

Conference Daily

Saturday 16 March

Liberal Democrats Spring Conference 2024 York

This clear print / large text Conference Daily matches the text of the published Conference Daily. Complex layouts and graphics have been omitted and some information may appear in a different place in the document.

Information from the Federal Conference Committee (FCC) for Saturday 16 March. Please read in conjunction with the Agenda & Directory and Conference Extra.

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If no page number is indicated, there are no changes or additional information to the information in the Conference Agenda & Directory or Conference Extra. Please note that some items of business may occur earlier than indicated. Members wishing to speak should submit a speaker's card as soon as possible.

Health Q&A

Saturday 16 March 13.00–14.00 with Daisy Cooper; Chair Eleanor Kelly.

Treasury Q&A

Saturday 16 March 14.30–15.30 with Sarah Olney; Chair Hannah Kitching.

Lendal Room, York Barbican.



Party members may submit questions using the Q&As online form at:
www.libdems.org.uk/conference/submissions

Left luggage

On Sunday 17 March please store your luggage at your hotel after checkout. Alternatively, there is a secure, complimentary luggage service in operation at the Novotel, Fishergate Suite. There will be a charitable box if you wish to donate to one of the hotel's chosen charities.

Electronic speaker's cards

Speaker's cards can be submitted online up to one hour before the start of the debate at: www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card

Lost Property

Any lost property will be handed in to the Information Desk in the York Barbican Foyer.

Internet access

Free wifi is available at all our official venues:

York Barbican

Network name: Barbican Free Wi-Fi

No password required

Novotel York Centre

Network name: Novotel

Please insert your email address and click 'Connection' in yellow

Hilton York

Network name: Hilton Honors

Please click on 'I have a Promotional Code' and insert 'March2024'

Live stream

The conference will be streamed live, in case you miss any sessions or want to watch again, at: libdems.org.uk/conference-live

Saturday 16 March

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

The opening of conference will include a speech of welcome by the Rt Hon Lord Mayor of York, Reverend Councillor Chris Cullwick.

F2 Federal Conference Committee

Q1. Submitted by John Grout

Given the potential for an Autumn election to disrupt the Autumn Conference (for the 4th time in the last 5 years!), what plans do FCC have to minimise any disruption and ensure that something can still take place (e.g. purely online)? Given the high number of cancelled conferences over recent years, and the possibility of yet another cancellation in the autumn, on what grounds does FCC believe that any party member should arrange to attend any party conference ever again?

Q2. Submitted by Abrial Jerram

Do you plan to increase the diversity of conference venues beyond York, Brighton and Bournemouth in the long term?

Q3. Submitted by Abrial Jerram and John Grout

Did the possibility that this could be our last conference before the General Election have an impact on selection of motions for the agenda and if so, what was the impact? Given that this may well be the last Conference before the General Election, can FCC explain the decision not to have any GE- or manifesto-focused items on the main agenda?

Note: Both submitters of this composite question will be entitled to a supplementary question.

Q4. Submitted by Abrial Jerram

Please explain your selection of F23, Tackling the Funding Crisis in Local Government, given its lack of substance.

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Q5. Submitted by Toby Keynes

For Autumn Conference 2023, a number of submitted questions were 'composited' together, supposedly to prevent duplication – but major concerns raised within some questions were removed entirely. Does FCC undertake not to use compositing to suppress awkward questions that members are entitled to raise?

Q6. Submitted by Michael Berwick-Gooding and Andrew Hudson

According to Standing Order 12.4 "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". After last Autumn's Conference I emailed asking where this information would be published, but I didn't receive an answer. Please can you say where these have been published for the Federal Conferences last year and where they will be published for this Conference?

Note: Both submitters of this composite question will be entitled to a supplementary question.

Q7. Submitted by Dionne Daniel

The Questions input form says, at the final submission stage, "Recommended maximum 25 words" for Questions to Reports. You've already tried and failed to limit us to 30 seconds for follow-up questions. Are you trying to neuter this important way of holding committees to account at Conference?

