

F9 Accreditation for Party Conference
Yeovil, Brent and 42 conference representatives

(No amendments were accepted to this motion, and the motion was clearly carried.)

Mover: Stephen Gilbert MP
Summation: David Grace

Conference accepts the need for physical security measures to protect those attending but does not accept that such measures can interfere with the democratic decision-making processes of a political party.

Conference affirms that Liberal Democrats have always defended and promoted the fundamental rights of freedom of association and assembly, protected by Article 11 of the European Convention of Human Rights, by Article 12 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and by Article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Conference recalls that:

- a) The preamble to the party constitution states that "We will at all times defend the right to speak, write, worship, associate and vote freely...".
- b) The party's general election manifesto specifically proclaimed "The best way to combat terrorism is to prosecute terrorists, not give away hard-won British freedoms".

Conference therefore condemns the system of police accreditation adopted for this conference which requires party members to disclose personal data to the police and which is designed to enable the police to advise that certain party members should not be allowed to attend.

Conference therefore calls upon:

1. The Parliamentary Party and Liberal Democrat Ministers to question the current police guidance on accreditation and to seek to persuade the Home Office to change guidance on current practice to reflect the rights of association and assembly and the internal democracy of all political parties.
2. The Federal Conference Committee to negotiate security arrangements for future conferences which protect the privacy of members' personal data and which respect the party's constitution and internal democracy.
3. The Party President to ensure that conference arrangements respect Article 6 of the federal constitution which provides that Local Parties elect representatives and that no other body within or without the party has the power to exclude in advance their attendance at conference.
Applicability: Federal.