

# Conference Daily

## Tuesday 17 September



### Autumn Conference Brighton 2024

Information from the Federal Conference Committee (FCC) for Tuesday 17 September and report back for Monday 16 September. Please read in conjunction with the *Conference Agenda*.

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*If no page number is indicated, there are no changes or additional information to the information in the *Conference Agenda*.*

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[www.libdems.org.uk/conference\\_papers](http://www.libdems.org.uk/conference_papers)

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F29 Policy motion: Fair Votes Now	Passed (Amendments One and Two passed)
F32 Emergency motion: Israel–Gaza Conflict	Passed
F33 Policy motion: Tackling the Prisons Crisis (Lines 71–72 retained)	Passed (Amendments One, Two and Three passed)
F35 Policy Motion: International Development – Restoring the UK’s Role	Passed
F36 Policy motion: A Fair Deal for Musicians (Lines 20 and 73 retained)	Passed (Amendment One passed)
F37 Policy motion: Reversing Cuts to Bereavement Support Payments and Supporting Kinship Carers	Passed (Amendment One passed)

For the text of motions and amendments, please refer to the Autumn 2024 *Conference Agenda* and *Conference Daily* for Monday 16 September.

## Left luggage

There is no left luggage facility at the Brighton Centre. No suitcases or large bags (bigger than Ryanair cabin baggage) are permitted. Please leave any bags at the hotel where you are staying.

## Lost Property

Any lost property will be handed in to the Information Desk in the Brighton Centre.

## Live stream

If you missed any conference sessions or want to watch again, go to:  
[libdems.org.uk/conference-live](https://libdems.org.uk/conference-live)

## We want to hear from you!

We will be sending round a feedback survey link soon.  
Please let us know about your experience of conference.

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## F38 Emergency motion: Implementing the Recommendations of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 2 Report

Hall Aide: Duncan Brack.

*17 members*

Mover: Fraser Graham.

Summation: Hina Bokhari AM.

- 1 Conference notes:
- 2 i) The publication on 4th September 2024 of The Grenfell  
3 Tower Inquiry Phase 2 report that contains important  
4 recommendations covering multiple areas.
- 5 ii) That in the 7 years since the Grenfell Tower Fire, the  
6 Grenfell community have repeatedly called for justice, as the  
7 Metropolitan Police and CPS have delayed the conclusion of  
8 their investigations pending the inquiry's conclusion.
- 9 iii) The fire's disproportionate impact on ethnic minority  
10 communities and the Grenfell community's unsuccessful call for  
11 the inquiry to investigate the role played by institutional Racism.
- 12 iv) That construction industry reform in response to the fire has  
13 been ongoing, but the report has highlighted key areas for  
14 further reform.
- 15 v) The report's recommendations regarding building standards  
16 and guidance refer to England and Wales; Scotland and  
17 Northern Ireland building regulations are devolved matters.
- 18 vi) The continued resilience of the Grenfell community, including  
19 victims, their families, and those from the surrounding area, as  
20 well as the overwhelming support and kindness shown by the  
21 public in response to the fire.
- 22 Conference believes that:
- 23 A. Independent and comprehensive public inquiries enable lessons  
24 to be learned from disasters such as this, and it is vital that their  
25 recommendations be reviewed and actioned.
- 26 B. As the report stated, earlier and more comprehensive  
27 implementation of lessons learned from previous incidents

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28 could have prevented or reduced this fire's impact and the  
29 resulting loss of life.

30 Conference calls for:

31 1. The UK Government to fully implement the Grenfell Tower  
32 Inquiry report's recommendations, including:

33 a) Establishing a legal requirement to maintain a publicly  
34 accessible record of recommendations made by select  
35 committees, coroners and public inquiries plus a description  
36 of the steps taken in response, or reasons for not accepting  
37 a recommendation.

38 b) Creating the office of the construction regulator, uniting  
39 regulatory and testing functions currently split between  
40 several government departments and companies.

41 c) Uniting the responsibilities for fire safety functions under  
42 one Secretary of State and appointing a suitably qualified  
43 adviser on matters affecting the construction industry.

44 d) A comprehensive review of the Building Regulations relating  
45 to fire and the definition of 'Higher-Risk Buildings' within the  
46 Building Safety Act.

47 e) Introducing a regulatory and competency framework for  
48 the roles of Fire Engineer and Fire Risk Assessor, with the  
49 creation of relevant professional bodies and professional  
50 qualifications.

51 f) Review of how building control functions are exercised  
52 in England and Wales, particularly the involvement of  
53 commercial interests.

54 g) Review of the Civil Contingencies Act.

