

Federal Council doesn't work - here's how I would fix it



I was on the Federal Council until May this year, when I became Cllr rep on the Board. In that time, it only 'called in' two Board items:

- Use of Non Disclosure Agreements
- A huge increase in the expenses for the Presidential election

I organised both of these call ins

It doesn't work because:

- Many FC members don't turn up to meetings
- It makes no use of its broader powers to scrutinise the Board

How I would fix it:

- The FC Chair should have a frank discussion with anyone who misses 3 consecutive meetings (they can't make them quit)
- The FC should use its powers for broader Scrutiny. The Constitution says :

"The Council shall be responsible for scrutinising the work of the Federal Board, including ensuring that decisions are being taken in line with the party strategy as voted for by Conference, and may require a response on any issue from the Board."

For example the FC could review why the Party's attempt to engage with ethnic minority voters has been so unsuccessful & the Alderdice review not been effectively implemented

Cllr Simon McGrath for Federal Council

My Experience in Scrutiny and the Lib Dems

Scrutiny

- I have been a member of Boards in both the private and voluntary sector
- I have been a Cllr in the London Borough of Merton since 2018 and a member of Healthier Communities Scrutiny Cttee
- I am experienced in reading Management Accounts
- I am not worried about asking difficult questions and following through until I get an answer!

Liberal Democrats

- Parliamentary candidate and current Councillor
- Member of FCC , 2021-25.
- One of the Party top canvassers

Please contact me if you have any questions



e Mail : simonmcgrath@gmail.com

X: @libdemlife

Phone / WhatsApp: 07771593636

Bluesky: @simonmcgrathld.bsky.social

“Simon asks the questions other people think but won’t ask”

Cllr Anthony Fairclough, Leader of the Opposition, Merton Council



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