

# Conference Extra

**Spring Conference  
Harrogate 21-23 March 2025**

**Liberal  
Democrats** 



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# Agenda Extra

Updates and amendments to the Agenda printed in the **Agenda & Directory**.

## Saturday 22 March

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

#### **Q1. Submitted by Sir Simon Hughes**

There was last year a very long delay in publishing written answers to questions submitted to Conference. Please can all answers be published within 21 days of the last day of Conference in future?

#### **Q2. Submitted by Brandon Masih**

The Science Motion, as per the first drafts publication on the Facebook Federal Conference Group, is much longer in its calls for sections than what made the agenda in the end. Could FCC explain whether such shortening after submission is normal and why that means the motion text no longer discusses AI much?

#### **Q3. Submitted by Abrial Jerram**

F4 is, on the whole, extremely vague yet was selected despite much high quality competition. Would you have selected it for debate if it had not been submitted by FPC?

#### **Q4. Submitted by Christopher Johnson**

What has your committee done and what can it do to tackle discrimination (e.g. misogyny, ableism, transphobia) in the party?

## Saturday 22 March cont.

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

#### **Q1. Submitted by Christopher Johnson**

What has your committee done and what can it do to tackle discrimination (e.g. misogyny, ableism, transphobia) in the party?

#### **Q2. Submitted by Abrial Jerram**

Would you agree that F4 and it's accompanying policy paper is very vague and if so, is that deliberate?

### **F4 Science, Innovation and Technology (Science Policy Paper)**

*The following clauses at the end of the motion were accidentally omitted from the printed Agenda. The FCC has therefore agreed to draft them in. All the proposals in these lines were included in Policy Paper 158.*

- 90 5. Ensure AI works for the common good – balancing innovation with  
91 ethical responsibility – with a National AI Strategy including by:
  - 92 a) Introducing a robust regulatory environment, learning from  
93 experience of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology  
94 Authority, with flexible monitoring, inspection, auditing and  
95 enforcement powers that would oversee ethical and  
96 transparent standards for AI.
  - 97 b) Supporting open approaches to AI to democratise and  
98 championing transparency.
  - 99 c) Defending and expanding the rights of the public with regard  
100 to automated decision making.
  - 101 d) Reaching an international agreement on the governance and  
102 use of AI.
  - 103 e) Strengthening rules around copyright so that creators are  
104 treated fairly, with record keeping duties and robust,  
105 independent auditing of data and content use for AI  
106 developers.
  - 107 f) Strengthening our democratic processes and investing in new  
108 technologies to detect illicit or harmful uses of AI.



## **Saturday 22 March cont.**

- 109     6. Fixing our crumbling public services with a comprehensive public  
110        sector technology policy and investment plan, notably by:
- 111        a) Investing in skills, training and new technology across the  
112            public sector, with long term investment and planning.
- 113        b) Improving health and care with a new approach to personal  
114            data, a new agreement with the European Medicines Agency  
115            and a comprehensive technology adoption programme.
- 116        c) Ensuring our criminal justice system is able to make the most  
117            of new technology, with appropriate safeguards on AI to tackle  
118            biases and discrimination.
- 119        d) Empowering local government, with investment in skills and  
120            training and a technology sandbox.
- 121     7. Harnessing the power of technology to tackle the big social  
122        challenges of our time, notably by:
- 123        a) Generating sustainable, inclusive economic growth through a  
124            long term, consistent industrial and people strategy.
- 125        b) Tackling regional inequality through a digital inclusion strategy,  
126            national investment in digital infrastructure and investing in  
127            local government.
- 128        c) Tackling social inequalities, particularly gender, ethnic,  
129            disability and class inequality, so that science and technology  
130            bring benefits to all.
- 131        d) Tackling the digital divide with local and national plans for  
132            digital inclusion.
- 133        e) Investing in green technologies to help mitigate and adapt to  
134            the climate crisis.

*Applicability: Federal, except for 2. (lines 51-63), 6. (lines 109-120) and 7. (lines 121-134) which are England only.*

## **Amendment One**

*12 members*

Mover: Manuela Perteghella MP

Summation: Lord Clement-Jones (Lords Spokesperson for Science and Innovation)

## **Saturday 22 March cont.**

1      *After line 23, insert:*

2      Conference notes with disappointment the Labour Government's  
3      confused approach to AI in its Copyright and AI consultation that has  
4      unnecessarily created division between the creative and technologies  
5      sectors.

6      Conference further notes that the significant benefits and uses AI can  
7      bring to support creativity in the music, film, TV, gaming, arts and  
8      media sectors must work in tandem with continuing to protect rights  
9      holders.

10     *After line 50, insert a new 2.:*

- 11     2.    Maintain a balance between enabling AIs to develop and  
12        defending the fundamental rights of those who create and own  
13        content by:
- 14        a)    Increasing confidence in the transparency of AI development.
- 15        b)    Introducing new record keeping duties and robust,  
16        independent auditing of data and content use for AI  
17        development.
- 18        c)    Pushing for an active Government role in ensuring creators  
19        receive appropriate and proportionate remuneration when  
20        copyright material is ingested into generative AI models for  
21        training purposes and derive the full benefit of technology  
22        such as AI made performance synthesization and streaming.