Q8. Submitted by Joe Norris

What's been your committee's biggest mistake, and what did you learn from it?

Q9. Submitted by Alisdair McGregor

Why is the conference registration process still acting in a discriminatory fashion against people with long-term disabilities?

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F2

Q10. Submitted by James Bliss

At Bournemouth conference there was an issue of partisan leaflets on a major policy debate being handed out on chairs during a fringe event by a major party group. What steps are FCC taking to prevent this happening in future?

F3 Federal Policy Committee

Aide: Cllr Thom Campion.

Q1. Submitted by Em Dean

I welcome the efforts of the FPC to index our recent policy, however, some key policy is missing as it is much older, for example on Culture, Transport, and Equalities, which tend not to be updated as frequently. Could the FPC commit to going a bit further back in time on such issues, and add policy from prior years?

Q2. Submitted by Michael Berwick Gooding

Will FPC look into the tax expert Richard Murphy's Taxing Wealth Report, and into Margaret Hodge's claim made on 25th November 2023 in the House of Commons that there are 100 tax reliefs which could raise £195 billion if scrapped, with a view to the party adopting some of them?

F4 Sport for the People

Amendment One

ALDC

Mover: Cllr Alex Wagner.

Summation: Cllr Emily Smith.

1 After 4. (line 68), add:

- 2 5. Help councils to enhance community sporting facilities which play
- 3 a key role in the early sporting lives of many athletes by working
- 4 with councils to reform local government finance and supporting
- 5 improvements to those grassroots community facilities.

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F4

Amendment Two

15 members

Mover: Helen Tamblyn-Saville.

Summation: Olly Craven.

1 After 4. (line 68), add:

2 5. Review opportunities to televise and provide media coverage to
3 sports that have not typically enjoyed mainstream coverage.

Background briefing

This motion updates and develops policy on sport and media.

It builds on existing policy as set out in the pre-manifesto policy paper 153, For a Fair Deal (September 2023), and policy motion Reclaiming the People's Game (September 2014).

F5 Boosting Cancer Survival

Aide: Cllr Shaffaq Mohammed.

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

1 In line 1, delete 'Concern' and insert 'Conference'.

Amendment One

Lambeth

Mover: Stevan Cirkovic.

Summation: Donna Harris.

1 In D. (line 8), delete 'Tens of thousands of patients' and insert 'Nearly
2 100,000 patients'.

3 Delete J. (lines 25–26) and insert:

4 J. An extra 33,000 cancer cases per year in the UK (nearly one in 10)
5 are associated with deprivation and inequality.

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F5

- 6 After J. (line 26), insert:
- 7 K. The Conservative Government has allowed the UK research
8 environment to deteriorate, and is presiding over the closure of
9 the National Cancer Research Institute, which has coordinated
10 cancer research for more than two decades.
- 11 L. There are shortages across all professions in the cancer
12 workforce, which has contributed to growing expenditure on
13 short-term staffing across all areas of NHS care, estimated by the
14 British Medical Association at £9 billion in 2022.
- 15 After e) (line 50), insert:
- 16 f) A fair deal for the NHS workforce is vital to delivering better
17 patient care, outcomes and research. Investing in the recruitment
18 and retention of specialised cancer doctors and nurses is
19 investment in patients and tackling growing cancer waiting lists.
- 20 Delete 3. (lines 63–64) and insert:
- 21 3. Boost access to radiotherapy by investing in 200 new
22 radiotherapy machines and the staff to deliver an increased
23 service, eliminating any blackspots in geographical coverage.
- 24 After 3. (lines 64), insert:
- 25 4. Expand day units and satellite services for chemotherapy so that
26 cancer patients in all parts of the country can access routine
27 treatment within 60 minutes of travel from their home.

Background briefing

This motion updates and develops policy on health care, with a particular focus on cancer.

