaker in reply to stand by, submit, in writing, a request to refer back the motion under debate. The submission shall state to whom the motion is to be referred and shall include a statement of the reasons, including reasons why voting against the motion would not achieve a similar result, not exceeding 75 words.
- b) The chair may take the request to refer back at whatever stage of the debate they consider appropriate. If more than one request is received, the chair shall decide which to take. No more than one request may be taken with respect to any motion.
- c) When the request is to be taken, the chair shall read the statement of reasons and ask conference whether it wishes to consider the request to

## Standing orders

refer. If conference decides, by a simple majority of those voting, to do so, the person who made the request may speak and the mover of the substantive motion, or their nominee, may reply. The chair may allow other speakers. All speeches under this standing order shall be limited to two minutes. If conference decides not to debate the reference back, it falls.

- d) The reference back shall require a simple majority of those voting to be passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.
- e) If the substantive motion is referred to the Federal Board, the Federal Policy Committee or the Federal Conference Committee that body shall, in its report to the next meeting of the conference, state what action it has taken on the reference.

### 11.3 Reference back (moved by the Federal Policy Committee)

- a) The Federal Policy Committee may, at any time before the beginning of the debate on a motion, submit, in writing, a request to refer that motion to the next meeting of the conference. The chair shall announce the existence of such a request at the start of the debate.
- b) The chair may take the request to refer back at whatever stage of the debate they consider appropriate. A nominee of the Federal Policy Committee will speak and the mover of the substantive motion, or their nominee, may reply. The chair shall have discretion whether to allow other speakers on the request.
- c) The reference back shall require a simple majority of those voting to be

passed. If it is carried the current agenda item shall be abandoned without any further debate or vote and, at the discretion of the chair, either the next agenda item shall be taken or there shall be an adjournment until the time at which the next agenda item was due to be taken.

- d) If passed, the Federal Policy Committee shall, before the next meeting of the conference, circulate its reasons for acting under this section and its comments on the motion and any amendments thereto accepted for debate.

### 11.4 Separate vote

A voting member of conference may request that the chair take a separate vote on a part of a motion or amendment provided that such a request is in writing and received by the commencement of the first conference session on the day before the debate is scheduled. If the debate is scheduled for the first day of conference, the request must be received in writing by the same deadline as that for emergency motions. The Committee shall have complete discretion whether to take a separate vote. In exceptional circumstances, the Chair of the debate shall have discretion to accept a request for a separate vote if it is received in writing after this deadline.

### 11.5 Counted vote

Any voting member may ask for a counted vote, which shall be taken if the request is supported by 50 members rising in their places and showing their voting cards. *[Note: this Standing Order will NOT apply to a virtual conference.]*

### 11.6 Suspension of standing orders

- a) A voting conference member may, during any full conference session, move a motion for the suspension of

## Standing orders

standing orders. The mover shall submit the motion together with a written statement of its purpose, not exceeding 75 words, to the chair, who shall read them to the meeting. The chair may either take the request immediately upon receipt, or at the end of the speech currently being made.

- b) No motion to suspend standing orders may suspend any requirement of the constitution, nor any part of these standing orders which govern:
  - i) The rights of, or timetable for, submission of motions and amendments.
  - ii) Consultative sessions.
  - iii) Procedural motions for next business or suspension of standing orders.
- c) No motion to suspend standing orders to introduce a motion or amendment on to the agenda can be taken unless the motion or amendment has been submitted to the Committee in accordance with the published timetable and, where a right of appeal against non-selection exists, the right has been exercised.
- d) The chair shall read the statement of purpose and, if the suspension is allowable in the terms of this standing order, ask the conference whether it wishes to debate the request for suspension. If the conference decides not to debate the request, it falls. If the conference decides, by a majority of those present and voting, to hear the request the mover may speak and a representative of the Committee may reply. The chair shall have the discretion to allow other speakers. All speeches on the motion to suspend standing orders will be limited to two minutes.
- e) A motion to suspend standing orders shall only be carried if supported by at least two-thirds of the conference members voting. If the procedural

motion is carried all standing orders shall remain in force except only for the purposes set out in the motion.

### **11.7 No procedural motions during votes**

No procedural motion can be moved during a vote.

## **12 Reports**

### **12.1 Which reports are tabled**

The business session or sessions of the conference must include consideration of reports from the bodies listed in Standing Order 1.1(b).

### **12.2 Submission and selection of questions**

A voting member may submit questions to any report tabled for consideration, by the deadlines set under Standing Orders 1.5 (d) and (e). The Committee shall publish in advance of the report session all the questions submitted under Standing Order 1.5 (d) which are in order, compositing similar questions where appropriate.