## **Amendment Two**

12 members

Mover: Max Wilkinson MP (Spokesperson for Culture, Media and Sport)

Summation: Bobby Dean MP

1      *After line 31, insert:*

2      Conference notes the damaging effects of the concentration of  
3      enormous power in the hands of US tech oligarchs, and regrets recent  
4      moves away from crucial online safety and misinformation measures  
5      by Elon Musk, Mark Zuckerberg and others.

6      Conference condemns the Labour government's decision to isolate

## **Saturday 22 March cont.**

7          the UK on the global stage, by siding with Trump in failing to sign the  
8          Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for  
9          People and the Planet recently agreed in Paris.

10        *After line 134, add:*

11        Conference calls on the Government to adopt the principles of the  
12        Paris AI agreement within a National AI Strategy.

### **Amendment Three**

*16 members*

Mover: Brandon Masih

Summation: Brandon Masih

1          *After line 31, insert:*

2          Conference also condemns the Home Office for its February 7th  
3          technology capability notice (TCN), where they requested  
4          technologically impossible demands of exclusive access to user data  
5          stored via Apple's iCloud system, putting user data at risk and  
6          subsequent withdrawal of end-to-end encryption under Advanced  
7          Data Protection (ADP) from some forms of iCloud data for new UK  
8          users and those who have not enabled ADP prior to February 24th.

9          Conference further believes that exclusive, secure access to personal  
10         data in a digital world via encryption is paramount for rights to privacy  
11         and should not be abridged via encryption backdoors.

12        *After line 134, add:*

13        Conference further calls for any TCN issued by the Home Office in  
14        relation to sweeping access to iCloud to be withdrawn, requests Apple  
15        to subsequently restore the option of ADP to all UK Apple consumer  
16        and calls on the Government to confirm no future plans on utilising  
17        encryption backdoors on other communication platforms.

### **F6      Reports of the Parliamentary Parties**

#### **Q1. Submitted by Brandon Masih**

Is there a concern that parliamentarians may undermine the arguments we have in opposing Labour policy, considering one front bencher has, on social

## **Saturday 22 March cont.**

media, described a matter of terminology on one Government tax policy as 'Orwellian'?

### **Q2. Submitted by Emily Tester**

How can the Parliamentary Party best challenge the rise of the far right, in the UK with Reform and abroad?

### **Q3. Submitted by Caroline Juss**

Do you feel that Parliament is adapting to having the smallest official opposition and the largest third party in history? What impact are the smaller parties having?

### **Q4. Submitted by Abrial Jerram**

The issue of housing and planning will soon take centre stage in Parliament. What steps will MPs take to avoid the perception that we are compromising our values by putting the views of those who own homes ahead of those who are trapped by the housing crisis, noting that, by and large, Liberal Democrat MPs represent affluent areas which could make this hazard more dangerous?

### **Q5. Submitted by Sir Simon Hughes**

Can the Commons Whips please make sure that parliamentary and constituency phone numbers and emails for all MPs are always available to House of Commons switchboards and published on websites and answered promptly? Thank you.

### **Q6. Submitted by Tony Vickers**

What are we doing to enfranchise the 3.5m UK citizens abroad entitled to vote, 94% of whom aren't currently registered?

### **Q7. Submitted by Christopher Johnson**

What has the Parliamentary Party done and what can it do to tackle discrimination (e.g. misogyny, ableism, transphobia) in the party?

## **Saturday 22 March cont.**

### **F9 Free to be Who You Are**

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

1 *After line 10, insert:*

2 v) Human rights are indivisible, so defending the rights of LGBTQ+  
3 people is crucial to upholding the human rights of all.

4 *At the end of line 27, insert '..., and a number of British Overseas*  
5 *Territories not recognising same-sex marriage.'*

6 *At the end of line 65, insert: '..., including central government support*  
7 *for local authorities to give consideration for LGBTQ+ supported*  
8 *housing for older LGBTQ+ people, as has been successful in Lambeth*  
9 *and Manchester, when looking to expand the supply of social*  
10 *housing.'*

### **Amendment One**

*12 members*

Mover: Lord Pack (President of the Liberal Democrats)

Summation: To be announced

1 *After line 27, insert:*

2 Conference reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that young trans  
3 people can access the high-quality healthcare they deserve in a timely  
4 manner, noting the central finding of the Cass Review that they "must  
5 have the same standards of care as everyone else in the NHS, and  
6 that means basing treatments on good evidence" while also  
7 recognising the toxic debate around aspects of the review and the  
8 distress and uncertainty it has caused for members of the trans  
9 community.

### **Amendment Two**

*13 members*

Mover: Cllr Donna Harris

Summation: Sarah Dyke MP

1 *After line 58, insert:*

2 d) Reviewing the Care Quality Commission's grading system, to  
3 ensure that all inspections take into account LGBTQ+

## Saturday 22 March cont.

- 4 residents' experience in a given care home, and that fresh  
5 inspections swiftly follow any allegations of abuse.
- 6 e) Introducing a 'pride in care' quality mark and LGBTQ+ care  
7 champion scheme for councils.