It builds on existing policy as set out in the pre-manifesto policy paper 153, For a Fair Deal (September 2023), and policy paper 137, Save the NHS and Social Care by Stopping Brexit (September 2019).

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F7 Liberal Values in a Dangerous World

Mover: Dr Christine Cheng (Chair of the Policy Working Group).

Summation: Richard Foord MP (Spokesperson for Defence).

Amendment One

10 members

Mover: Dr Ruvi Ziegler.

Summation: Jacqueline Bell.

1 In III. (line 9), after 'cooperation' insert 'and recalling the commitment
2 in Spring conference 2021 policy motion, Safe and Legal Routes
3 to Save Lives, to the creation of pathways for submission of
4 humanitarian visa applications, including at embassies and consulates
5 at countries of origin and at channel crossings'.

6 After F (line 20), insert:

7 G. Partaking in global responsibility-sharing through providing
8 protection for refugees fleeing conflicts wherever they arise
9 such as through expansion of resettlement schemes and
10 demonstrating a consistent commitment to family unification,
11 recalling our commitment in Autumn conference 2018 policy
12 motion A Fair Deal for Everyone: Prosperity and Dignity in
13 Migration, to offer safe and legal routes to the UK for at
14 least 10,000 refugees each year as well as welcoming 10,000
15 unaccompanied refugee children over a period of 10 years.

16 In 2. d) (line 64), after 'asylum seekers' insert '; this includes ensuring
17 a rapid response to displacement caused by conflicts wherever they
18 arise by creating a global process for applying for protection from
19 outside the UK, and by offering Sponsorship Scheme Visas and Family
20 Unification Schemes such as the Ukraine Family Scheme visa to those
21 fleeing conflicts globally, not just for Ukrainians'.

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F7

Amendment Two

10 members

Mover: John Russell.

Summation: to be announced.

1 After vi) (line 37), insert:

2 vii) Abandoning our role as a global leader on tackling the climate
3 emergency.

4 After 1. e) (line 51), insert:

5 f) Restoring the UK's role as a global leader on climate change.

6 After 2. d) (line 64), insert':

7 e) Increasing the proportion of the international development
8 budget committed to tackling climate change and
9 environmental degradation.

Amendment Three

17 members

Mover: George Cunningham.

Summation: Helen Maguire.

1 In 4. b) (line 92), after 'equipment procurements,' insert 'including
2 European industry being able to replenish stocks rapidly by ramping
3 up production to meet the threat triggered by Russia putting her
4 economy on a war footing'.

5 In 5. a) (line 101), delete ', one day,', and after 'country' insert 'including
6 finding lawful ways of using the estimated \$300 billion of frozen
7 sovereign assets of the Russian state as reparations for the violations
8 of international law by Russia in Ukraine'.

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F7

Amendment Four

Lambeth

Mover: Sarah Lewis.

Summation: Doug Buist.

1 After 7. c) (line 133), insert:

2 e) Restore the British Council's in-country presence to 2019
3 levels of offices and staffing.

Background briefing

This motion and the accompanying policy paper updates and develops policy on international affairs and defence.

It builds on existing policy as set out in the pre-manifesto policy paper 153, For a Fair Deal (September 2023), policy motion A Fair Deal for the Armed Forces (March 2023), and policy paper 132, Britain at the Heart of a Changing World (September 2018).

F9 Federal Appeals Panel

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

1 In i) (line 16), delete 'appointed' and insert 'chosen'.

2 Delete ii) (line 17) and insert:

3 ii) In 22.1A, deleting 'elected' and inserting 'chosen'.

4 iii) In 22.1B, deleting 'elected' and inserting 'chosen'.

5 iv) In the last paragraph of 22.1, deleting 'the members elected to it
6 by the Federal Board' and inserting 'those of its members chosen
7 by the Federal Board'.

8 v) In the last paragraph of 22.1, deleting 're-appointed as a member
9 of the Panel' and inserting 'chosen again as a member of the
10 Panel by the Federal Board and confirmed by Conference'.