### **12.3 Whether questions are in order or not**

A question shall be ruled out of order if it asks the body submitting the report about issues which are outside its duties and responsibilities. If the question could be answered by another body reporting to the same conference, the Committee may transfer the question to that body.

### **12.4 How questions and supplementary questions are put and answered**

After the report is moved, the mover, or their nominee, shall answer the questions in turn. After each question has been answered, the voting member who submitted the question will be given the opportunity to put a supplementary

## Standing orders

question, speaking for a maximum of two minutes, and the mover, or their nominee, will be given an opportunity to respond. The chair shall determine the time given to the mover in moving the report and replying to questions. The chair shall also determine how many of the published questions, and how many of the questions submitted under Standing Order 1.5 (e), can be taken. 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.

### 12.5 Approval or rejection of reports from Federal Party committees or sub-committees

Any report tabled by a Federal Party committee or sub-committee must be submitted for approval by the conference and must be voted upon accordingly. A voting member may move the rejection of any part of the report or of the report as a whole. A voting member wishing to move a rejection shall submit a speaker's card prior to the commencement of the consideration of the report, stating the section(s) which they wish to have rejected. All moves to reject a report must be debated (except that the chair shall have discretion to choose between moves to reject the same part of the report), at the conclusion of the question session. The person who made the request shall speak and the mover of the report, or their nominee, shall reply. The chair may allow other speakers, and shall determine the time given to all speakers.

### 12.6 Receipt of reports from other bodies

Any report tabled by a body other than a Federal Party committee or sub-committee must be submitted for receipt by the conference and must be voted upon

accordingly. A voting member may move not to receive the report, by submitting a speaker's card prior to the commencement of the consideration of the report. A move not to receive a report must be debated (except that the chair shall have discretion to choose between more than one move not to receive the same report), at the conclusion of the question session. The person who made the request shall speak and the mover of the report, or their nominee, shall reply. The chair may allow other speakers, and shall determine the time given to all speakers.

## 13 Amendment of standing orders

### 13.1 Amendment of standing orders

These standing orders may be amended by a two-thirds majority of members of conference voting on a motion duly submitted and selected in accordance with standing orders. Subject to any amendment they shall remain in force from meeting to meeting.

## 14 The Chair and Vice Chairs of the Committee

### 14.1 Chair and Vice Chairs

At its first meeting after a new election the Committee shall elect a Chair, who must be a member of the Committee directly elected by party members, and at least one Vice Chair, who must be members of the Committee either directly elected by party members or elected by one of the State Parties.

# The Federal Party

## Officers of the Federal Par

Leader – Rt Hon Sir Ed Davey MP  
 President – Dr Mark Pack  
 Vice President (England) – Alison Rouse  
 Vice President (Scotland) – Sheila Ritchie  
 Vice President (Wales) – Paula Yates  
 Vice President (BAME) – Isabelle Parasram  
 Chair of FFRC – Anthony Harris  
 Chair of FPDC – Bess Mayhew  
 Treasurer – Lord German  
 Chief Executive – Mike Dixon

## Federal Conference Committee (FCC)

The FCC is responsible for organising the two federal conferences each year. This includes choosing the agenda from the policy and business motions submitted by conference representatives, local, regional and state parties, specified associated organisations and federal committees, and taking decisions on venues, registration rates and other organisational matters. It works within a budget set by the FFRC.

The FCC has 22 voting members: the Party President; the party's Chief Whip in the House of Commons; three state party representatives; one representative from the FB, two from the FPC, one from the Federal Communications & Elections Committee (FCEC), one from the Federal People Development Committee (FPDC); and fifteen directly elected members. It elects its own chair, who must be one of the directly elected representatives.

## Federal Policy Committee (FPC)

The FPC is responsible for researching and developing policy and overseeing the Federal Party's policy-making process, including producing policy papers for debate at conference and drawing up (in consultation with the relevant parliamentary party) the Federal election manifestos for Westminster and European elections.

The FPC has 29 voting members: the Party Leader and six other parliamentarians, the Party President; two local councillors, three state party representatives, one member of the FCEC and 15 members directly elected by members. It must be chaired by the Leader.

## Federal Board (FB)

The FB is responsible for directing, co-ordinating and overseeing the implementation of the Party's strategy and the work of the Federal Party. The FB also has responsibility, at least once per Parliament, for preparing a document outlining the Party's Strategy, for submission for debate and agreement by Conference.