55 h) Creation of an independent College of Fire and Rescue.

56 2. The UK Government to assist other bodies noted in the report  
57 implement the recommendations as relevant to them providing  
58 funding to do so.

59 3. Devolved and Local Governments to consider the  
60 recommendations applicable to their devolved responsibilities  
61 and implement these as appropriate.

62 4. The Metropolitan Police to conclude their investigations

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63 without further delay, and the CPS to carry out prosecutions as  
64 appropriate to provide justice for the victims and their loved  
65 ones.

66 5. An investigation into the role of institutional racism as a factor in  
67 the fire.

*Applicability: England only; except 1. g) (line 54) and 2 (lines 56–58), which are Federal.*

### Background briefing:

This motion updates and develops policy on building safety in response to the Grenfell Inquiry. It builds on existing policy as set out in the general election manifesto *For a Fair Deal* (2024) and policy motion *Safe Building Standards for all Homes* (September 2017).

### F39 The Clean Water Authority

Hall Aide: Cllr Darryl Smalley.

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

1 *In 2. (line 65), delete 'and' and insert ';; and after 'Natural England' insert*  
2 *'and Local Authorities'.*

3 *In vi) (line 58), delete 'next' and insert 'this'.*

### Amendment One

*Manchester*

Mover: John Bridges.

Summation: Alan Good.

1 *After F. (line 45), insert:*

2 G. Measures to tackle the pollution of our water courses and  
3 waterways should include those to manage industrial effluents  
4 from point sources, surface water littering, and non-point  
5 sources of pollution including industrial chemicals, pesticides,  
6 fertilisers, animal manure and soil washed into streams in  
7 rainfall run-off.

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8 After 3. g) (line 85), insert:

- 9 4. To clarify and publicise who has the responsibility for the  
10 maintenance of inland waterways including surrounding spaces  
11 such as towpaths and riverbanks.

### Background briefing:

This motion updates and develops policy on the water industry, sewage and water courses. It builds on existing policy as set out in the general election manifesto *For a Fair Deal* (2024), policy paper 156, *Tackling the Nature Crisis* (September 2023), and policy motion *Are You Drinking What We're Drinking?* (March 2024).

### F40 Parliamentary Parties Report: questions and accountability

#### Q1. Submitted by Josh Price

In the new Parliament, what policies is the Party in both Houses going to prioritise in Private Members Bills?

#### Q2. Submitted by Ella Jayne

How do you think the role of the House of Lords will change now we have a larger Commons parliamentary party?

#### Q3. Submitted by Douglas Munro

The Parliamentary party dramatically increased post-election. What operational changes are taking place to meet this challenge?

#### Q4. Submitted by Adam Robertson

With the Conservatives fighting for the soul of Conservatism with Nigel Farage, is the Parliamentary Party prepared to be part of the Official Opposition if the opportunity arises?

#### Q5. Submitted by Rebecca Jones

Now the party has won 72 seats, what will the parliamentary party do to advance trans rights in Parliament?

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### Q6. Submitted by Christopher Johnson

What would you say the biggest opportunity and biggest challenge have been for the parliamentary parties since last conference given the general election?

### Q7. Submitted by Stephen Harte

With a record number of new staff to recruit managed by new MPs, what steps are we taking to ensure best HR practice?

### Q8. Submitted by Ulysse Abbate

What actions have your committee taken to support the mental health of Members of Parliament and their staff?

### Q9. Submitted by Ulysse Abbate

What actions have you taken to improve diversity and inclusion in the Parliamentary Parties and staff in Parliament?

### Q10. Submitted by Abrial Jerram

Having had time to reflect, are you satisfied with the Lib Dem response to the riots?

### Q11. Submitted by Abrial Jerram

Having been impressed by the effectiveness of the the parties staunch defence of the elderly during the cost of living crisis (triple lock & WFA), what are the prospects for success for using the same political skill for standing up other generations by applying the triple lock to things that effect them (e.g. minimum wage, maintenance loans, disability living allowance)?

### Q12. Submitted by Abrial Jerram

With the election of Layla Moran as chair of the Health and Social Care Select Committee, how much success do you expect her to have in challenging the flawed Cass review and the even more flawed implementation of its recommendations and what can Lib Dem MPs especially the at time of writing health and education spokespeople (Daisy Cooper and Munira Wilson) do to support her in that?

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### Q13. Submitted by Simon Hughes

In this parliament which specific issues and subjects are regarded as matters of personal conscience with no requirement for MPs and peers to follow any party policy?

### Q14. Submitted by Simon Hughes

Will both Chief Whips undertake that all relevant Standing Orders governing rights of Liberal Democrat parliamentarians to vote according to conscience will always be public documents?

