**Your No.1** choice for Conference Committee

# PAUL MCGARRY

**My Priorities** 

Make Conference More affordable!

More power to our members

Motion selection based on merit

I love being part of our party conferences, whether it is the Scottish Conference that I have chaired for 8 years, I am often found dashing around helping to make sure everything is running smoothly - and I love it!

#### **Making conference affordable**

If you want an FCC member who has attended every conference, sadly I am not that person. I have missed conferences where I have not been able to afford to attend. However, this does not make me a minority, this firmly puts me in a majority of our members.

My **number one** aim is to make federal conference more **affordable**, something I achieved in my 8 years as chair of the Scottish Conference. I found venues that in areas that were more affordable and lowered cost of participation. We worked with local parties to support members. We also introduced pay what you can! This has **increased attendance** and revenues, for the party.

### **Ensuring Conferences are safe and accessible**

As someone who is disabled I appreciate the importance that **reasonable adjustments** can make, this is an area we have made great progress in, but more can be done. We also need to get feedback and implement recommendations on what we can do to ensure our **delegates feel safer**.

#### Innovation and Ideas

It is so important that we continue to put a great impression of our party to the media through conference. But we must also champion ideas! This is one of the reasons I created mini motions in Scotland, I would seek in the next term to find more opportunities for **new ideas** to be considered at an early stage and then developed into full policy motion.

# **My Experience**

Scottish Conference Convernor for 8 years

Scottish Vice Convenor for 8 vears

Winning Election agent for Susan Murray MP

Scottish Housing and Homelessness Spokesperson

Member of FCC for two terms

## **My Achievements**

Introduced Pay what you can for Scottish Conferences

Reduced the average cost of participating at conferences by 2/3

Created Mini-motions, a popular form of debating new ideas at conference



# Why we're backing Paul McGarry



#### Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP - Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats

"Paul has a phenomenal understanding of what it takes to run a successful conference." He inspires staff and members alike while remaining fair and measured in all that he does. He is such an asset to our party."

#### Candy Piercy - Member of Federal Council

Paul McGarry has the experience and dedication to be a big asset to the FCC. He has proved himself a calm head under pressure at difficult moments when running the Scottish Lib Dems Conference. And he is always willing to listen to members about what they want from conference.



#### Chloe Hutchinson - Member of the Welsh Board

Paul has so much great experience through his time as Scottish Conference Convenor and time on FCC of building an exciting, welcoming and safe conference for members of all parts of the UK

#### Angus Macdonald MP

"Paul has a great deal of experience running conferences, demonstrating his ability by increasing attendances and revenue over a number of years. McGarry is respected and well like across the membership and LD leadership I strongly urge you to provide him your first preference



### Dear Member

I have been considering why I love conference and why it is so important that I ask for your vote and support to get selected. It didn't take me long. I love conference as a part of our party. It is a key opportunity to debate and put ideas across.

I liked that myself as a member of the party had the same opportunity to contribute as MPs, Lords and MSPS. That my experience was just as valid. As someone who has lived experience of homelessness and care, I could share my opinion and do so immediately after Charles Kennedy. This is powerful, there are few parts of society that would provide me an equal footing and I was hooked!

In my leadership of Scottish Conference I have championed one member, one vote. I have fiercely protected the equal footing of members in our party, if this is a parliamentarian, or one of our younger party members your contribution is welcome.

I have been concerned that at federal conference our drive for polish and stage management comes at the cost of championing the contribution of our ordinary members. Though champion them I will and I have, as a member of Federal Conference Committee I have championed this principle even when it leaves me in a minority. We need more members on FCC keen to strike the balance, and perhaps this can be achieved by mechanisms such as mini motions, something I pioneered that has proven so popular and useful in Scotland.

I would be honoured to have your first preference vote to stand on Federal Conference Committee Best wishes.

Paul McGarry



Questions? Please do contact me



