

# Conference Daily

## Saturday 18 March 2023

### Spring Conference York



Information from the Federal Conference Committee for Saturday 18 March. Please read in conjunction with the **Agenda & Directory** and **Conference Extra**.

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### Timetable for Saturday 18 March

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*If no page number is indicated next to a session or item of business, there are no changes or additional information to that in the Conference Agenda & Directory or Conference Extra.*

*Please note that timings are approximate only. Some items of business may occur earlier than indicated. Members wishing to speak are requested to submit a speaker's card as soon as possible.*

# Saturday 18 March

## **F2A Federal Conference Committee Report**

*We have an unusually large number of questions to reports at this conference. In order to try to address as many of the issues raised as possible in the time available, questions will be grouped and the movers of reports will try to answer each group collectively. Supplementary questions will then be taken from the first questioner in each group.*

### **Q1. Submitted by Andrew Hudson**

Why are delegates required to pay the conference registration fee online unless they register at conference?

### **Q2. Submitted by Zoe Hollowood**

How will FCC ensure members with gender-critical beliefs are safe at conference given inflammatory language used about them at senior levels of the party?

### **Q3. Submitted by Daniel Jones**

Could the committee elaborate on the steps being taken to ensure conference remains a welcoming space for trans and non-binary attendees?

### **Q4. Submitted by Greg Webb**

What are FCC's plans to ensure that Conference remains accessible to trans members, rather than being dominated by a vocal but small trans-hostile minority?

### **Q5. Submitted by Olly Craven**

What precautions have FCC made to ensure that trans people are safe from harassment and abuse at Conference?

### **Q6. Submitted by Lucy Tonge**

What are FCC doing to ensure the safety of trans members at conference given the hostility of the vocal minority of GC members?

### **Q7. Submitted by Toby Keynes**

Does FCC undertake that members holding gender critical beliefs will not be systematically or

casually excluded from conference debates, and chat, relevant to those beliefs?

**Q8. Submitted by Fraser Graham**

F32 passed at Autumn conference 2020 brought in several actions to make conference more welcoming to Trans and Non-Binary Individuals. How have these been actioned?

**Q9. Submitted by John Fraser**

Should not Spring Conference have taken more than just five policy proposals to have sufficient new ideas to put in Autumn's Pre Manifesto Document?

**Q10. Submitted by Alisdair Calder McGregor**

When Autumn Conference was cancelled, the all-party email stated that FCC was "...reviewing options [...] in order to allow more items on the agenda" - if this is true, why is this conference SHORTER than the previous Spring Conferences (both online AND in person)?

**Q11. Submitted by John Grout**

How does FCC feel the process for asking and publishing questions at Conference can be improved?

**Q12. Submitted by Lucas North**

The Young Liberals have now held 4 successful hybrid conferences. Why has the federal party failed to do so?

**Q13. Submitted by Lucas North**

The Young Liberals have previously offered access to the software we developed for hybrid events. Do FCC plan to take us up on this offer to allow better hybrid participation in conference?

**Q14. Submitted by James Bliss**

The Young Liberals have successfully managed several hybrid conferences over the past couple of years, with those online able to speak and vote. Why has FCC been unable to do this?

**Q15. Submitted by Joe Toovey**

What work is FCC doing on hybridisation and enabling online attendees like myself to contribute fully to Conference, including in debates as we could previously?

**Q16. Submitted by Lucy Tonge**

Why are FCC still not making fully accessible hybrid events a priority? The Young Liberals have now held 4 on a much smaller budget.

**Q17. Submitted by Lucas North**

You chose not to take the federal levy motion at this conference. Does this mean you agree the levy should be scrapped?

**Q18. Submitted by Janey Little**

What is the purpose of the Innovation Working Group established by FCC and what sorts of projects will it be looking at?

**Q19. Submitted by Mark Johnston**

What's the cost to the party budget of subsidising this conference? What's the net financial position across both conferences, spring and autumn, for this year?

**Q20. Submitted by Gareth Epps**

Delays in receiving drafting advice have been experienced. What is being done to make sure this doesn't happen again?

**Q21. Submitted by James Bliss**

Other federal committees (like FB formally and FPC on an ad hoc basis) have a seat on the committee for the Young Liberals, would you support adding one for FCC to help with engagement of young party members and to help develop the next generation of committee members?

**Q22. Submitted by Gareth Epps**

Why is there no opportunity to ask questions of the Federal Finance & Resources Committee at this Conference?

**Q23. Submitted by Katherine Macy**

Why are the names on the passes so small and can we have pronouns automatically included (by an optional box) next time?

**Q24. Submitted by Katherine Macy**

How can the access fund be better supported and widened to all individuals, not just those with

disabilities?

**Q25. Submitted by Sean Bennett**

How can financial accessibility to conference be better supported and advertised to members during this cost of living crisis?

**Q26. Submitted by Olly Craven**

How are you ensuring that disadvantaged groups can take part in your committee without being discriminated against or subjected to discriminatory rants from other members?