### Amendment Three

*Young Liberals*

Mover: Rebecca Jones

Summation: Ulysse Abbate

- 1 *After line 137, add:*
- 2 Conference further notes with concern that the current waiting lists  
3 for trans people attempting to access Gender Identity Clinics (GICs) in  
4 the UK is on average five years, and in many cases even longer.
- 5 Conference believes that:
- 6 a) Trans people have a right to be seen by a specialist within 18  
7 weeks, as set out in the NHS constitution
- 8 b) Trans people deserve further support while on an NHS waiting list  
9 in relation to mental health support and Gender Affirming Care.
- 10 Conference therefore calls for:
- 11 I. The NHS to provide further support to trans people on waiting  
12 lists, including more mental health support.
- 13 II. The NHS to commission further gender identity clinics and pilot  
14 schemes to bring down waiting lists.
- 15 III. The NHS to be supported and encouraged to work with private  
16 Gender Identity specialists to a greater extent, to provide shared  
17 care agreements for transgender people.
- 18 IV. The Government to increase funding and capacity in NHS GICs.

Saturday 22 March cont.

F10 Constitutional Amendment: Implementing the Lessons of the General Election Review

Amendment One

12 members

Mover: Cllr Chris White

Summation: Baroness Grender

1 After line 1 insert:

- 2 A. State and Regional Candidate Chairs, their committees and the  
3 other volunteers supporting their work are the backbone to our  
4 Westminster candidate system. They are central to our efforts as a  
5 party to find and support candidates and we are grateful for their  
6 continued hard work.
- 7 B. We recognise the need to create the best possible Westminster  
8 candidate system for our State and Regional Candidate Chairs,  
9 their committees and other volunteers to operate within and for  
10 them to receive the best possible support.

11 After line 45 insert:

- 12 8. It is for local party members to determine who their Liberal  
13 Democrat candidate is in Westminster elections. There is no  
14 proposed change to this. As is currently the case, the  
15 responsibility to decide who is a Liberal Democrat Westminster  
16 candidate in each constituency will continue to rest with local  
17 party members.
- 18 9. The delivery of our Westminster candidate function depends on  
19 the vital work of our Regional Candidates Committees (in England)  
20 and State Candidate Committees in England, Scotland and Wales  
21 and their other volunteers. There is no proposed change to this.  
22 As is currently the case; these committees and volunteers will  
23 continue to deliver their important work and, for Regional  
24 Candidates Chairs in England, continue to sit on the State  
25 Candidate Committee.

26 At the end of line 100, insert:

- 27 In carrying out its role under (d), the JCSC shall establish a  
28 Consultative Group, including representatives from each State  
29 Candidates Committee, who may include one or more Chairs of



## Saturday 22 March cont.

- 30 Candidate Committees created by Regional Parties. The Consultative  
31 Group shall offer advice to the JCSC, and the JCSC shall respond to any  
32 advice offered.

### Amendment Two

*Liberal Democrat Women*

Mover: Cllr Donna Harris

Summation: To be announced

1 *After line 19, insert:*

- 2 E. Despite making up 51% of the population, women only made up  
3 28% of Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidates in the General  
4 Election: a lower percentage than the Conservative, Labour, and  
5 Green parties.

6 *At the end of line 35, insert: '... and diversity must be embedded into*  
7 *the candidates process and made a key priority'.*

8 *After line 35, insert new 5.:*

- 9 5. Recognising the significant underrepresentation of women among  
10 Liberal Democrat candidates, it is essential to take action to  
11 enhance their representation both within the candidate pool and  
12 across the party as a whole.

13 *After line 45, insert new 9.:*

- 14 9. Clearly defined metrics help to create an open and transparent  
15 working environment, while acting as a motivator for Local Parties  
16 and candidates.

17 *After line 98, insert new f. and g.:*

- 18 f. To develop and implement candidate diversity action plans, led by  
19 the Vice President responsible for working with ethnic minority  
20 communities.
- 21 g. To produce clearly communicated, realistic workload expectations,  
22 including a comprehensive schedule and pathway at every seat  
23 level, set out clearly in the candidates' compact.

## **Saturday 22 March cont.**

### **F14 The UK's Response to Trump**

Aide: Cllr Hannah Kitching

Hall Aide: Lord Mohammed

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

1 *Delete iii) (lines 12-13) and insert:*

2 iii) Trump's suspension of military aid to Ukraine, and lack of  
3 commitment to NATO.

4 *In iv) (line 15) after 'Greenland' insert: '...and his threat to annexe*  
5 *Canada as the US 51st state.'*  
6

7 *After line 15, insert new v):*

8 v) Trump's reckless comments proposing that Palestinians be  
9 removed from Gaza and 'resettled' elsewhere - which would  
10 constitute a grave violation of international law - undermining the  
11 already fragile ceasefire and disregarding the legitimate right of  
12 Palestinians for their own state.