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F11 Are you Drinking What We're Drinking?

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

- 1 In ii) (line 4), delete 'In the last three years' and insert 'Between 2020–
- 2 2022'.

- 3 In iii) (line 8), delete 'over the last three years' and insert 'between
- 4 2020–2022,'.

- 5 In 2. b) (line) 57, delete 'my'.

Background briefing

This motion updates and develops policy on the water industry, sewage and water courses.

They build on existing policy as set out in the policy paper 156, Tackling the Nature Crisis (September 2023), pre-manifesto policy paper 153, For a Fair Deal (September 2023) and policy motion Ending Sewage Discharges (March 2022).

F12 Speech: Layla Moran MP

Aide: Jennie Rigg.

F13 Tackling Persistent Absence

Amendment One

11 members

Mover: Andy McGowan.

Summation: Clare Tevlin.

- 1 After a) (line 19), insert:

- 2 b) Included in the absence figures are children who can not attend
- 3 rather than will not attend – those whose social and emotional
- 4 needs make attendance exceptionally challenging and in some
- 5 cases impossible.

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F13

- 6 In b) (line 20), after 'free school meals' insert 'or who are young
7 carers', and after 'are ineligible' insert 'or who do not have caring
8 responsibilities'.
- 9 After iii) (line 42), insert:
- 10 iv) Young carers should be proactively identified and supported with
11 their education and their caring responsibilities so they can have
12 the same educational opportunities as their peers.
- 13 In v) (line 46), after 'classroom' insert 'and school'.
- 14 After C. (line 56), insert:
- 15 D. Forty percent of young carers report that they are not getting the
16 help they need to balance their caring responsibilities and their
17 education.
- 18 In 4. (line 70), after 'school attendance' insert 'and make schools more
19 inclusive'.
- 20 After 8. (line 83), insert:
- 21 9. Improving identification and support for young carers by:
- 22 a) Developing a cross-Government Carers Strategy with clear
23 actions to improve support for young carers.
- 24 b) Ensuring that all schools have a young carers lead and a
25 young carers policy so that all young carers know what
26 support is available inside and outside of school.

Amendment Two

ALDC

Mover: Cllr Lucy Nethsingha.

Summation: Cllr Caroline Leaver.

- 1 In 1. (line 60), after 'not in school' insert 'and provide the funding for
2 councils to compile these records'.

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F13

Background briefing

This motion updates and develops policy on children and education, particularly tackling absence in schools.

It builds on existing policy as set out in the pre-manifesto policy paper 153, For a Fair Deal (September 2023), and policy paper 128, Every Child Empowered: Education for a Changing World (March 2018).

F14 40 New Hospitals

Aide: Jennie Rigg.

Background briefing:

This motion updates and develops policy on health care, with a particular focus on hospitals.

It builds on existing policy as set out in the pre-manifesto policy paper 153, For a Fair Deal (September 2023), and policy paper 137, Save the NHS and Social Care by Stopping Brexit (September 2019).

F15 Parliamentary Parties

Q1. Submitted by Sam Cook and Emily Tester

What more can we do as a party to tackle the rise of Antisemitism and Islamophobia?

Note: Both submitters of this composite question will be entitled to a supplementary question.

Q2. Submitted by Rebecca Jones

Following a meeting with Transgender members of the Liberal Democrats, what is the parliamentary party doing to advance transgender rights nationally?

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Q3. Submitted by Chase Smith

What can the Liberal Democrats do to promote clean energy production in the UK?

Q4. Submitted by Callum Robertson

What can Liberal Democrat members in England and Wales do to help preserve the United Kingdom in the face of the SNP's drive to divide?

Q5. Submitted by Tara Copeland

Does the Parliamentary Party support the abolition of leasehold?

Q6. Submitted by Jack Roberts

Do we support Labour's proposed reforms to the House of Lords?

Q7. Submitted by Joshua Price

What more will the Party be doing to highlight the impact of real-terms Local Government Funding cuts?

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