The FB has 35 voting members: the Party President (who chairs it), the Party Leader and three other parliamentarians; the chairs of the three state parties; the chairs of each of the Federal Committees including a vice-chair of the FPC; a local councillor; a Young Liberals representative; three state party representatives; and 15 directly elected members.

## Federal Finance and Resources Committee (FFRC)

The FFRC is responsible for planning and administering the budget and finances of the Federal Party, overseeing its administration and ensuring compliance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, as well as overseeing the Party's risk management operations and its Risk Register.

The FFRC has 14 voting members: the Registered Treasurer (who chairs it); the Registered Treasurers of the three state parties; five other members (elected by the FB); the Party Treasurer; the Party President; one representative of the Parliamentary Office of the Liberal Democrats; the Chief Executive; and one member of Federal staff.

# The Federal Board



Mark Pack, Party President



Isabelle Parasram, Vice President



Elaine Bagshaw, Vice-Chair



Jeremy Hargreaves, Vice-Chair, FPC rep



Alison Rouse, Chair, English Party



Sheila Ritchie, Scottish Party Convener



Paula Yates, Chair, Welsh NEC



Ed Davey MP, Leader



Christine Jardine MP, Parliamentary Group rep



Lord Paul Strasburger, Parliamentary Group rep



Munira Wilson MP, Parliamentary Group rep



Chris White, Principal Local Authority Councillor



Lisa-Maria Bornemann, English Party rep



Kevin Lang, Scottish Party rep



Bill Powell, Welsh Party rep



Geoff Payne, FCC Chair



Jonathan Fryer, FIRC Chair



Lisa Smart, FCEC Chair



Tony Harris, FFRC Chair



Bess Mayhew, FPDC Chair



Helena Cole, FASC Chair



Tara Copeland, Young Liberals Chair



Luke Cawley-Harrison



Kishan Devani



Neil Fawcett



James Gurling



Jo Hayes



Caron Lindsay



Anita Lower



Simon McGrath



Roisin Miller



Joyce Onstad



Candy Piercy



April Preston



Alice Thomas



Gerald Vernon-Jackson



**Federal Board non-voting members:**

- Terry Stacy, LGA rep
- Wendy Chamberlain MP, Chief Whip (Commons)
- Tilly McAuliffe, Federal Treasurer
- Mike Dixon, Federal Chief Executive
- Will Dyer, Staff rep

**Federal Board and Federal Conference Committee helpdesks**

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

Friday	19 March	16.15–17.15
Saturday	20 March	13.00–14.00 and 16.15–17.15
Sunday	21 March	13.00–14.00 and 16.15–17.15

**The Federal Conference Committee**



Geoff Payne,  
Chair



Jon Ball,  
Vice Chair



Nicholas  
da Costa,  
Vice Chair



Cara Jenkinson,  
Vice Chair



Mark Pack, Party  
President



Chris Adams



Duncan Brack



John Bridges



Belinda  
Brooks Gordon



Jon Burree



Wendy  
Chamberlain MP



Baroness Lynne  
Featherstone



Jenni Lang



Liz Lynne



Chris Maines



Simon McGrath



Joe Otten



Mary Regnier  
Wilson



Jenni Rigg



Bex Scott



Rachelle  
Shepherd Dubey



Joseph Toovey

**Non-voting members:**

- Mike Dixon, Federal Chief Executive
- Amy Westcott, Staff Rep

# The Federal Policy Committee



Ed Davey MP,  
Chair



Sally Burnell,  
Vice Chair



Jeremy  
Hargreaves, Vice  
Chair



Mark Pack, Party  
President



Elinor Anderson



Aria Babu



Duncan Brack



Belinda  
Brooks-Gordon



Alisdair Calder  
McGregor



Christine Cheng



Richard Cole



Tara Copeland



Oliver Craven



Helen Cross



Alec Dauncey



Alyssa Gilbert



Tony Greaves



Robert Harrison



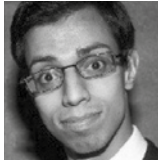
Wera Hobhouse  
MP



Elizabeth Jewkes



Susan Juned



Mohsin Khan



Sarah Ludford



Catherine Royce



Baroness  
Julie Smith



Peter Thornton

Non-voting members:

Geoff Payne, FCC rep

Janey Little, YL rep

ONLINE  
**SPRING  
CONFERENCE**  
19-21 MARCH

Liberal   
Democrats

 @LibDemConf  
#LDConf

 /group/LDConf

 [www.libdems.org.uk/  
spring-conference](http://www.libdems.org.uk/spring-conference)