13 *After line 28, insert new x), xi) and xii):*

14 x) Trump's cancellation of USAID, which could lead to China  
15 increasing its influence in the Global South.

16 xi) The disgraceful verbal assault by Trump and Vance on President  
17 Zelensky in the Oval Office on 28 February 2025.

18 xii) The Trump Administration's actions to roll back the rights of  
19 LGBTQ+ people in the US, in particular towards trans people, as  
20 well as those of women and ethnic minorities.

### **Amendment One**

*12 members*

Mover: Helen Maguire MP (Spokesperson for Defence)

Summation: Baroness Smith of Newnham (Lords Spokesperson for Defence)

1 *After line 37, insert:*

2 Conference welcomes the Government's decision to raise defence  
3 spending to 2.5% of GDP, but expresses concern that doing so by  
4 cutting Official Development Assistance will ultimately make the UK

**Saturday 22 March cont.**

5        less secure.

6        *Delete E. b) (lines 69-70) and insert:*

7            b) Committing to spending 2.5% of GDP as soon as possible - to  
8            be funded by raising the Digital Services Tax from 2% to 10% -  
9            and holding cross-party talks to agree a consensus on how to  
10          reach spending 3% of GDP on defence.

11       *After line 84, insert:*

12           d) Support the creation of a Rearmament Bank, together with  
13           our European and other allies, to enable greater access to  
14           finance for defence programmes.

**Amendment Two**

*12 members*

Mover: James McCleary MP (Spokesperson for Europe)

Summation: David Chalmers (Chair of the Federal International Relations Committee)

1        *At end of line 39, insert: '...and that enhancing economic ties with the*  
2        *EU, including by cutting red tape and boosting trade links, is essential*  
3        *for insulating the UK from Trump's unpredictability as well as growing*  
4        *our economy'.*

5        *At end of line 57, insert: '...and, as the culmination of the third stage in*  
6        *our roadmap, negotiate a new UK-EU Customs Union by 2030 at the*  
7        *latest.'*

**Amendment Three**

*Yorkshire and Humber*

Mover: Samuel Jackson

Summation: Adrian Ramsdale

1        *After line 53, insert new B.:*

2        B. Ensure Ukraine's participation in peace negotiations as an equal  
3        partner to safeguard against a coerced and detrimental peace  
4        settlement.

## **Saturday 22 March cont.**

### **F15     Federal Board Report: questions and accountability**

#### **Q1. Cllr Donna Harris**

Under Section 106 of the Equality Act, the party will soon have to publish anonymised diversity data around candidates as well as their approval, nomination and selection. How does the party plan to meet these transparency requirements?

#### **Q2. Eleanor Kelly**

As part of our response to the General Election review, Liberal Democrat Women requested data concerning the gender, region and seat status of candidates. Nearly six months later, this has not been fully provided. When can we expect it? How will the President support robust diversity data monitoring, not only for members as outlined in his report, but also for candidates?

#### **Q3. John Grout and Christopher Johnson**

Is the Federal Board taking steps to protect the Party and plan for the Party's survival in the event that a data breach of NGP VAN is engineered by hostile actors as a pretext for shuttering the company and/or the US Democratic Party?

Should we look at developing a new canvassing software with our European parties in order to reduce our reliance on American companies following the US President's recent statements on Ukraine?

#### **Q4. Submitted by Abrial Jerram**

Do you believe the same willingness to reinvent ourselves that took place after 2019 is needed post 2024 General Election in acknowledgment of the fact that the next general election is going to be nothing like the last?

#### **Q5. Submitted by Sir Simon Hughes**

Please can all party elections require that members can vote by post as well as email, and that all local council selections have rules to maximise gender balance and diversity?

## **Saturday 22 March cont.**

### **Q6. Submitted by Andy Williams**

Are there plans to standardise MPs local party tithes in future. Given that they seem to range from sensible to zero?

### **Q7. Michael Berwick-Gooding**

Please can you state how many people in the consultation wanted no change to the number of nominators required to stand for a Federal Party Committee and how many people wanted an increase?

### **Q8. Christopher Johnson**

What has your committee done and what can it do to tackle discrimination (e.g. misogyny, ableism, transphobia) in the party?

### **Q9. Submitted by John Grout**

What, in the Board's opinion, is the acceptable level of harm it is prepared to inflict on a vulnerable minority (and the party's reputation), to avoid litigation from those determined to exterminate them, in contravention of the party's values?

### **Q10. Submitted by Gareth Epps**

Is there nothing the party will not agree to do when issued legal threats by people who do not share our values?

### **Q11. Submitted by Leon Duveen**

Yet again, the Party has been blackmailed by threat of expensive legal action into accepting a stall from a group that opposes basic Liberal Democrat principles. This is an intolerable situation and what is the Federal Board doing to make sure that such groups that do not respect the fundamental values of our Party are not allowed to have a stall or hold fringe events at our Conference?