**F2B Federal Policy Committee Report**

**Q1. Submitted by Andrew Hudson**

When will the Homes and Planning Policy working group paper come to conference?

**Q2. Submitted by Katherine Macy**

Do you prioritise lived experiences or academic/work expertise in your working groups? If you balance them, how?

**Q3. Submitted by Lucy Tonge**

What happened with the findings of the UBI working group after consultation?

**Q4. Submitted by Lucy Tonge**

What are FPC doing to address the lack of diversity in Policy Working Groups?

**Q5. Submitted by John Fraser**

Due to shortage of policy making via cancelled conference etc, how do we ensure sufficient new 'grass-root' ideas for Autumns Conferences 'Pre manifesto Paper'?

**Q6. Submitted by Helen Baxter**

How and when will FPC consult with the membership on the manifesto?

**Q7. Submitted by Fraser Graham**

What steps will FPC take to ensure our next manifesto appeals to the country as a whole, and not just to 'Blue Wall' voters?

**Q8. Submitted by John Grout**

How does FPC feel the Lib Dem policy making process can be protected from the culture war we seem to be in at the moment?

**Q9. Submitted by Daniel Jones**

Given the success of succinct policies like "Bollocks to Brexit" in early 2019, will the committee focus on short, one line "pitches" of our policies?

**Q10. Submitted by Gareth Epps**

The Party desperately needs an overarching narrative. Why is this work being delayed in favour of no fewer than six policy working groups?

**Q11. Submitted by James Bliss**

Currently FPC normally invites/coopts the Young Liberals Policy Officer onto the committee. Would you support formally adding a seat for the Young Liberals onto FPC to secure engagement of young party members and to help develop the next generation of committee members?

**Q12. Submitted by Fraser Graham**

How have FPC been working with AOs representing diverse groups to ensure our party policies are inclusive and don't inadvertently discriminate?

**Q13. Submitted by Olly Craven**

How are you ensuring that disadvantaged groups can take part in your committee without being discriminated against or subjected to discriminatory rants from other members?

**Q14. Submitted by Caron Lindsay**

Would you consider establishing a working group on Ending violence against women and girls in all its forms?

**F2C Federal International Relations Committee Report**

**Q1. Submitted by John Grout**

How is FIRC working with partner parties and bodies abroad to safeguard hard-won LGBT+ rights against a right-wing culture war onslaught?

**Q2. Submitted by Greg Webb**

Given our party's long internationalist history, how do we ensure international engagement and the benefits of cooperation are front and centre in our party's messaging?

**Q3. Submitted by Clare Delderfield**

Against such a hostile environment how can we push for increased number of safe and legal routes for asylum seekers to come to the UK?

**Q4. Submitted by Timothy Oliver**

What work has FIRC undertaken with sister parties on LGBT rights in the last year?

**F3 FIRC Representation**

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

1 *Delete 1. b) (lines 9–10).*

**F4 Constitutional Housekeeping and International Work**

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

1 *After d) (line 17), insert:*

2 e) The wording of Article 16.3 A. could be read as imposing a one-year term limit on  
3 FASC members, even though this was not the intention and is not how it has been  
4 interpreted up until now.

5 *After 4. (line 34), insert:*

6 *In Article 16.3 A., before 'Federal Committee' insert 'other'.*

09.50 Policy Motion

Aide: Sam Barratt. Hall Aide: Paul McGarry

**F5 Access to Dental Services**

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

1 *Delete 4. (lines 50–52) and insert:*

2 4. The launch of an emergency scheme to ensure children, pregnant women, young

3 mothers, and those on low incomes have access to their free check ups on time.

4 *After 6. (line 56), add:*

5 7. A reversal of the government's cuts to public health grants to support preventative  
6 dental health care, for example oral health programmes or promoting healthy  
7 eating choices.

### Amendment One

*Twickenham & Richmond*

Mover: Cllr Piers Allen.

Summation: Munira Wilson MP.

1 *After vi) (line 24), insert:*

2 vii) The underspend of the national dentistry budget by a record £400m this year 2022/23,  
3 representing around 13 per cent of the £3bn primary dentistry budget; this is in spite  
4 of the 'access crisis' and increasing demand for dentistry and has been ascribed simply  
5 to practices working to a failed contract and with vacancies for dentists they can't fill  
6 and/or a shortage of dentists willing to take on NHS work.

7 *After e) (line 45), insert:*

8 f) With integrated care systems (ICSs) taking over the commissioning of NHS dentistry  
9 from NHSE in April 2023, there is an opportunity to redress the failures of national  
10 government by local commissioning, with a focus on prevention, health equity, and  
11 better access for the most urgent cases through wider and better integrated pathways  
12 between primary and secondary care services, including prioritising an urgent dental  
13 care system (that connects individuals from NHS 111 to a clinical triage and designated  
14 urgent care provider) and more essential domiciliary dental care for residential  
15 settings and for vulnerable groups.

16 *After 6. (line 56), add:*

17 7. Proper funding of ICSs to take on NHS dentistry commissioning, with a minimum of all  
18 of the underspend in the national commissioning budget in 2021/22 and 2022/23  
19 transferred to ICSs to target local need and demand.