### Q15. Submitted by Ulysse Abbate

How will you ensure our 72 new MPs work best with our federal party and its bodies/committees?

### Q19. Submitted by John Grout

Can our Parliamentary groups resolve to consult the party's registered SAO groups (such as Lib Dem Women, the Lib Dem Disability Association, LGBT+ Lib Dems, etc.) prior to meeting un-recognised or external groups which may be lobbying intensively but may also have agendas inimical to Liberal values?

### Q16. Submitted by Judith Bailey

The Party is planning to produce a spokesperson's paper on the Cass Review. Can the Parliamentary Party commit to hearing voices from all sides of this debate including from parents who chose talking therapies for their gender distressed children rather than medicalisation?

### Q17. Submitted by Judith Bailey

Does the Parliamentary Party accept the recommendations from the Cass Review?

### Q18. Submitted by Gareth Epps

With two new MPs coming second and third in the Private Members' Bill ballot, are there plans to engage members and voters (in Gloucestershire and beyond) in choosing meaningful legislation?

### Q19. Submitted by Brandon Masih

What evidence was used by health spokesperson team to agree on



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announcing support for zero-rating HFP sunscreen and that it would deliver savings to consumers?

## F41 Tackling Child Poverty

### Background briefing:

This motion updates welfare policy with regard to child poverty. It builds on existing policy as set out in the general election manifesto *For a Fair Deal* (2024) and policy paper 150, *Towards a Fairer Society* (March 2023).

## F42 A Fair Deal for Family Carers

Chair: James Gurling.

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

- 1 *In vii) (line 17), delete 'low' and insert 'high'.*

### Amendment One

*West Suffolk*

Mover: Andy McGowan.

Summation: Helen Korfanty.

- 1 *In i) (line 3), after 'disabled' insert 'or who has a drug or alcohol*
- 2 *addiction; this includes around one million young carers under the*
- 3 *age of 18'.*

- 4 *In vii) (line 17), after 'too high' insert ', for example excluding full-time*
- 5 *students and requiring carers to care for one person for at least 35*
- 6 *hours a week'.*

- 7 *After x) (line 25), insert:*

- 8 xi) Department for Education data shows that 39% of young carers
- 9 are 'persistently absent', missing at least one day of school a
- 10 fortnight, almost twice as high as the figure for pupils who are
- 11 not young carers; young carers are also significantly less likely to
- 12 gain a degree or enter employment.
- 13 xii) The launch of the Young Carers Covenant by Carers Trust in

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- 14 March 2024, a UK-wide commitment to young carers and young  
15 adult carers.
- 16 xiii) There has not been a UK Government plan for improving  
17 support for unpaid carers since 2020.
- 18 *After g) (line 42), insert:*
- 19 h) Young carers should be supported to have the same access to  
20 education, employment and life opportunities as their peers  
21 without caring responsibilities.
- 22 *In 6. (line 58), after 'carers' insert 'including parent carers and young  
23 carers'.*
- 24 *After 7. (line 60), insert:*
- 25 8. Proactively support the Young Carers Covenant and set out how  
26 it plans to ensure that the needs of young carers are proactively  
27 considered in its mission to break down barriers to opportunity  
28 for all young people.
- 29 9. Introduce a cross-government national All-Ages Carers Strategy,  
30 produced in partnership with carers and funded to meet its  
31 objectives.

**Amendment Two***10 members*

Mover: Michael Berwick-Gooding.

Summation: Michael Berwick-Gooding.

- 1 *In 3. (line 49), delete 'be significantly higher than' and insert 'the  
2 equivalent of 21 hours a week at the National Living Wage from'.*

**Background briefing:**

This motion updates and develops policy on family carers. It builds on existing policy as set out in the general election manifesto *For a Fair Deal* (2024) and policy paper 151, *A More Caring Society* (March 2023).

**F43 Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP (Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats)**

Aide: Professor Belinda Brooks-Gordon.

# Autumn Conference Welcome to the Conference Appeal



## Donate to our Conference Appeal today

This Conference has been an amazing opportunity for us to celebrate our party's incredible achievements of the last year.

But it has been important for another reason too...

Looking to the future.

We have made great strides forward together in these last few years - but what we do now will truly define the future of our party.

If we are to hold onto our 72 wonderful MPs and build on our success going forward, we need your help to start campaigning and lay the foundations for further growth.

By donating to our Conference Appeal today, you'll help us get to work to support our new MPs to get ahead as quickly as possible.

Thank you - for everything you did to help us make all of this possible, and for anything you can do to keep us moving forward.

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