## **Saturday 22 March cont.**

### **Q12. Submitted by Sir Simon Hughes**

How many complaints against members as of 1 March 2025 are awaiting a) hearings and b) decisions for longer than 3, 6, 9 and 12 months, and can speedy decisions be ensured in future.

### **Q13. Submitted by Sir Simon Hughes**

Since 1 March 2020, as of 1 March 2025 a) how many legal cases have been initiated by members or former members against the party, b) how many concluded, c) how many with awards or judgements against the LDs and d) at what total cost?

### **Q14. Submitted by Sir Simon Hughes**

Since 1 March 2020 and until 1 March 2025 how many complaints have been made against party members in each year, how many have been concluded, how many are still unresolved and what is the maximum time for a decision.

### **Q15. Submitted by Sir Simon Hughes**

Will the President and all party officers confirm the right of all LD PPCs and MPs as a matter of personal liberal conscience to express views and vote against abortion, assisted dying, euthanasia and the legal right to change sex, and to be respected for doing so.

### **Q16. Submitted by Robert Reiss**

The public version of the party style guide was last updated in September 2018. To assist local parties in maintaining coherence with federal party branding, will the style guide be reviewed and updated as a priority?

### **Q17. Submitted by Tony Vickers**

Is Lib Dems Abroad working with British Overseas Voters Forum, given the likely high propensity for Brits based abroad to vote Liberal Democrat?

### Saturday 22 March cont.

#### **Q18. Submitted by Janey Little**

Part of the rationale behind F10 Constitutional Amendment: Implementing the Lessons of the General Election Review, is to improve diversity. If the amendment passes, can you detail how this is going to be enacted under the new JCSC framework? Or if the amendment fails, the plans to improve diversity if it remains within the old model?

#### **F16 Electoral Regulations**

*Please note that the changes to the electoral regulations can be found on pages 19-37 of the printed Reports document and pages 13-25 of the online Reports document.*

See: <https://www.libdems.org.uk/conference/papers/spring-2025/reports-to-conference>

#### **F18 Federal Communications and Elections Committee Report: questions and accountability**

##### **Q1. Christopher Johnson**

What has your committee done and what can it do to tackle discrimination (e.g. misogyny, ableism, transphobia) in the party?

#### **F19 Campaign for Gender Balance: questions and accountability**

##### **Q1. Christopher Johnson**

What has your committee done and what can it do to tackle discrimination (e.g. misogyny, ableism, transphobia) in the party?

#### **F20 Federal International Relations Committee Report: questions and accountability**

##### **Q1. Christopher Johnson**

What has your committee done and what can it do to tackle discrimination (e.g. misogyny, ableism, transphobia) in the party?



Saturday 22 March cont.

Q2. Christopher Johnson

As we enter the 110th anniversary of the Greek, Armenian and Assyrian Genocides, is it not time our party and our country recognise them?

F21 Federal Council Report: questions and accountability

Mover: Cllr Prue Bray

Q1. Christopher Johnson

What has your committee done and what can it do to tackle discrimination (e.g. misogyny, ableism, transphobia) in the party?

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Sunday 23 March

F22 Emergency Motion

There will be a ballot for one motion to be debated in this agenda slot. Please see pages 22-29 below.

F23 Animal Welfare in the Food System

Amendment One

10 members

Mover: Baroness Grender (Lords Spokesperson on Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)

Summation: To be announced

- 1
- After line 48, insert new 4.:
- 2
4. Its commitment to implement new targets to ensure 50% of food
- 3
- supplied to the public sector is produced by British farmers or
- 4
- certified to higher animal welfare and environmental standards.
- 5
- After line 116, insert new b) and c):
- 6
- b) An annual report on the level of high welfare food supplied to
- 7
- the public sector is laid before Parliament.

## **Sunday 23 March cont.**

- 8           c) The Government Buying Standards for Food and Catering  
9           Services (GBSF) are properly monitored and enforced.

### **Amendment Two**

*10 members*

Mover: Elliot Chapman-Jones

Summation: To be announced

1       *At end of line 77, insert:*

2       ‘..., including more funding for peer-to-peer learning to reward farmer  
3       networks for sharing knowledge and skills’.

4       *After line 77, insert new b):*

5           b) Ensuring that the Growth and Skills Levy takes into account  
6           the importance of agricultural skills to provide access to  
7           apprenticeships in the sector and support the next generation  
8           with expertise in animal welfare.

### **F25     Ending the Crisis: A Fair Deal for Children with SEND**

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

1       *In IV (line 88), after 'local government', insert: 'and trade unions'.*

### **Amendment One**

*17 members*

Mover: Andy McGowan

Summation: Lee Dargue

1       *After line 33, insert new xii) and xiii):*

2       xii) The lack of support for children with SEND, particularly during  
3       school holidays, has a significant impact on parent carers and  
4       siblings, including their health, wellbeing and opportunities.

5       xiii) Research by Carers Trust and the We Care campaign shows that  
6       parent carers do not have access to their statutory right to  
7       assessments and, if needed, support.

## **Sunday 23 March cont.**

8        *After line 96, add new VI.:*

9        VI. Take measures to improve access to support for parent carers and  
10        siblings including through:

11        a) Working with local government to ensure that parent carers  
12        have access to Parent Carers' Needs Assessments and support  
13        in every local authority.

14        b) Ensuring that any future carers strategy or reforms to SEND  
15        specifically consider the needs of parent carers and siblings.

16        c) Making sure that Ofsted inspections of local authorities  
17        specifically assess how councils are identifying and supporting  
18        parent carers.

19        d) Including young carers as a priority group within any holiday  
20        activity programmes.

### **Amendment Two**

*Liberal Democrat Disability Association*

Mover: Katharine Macy.

Summation: To be announced.

1        *At end of V. (line 96), insert: '...,while ensuring quality of transport and*  
2        *education is not lowered'.*

3        *After line 96, add:*

4        VI) Support Higher and Further education by allowing pre-16  
5        diagnosis of disabilities such as neurodivergence like dyslexia,  
6        ADHD and autism to be accepted to access Disability Student  
7        Allowance and reasonable adjustments

# Emergency Motions Ballot

*One of the following motions will be selected by ballot to be debated at F22 on Sunday 22 March. The emergency motions ballot will be held electronically. Members of conference will receive a ballot by email at 17.00 on Friday 21 March, and should complete it online by 13.00 on Friday 22 March.*

## Emergency Motion 1: Dropped Targets - A Threat to Care

13 members

1 Conference notes:

- 2 ii) The 2025 mandate to NHS England, delivered on the 30th January  
3 2025, which abolished almost half (14 of 32) of the NHS targets.
- 4 ii) Its delivery to Parliament in the form of a Written Ministerial  
5 Statement, without any oral statement or debate, which did not  
6 allow for proper scrutiny of such large-scale organisational  
7 changes.
- 8 iii) Its impact on key areas such as mental health, women's health,  
9 dementia diagnosis and access to community services, where  
10 performance targets have been abolished.
- 11 iv) Many in the health sector's concerns that these areas will be  
12 rapidly deprioritised, and patients will suffer.
- 13 v) The two million people on mental health waiting lists and the lack  
14 of a credible plan to ensure these patients get the help they need.
- 15 vi) The failure of the government to meet the now-eliminated  
16 dementia diagnosis target since 2020, and the Darzi investigation's  
17 assertion that the government must improve quantity and quality  
18 of care for dementia patients.
- 19 vii) The over 30 million British women who will no longer have  
20 mandated access to a women's health hub to access smear tests,  
21 breast checks, contraception, menopause advice and more.
- 22 viii) The refusal of the government to consider reinstating the dropped  
23 targets or debate the issue in Parliament.

24 Conference believes:

- 25 a) The Conservatives brought our NHS to breaking point through

## Emergency Motions Ballot

- 26 mismanagement and underinvestment, leading to spiralling  
27 waitlists, an unending cycle of winter crises, and despite the  
28 continual readjustment of targets down to easier and easier  
29 levels, a repeated inability to meet many.
- 30 b) Labour has inherited a challenging legacy but their lack of  
31 ambition when it comes to fixing the NHS has been shocking.
- 32 c) Addressing unacceptably long wait times and improving access to  
33 primary care and A&E services cannot come at the cost of proper  
34 treatment of dementia patients, those struggling with mental  
35 health, and women's wellbeing.
- 36 d) The deprioritisation of these key areas signals the government's  
37 complacency for our NHS and, shamefully, will result in many  
38 patients not receiving the care they urgently need.
- 39 e) Without properly supporting social care, community care, general  
40 practices, dentistry, pharmacies, and early intervention and  
41 prevention practices, the pressure on A&E services and hospitals  
42 will continue to rise.
- 43 f) Mental health should be treated with equal priority to physical  
44 health.
- 45 Conference accordingly calls on the Government to:
- 46 1. Reinstate the dropped targets on mental health, dementia  
47 diagnosis, women's health and access to community services.
- 48 2. Improve early access to mental health services by establishing  
49 mental health hubs for young people in every community and  
50 introducing regular mental health check-ups at key points in  
51 people's lives when they are most vulnerable to mental ill-health.
- 52 3. Create a statutory, independent Mental Health Commissioner to  
53 represent patients, their families and carers and champion parity  
54 of esteem within the NHS.
- 55 4. Develop a sustainable funding strategy for community services, to  
56 put them on a stable footing for years to come and reduce  
57 pressure on emergency services and hospitals by investing to  
58 save.
- 59 5. Fully implement the immediate and essential actions (IEAs) raised  
60 by the Ockenden report to ensure women do not have to continue

## Emergency Motions Ballot

61 to suffer unsafe maternity care.

*Applicability: England.*

### **Emergency Motion 2: Local Elections: Democracy Delayed is Democracy Denied**

*Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors and Campaigners and 10 members*

1 Conference notes that:

- 2 i) On 5th February 2025, the Government announced that local  
3 elections in nine councils would be postponed for at least a year.
- 4 ii) The last general election demonstrated sweeping electoral change  
5 in this country.
- 6 iii) The local authorities whose elections have been postponed have  
7 not had elections since 2021 in what was a wholly different  
8 political climate.

9 Conference believes:

- 10 a) The Government should have reversed their decision to postpone  
11 local elections this May.
- 12 b) Voters have been denied their democratic right to vote for their  
13 local representatives, some of whom may now serve for seven  
14 years.
- 15 c) Local people are entitled to local authorities that represent their  
16 values and beliefs.
- 17 d) The Government has failed to provide clarity about when the  
18 postponed elections will take place, even suggesting that some  
19 areas will have two elections in two years; one in 2026 for the  
20 council due to be abolished and another in 2027 for the new  
21 council due to be established.
- 22 e) Devolution is about shifting power out of the centre in  
23 Westminster and Whitehall, so that decisions are made by and for  
24 the people and communities they affect.

25 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitment to  
26 representative local government.

## **Emergency Motions Ballot**

27        Conference calls on the Government to:

- 28        1.    Reverse their disastrous decision to postpone local elections in  
29                nine areas this May.
- 30        2.    Adopt proportional representation for all local elections in  
31                England.
- 32        3.    Agree that local government reorganisation should only take place  
33                when there is full consultation with existing structures and when  
34                local consensus is reached.

*Applicability: England.*

### **Emergency Motion 3: New Hospitals Programme - A Broken Promise**

*13 members*

1        Conference notes:

- 2        i)    The announcement on the 20th January 2025 that the  
3                implementation of the New Hospitals Programme would be  
4                delayed, with 18 of the 40 hospitals not set to begin construction  
5                until after 2030, the original completion deadline.
- 6        ii)   The implications of the delays for repairs backlogs at the 18  
7                hospitals not due to start construction until at least 2030, which is  
8                projected to spiral from £2.1bn to £5.7bn.
- 9        iii) Its impact on patients across the country, who will continue to  
10                receive treatment in subpar conditions or struggle to even access  
11                treatment due to closures and repairs.
- 12        iv) Over twenty per cent of the premises in general practice predate  
13                the founding of the health service in 1948.
- 14        v)   Capital underinvestment is one of the key areas contributing to  
15                lower-than-desired NHS productivity, according to two sets of  
16                analyses by the Institute for Government and the Institute for  
17                Fiscal Studies.
- 18        vi) The pattern of cannibalising NHS capital budgets to keep services  
19                running day to day, with an estimated transfer of £930 million  
20                from the 2024/2025 capital budget, further reducing investment in  
21                the NHS estate.



## Emergency Motions Ballot

22 Conference believes:

- 23 a) Patients have the right to be treated in safe, comfortable and  
24 dignified conditions without fear of the hospital roof falling in,  
25 walls crumbling or pipes leaking and freezing over in winter.
- 26 b) The Conservative Government is responsible for this crisis, due to  
27 their sustained underinvestment into the NHS estate. Moreover,  
28 they made an intentionally empty promise when they launched  
29 the New Hospitals Programme with no realistic strategy for  
30 delivery behind it.
- 31 c) Whilst the Labour Government has inherited a crumbling NHS  
32 estate and an intentionally shoddy plan for reform, they have not  
33 been nearly ambitious enough on delivering for patients, instead  
34 opting to embrace a false economy of dither and delay.

35 Conference accordingly calls on the Government to:

- 36 1. Reverse the costly and unfair delay to the New Hospital  
37 Programme by creating a new crumbling hospitals taskforce to  
38 work on bringing these construction dates forward and deliver on  
39 the promise made to patients.
- 40 2. End the vicious cycle of false economies and rising repair backlogs  
41 by putting the NHS estate on a plan towards sustainable funding.
- 42 3. Develop a plan to invest in the primary care estate, including to  
43 repair and replace GP surgeries, many of which are older than the  
44 NHS itself.

*Applicability: England.*

## Emergency Motion 4: Restoring International Development Assistance

*Green Liberal Democrats*

1 Conference notes:

- 2 i) The Liberal Democrats were the first UK political party to commit  
3 to meeting the OECD target of spending 0.7% of Gross National  
4 Income (GNI) on Official Development Assistance (ODA), and  
5 enshrined this target in law whilst in government.
- 6 ii) On Nov. 25, 2020, Rishi Sunak announced a 'temporary' cut to

## Emergency Motions Ballot

7 0.5%; this resulted in thousands of preventable deaths and cuts to  
8 vital programmes.

9 iii) The current Labour Government's manifesto committed to  
10 restoring development spending at the level of 0.7% of GNI "as  
11 soon as fiscal circumstances allow"; despite this, on 25th February  
12 2025 Keir Starmer announced an immediate cut from 0.5% to  
13 0.3% of GNI.

14 iv) The international development budget has been further eroded  
15 by the large increase of in-donor refugee costs due to the decision  
16 of the previous Conservative government to pause asylum  
17 approvals - as well as leaving thousands of people trapped in  
18 limbo, these costs have occupied an increasingly large share of  
19 ODA.

20 Conference believes that:

21 a) While there is an acute need to increase defence spending to  
22 support Ukraine and ensure the UK's future security, this can be  
23 met through fair measures such as a digital sales tax and does not  
24 require yet another cut to ODA.

25 b) The government's cuts to ODA will cost lives and are completely  
26 unjustified. UK aid provides desperately needed support to the  
27 most vulnerable people in the world, particularly in fragile and  
28 conflict affected states, and is a key tool in meeting our climate  
29 commitments.

30 c) The UK's commitment to development has been one of our most  
31 effective foreign policy tools in recent decades and is a key pillar in  
32 ensuring our future security.

33 d) Sudden cuts to ODA fall disproportionately on the most  
34 vulnerable – those affected by humanitarian crisis – due to  
35 annualised budget cycles being easier to cut.

36 Conference calls for:

37 1. The immediate restoration of UK aid spending at 0.5% of GNI and  
38 a roadmap to restore 0.7% of GNI as soon as possible within this  
39 parliament.

40 2. A halt to the charging of asylum hosting costs to the ODA budget,  
41 freeing up billions for global poverty reduction, climate action and

## Emergency Motions Ballot

42 humanitarian response

- 43 3. The Government to increase defence spending to 2.5% of GDP as  
44 soon as possible - based on funding plans outlined by the Liberal  
45 Democrats - and to hold cross-party talks to agree a consensus on  
46 how to reach 3%.

*Applicability: Federal*

### Emergency Motion 5: Securing a Path to Citizenship for Refugees

*14 members*

1 Conference notes with concern the new Home Office guidance, issued  
2 in February 2025, which states that anyone who enters the country  
3 irregularly "having made a dangerous journey" will be refused  
4 naturalisation regardless of how long they've lived in the UK -  
5 potentially blocking a large number of people who have already been  
6 granted refugee status from ever becoming British citizens.

7 Conference further notes that:

- 8 i) The former Conservative Government closed down safe and legal  
9 routes to sanctuary, leaving desperate people to make perilous  
10 attempts to cross the Channel in small boats or make other  
11 dangerous journeys - often in the hands of criminal smugglers  
12 and traffickers.
- 13 ii) More than 140 charities and faith leaders have united to condemn  
14 the ban, urging the Home Secretary to rethink the new guidance.
- 15 iii) The new guidance immediately came into effect, with no  
16 opportunity for parliamentary scrutiny.
- 17 iv) The Home Office has said that the new restrictions will "likely not  
18 apply" to children, but has given no unequivocal confirmation that  
19 this will be the case.

20 Conference believes that:

- 21 a) The Government needs to do more to stop dangerous Channel  
22 crossings, but a ban on citizenship for refugees will do nothing to  
23 achieve that or combat the criminal trafficking gangs responsible.
- 24 b) Citizenship plays a vital role in integration, providing refugees with

## Emergency Motions Ballot

- 25                   certainty and a sense of belonging in their new country.
- 26           c) The UK must uphold its obligations under international law, which  
27           states that refugees should not be penalised for illegal entry to a  
28           country.
- 29           Conference therefore calls on the UK Government to:
- 30           1. Bring forward new guidance that ensures a path to citizenship for  
31           refugees.
- 32           2. Provide safe and legal routes to sanctuary for refugees from all  
33           countries, as outlined in policy motion Safe and Legal Routes to  
34           Save Lives (2021).
- 35           3. Bring forward a new integration strategy to enable refugees and  
36           asylum seekers to fully rebuild their lives, contribute to our  
37           economy, and integrate into our communities.

*Applicability: Federal*

## Speaking and Voting at Conference

### Applying to speak

To make a speech in a debate you must:

- complete a speaker's card, collected from and returned to the Speakers' Table at the front of the auditorium, an auditorium steward or the Information Desk; **or**
- submit an electronic speaker's card, from Monday 17 March up to one hour before the start of the debate, online at:

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

### Completing a speaker's card

When completing a speaker's card, remember:

#### ***1 Submit your card well in advance.***

The chair and aide team for the debate will meet well in advance to plan the debate – sometimes the previous day.

#### ***2 Fill in your card completely.***

Complete the back of the card as well as the front. These sections are needed for the chair and aide to balance the debate, so they can call people with relevant experience and avoid a string of people making the same point.

#### ***3 Make sure it's readable!***

Don't fill every square centimetre of the card, and write legibly – the easier you make it for the chair and aide to read the card the more likely you will be called.

### Live Stream

The conference will be streamed live. In case you miss any sessions or want to watch again, go to [www.libdems.org.uk/conference-live](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference-live)

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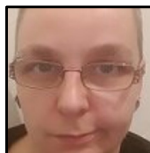
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## Federal Conference Committee Helpdesk

The FCC helpdesk is situated by the Information Desk. Members of the FCC will be available to give advice at the following times:

**Saturday 22 March**

11.30 - 12.30

**and**

15.00 - 16.00

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**Saturday 22 March**

11.30 - 12.30

**and**

15.00 - 16.00



Main Hall | 21st March | 6:30pm