20 8. Longer-term consideration of more major reform to put prevention first, with much-  
21 need sustained investment for prevention and oral public health as part of the Public  
22 Health Grant.

### Background briefing

This motion updates and develops policy on dental services, introducing a range of measures to improve access and availability of services.

This builds on existing policy as set out in the policy paper 137 *Save the NHS and Social Care by Stopping Brexit* (September 2019) and policy motion *Dentistry* (September 2007).



## F6 Code of Conduct

Mover: Mary Regnier-Wilson.

Summation: Mark Pack.

## F7 Selection of Motions for Debate

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

1 *In lines 40–41, delete 'has the discretion to' and insert 'should normally'.*

## F8 The UK's Nuclear Deterrent

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

1 *After D. (line 56), insert:*

2 E. Halt plans to reduce the size of the regular Army from 82,000 personnel to 72,500 by  
3 2025.

4 F. Urgently review the overall scale of all branches of UK armed forces in light of newly  
5 established NATO commitments.

### Amendment One

*42 members*

Mover: Keith Melton.

Summation: Baroness Miller.

1 *After I. (line 3), insert:*

2 II. That each generation has a responsibility to protect the planet, its ecosystem and all its  
3 peoples.

4 *Delete d) (lines 24–25) and insert:*

5 d) That the UK's nuclear weapons (less than 2% of the global weapon `stock`) are  
6 declared for the defence of NATO, though nominally in control of the UK Government  
7 in extremis.

8 e) The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) includes a comprehensive  
9 set of prohibitions on participating in any nuclear weapon activities. These include  
10 undertakings not to develop, test, produce, acquire, possess, stockpile, use or threaten  
11 to use nuclear weapons. The Treaty also prohibits the deployment of nuclear weapons  
12 on national territory and the provision of assistance to any State in the conduct of  
13 prohibited activities. Signatories should immediately remove them from operational  
14 status, and destroy them as soon as possible, but not later than a deadline to be  
15 determined by the first meeting of States Parties.

16 f) That the present UK Government and its predecessors have refused to sign and ratify  
17 the UN Treaty and, instead, has prioritised developing a replacement for the Trident  
18 nuclear weapons capability with a negative impact on conventional weapons spending  
19 and the armed forces.

20 g) The failure of many NATO allies, including the UK, to properly resource their  
21 conventional armed forces in order to be ready to respond to conventional military  
22 attack.

23 *Delete i) to iv) (lines 29–39) and insert:*

24 i) Nuclear weapons do not make anyone safer and, in fact, pose an existential threat to  
25 all.

26 ii) Nuclear weapons cannot prevent armed conflict among states and heighten the risk of  
27 miscalculation that could bring an 'Age of Mass Extinctions' leading to the end of  
28 human life on Earth.

29 iii) We must accelerate our efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons.

30 *Delete A. to C. (lines 48–54) and insert:*

31 A. To meet its commitment under Article 6 of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to  
32 pursue effective measures towards nuclear disarmament.

33 B. Immediately cancel the renewal of the Trident nuclear weapons system.

34 *In 4. (lines 67–68), delete '(while acknowledging that the UK cannot sign that Treaty)', and*  
35 *insert '– whilst undertaking to sign this UN Treaty within the life of the Parliament*  
36 *following the next UK General Election'.*

## Background briefing

This motion updates and develops policy on nuclear weapons and nuclear proliferation.

This builds on existing policy as set out in the policy paper 127, *Towards a World Free of Nuclear Weapons* (2017).

## F10 Solving the Energy Crisis for the Long Term

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

1 *Delete B. (lines 43-45) and insert:*

2 B. Convert the Energy Profits Levy into a 40% windfall tax and remove the associated  
3 investment allowance, with both changes backdated to October 2021, thus ensuring  
4 that gas and oil producers pay their fair share.

5 *Delete D. (lines 48–50) and insert:*

6 D. Introduce a one-off levy on the bonuses awarded to oil and gas executives, similar to  
7 the bankers' bonuses tax in 2009/10 in the aftermath of the financial crisis which taxed

- 8 bank bonuses over £25,000 at 50%.
- 9 E. Cut the Energy Price Guarantee to £1,971 for the average household until April 2024 or  
10 average prices drop below that level, whichever is soonest.
- 11 F. Continue the existing Business Energy Bill Relief Scheme for a further six months from  
12 April.

### Amendment One

*North West Liberal Democrats*

Mover: Andrew Haldane.

Summation: Sam Al-Hamdani.

1 *After V. (line 20), insert:*

2 VI. No UK programme directly equivalent to the EU Green Deal, which is helping to  
3 accelerate significantly the shift to renewables across Europe, has been put in place.

4 VII. Although Marine Energy could potentially meet around 20% of UK electricity demand,  
5 we have no strategy for exploiting what is the richest Tidal Range Energy resource in  
6 the world, and also lack ambition for the development of Wave Energy and Tidal  
7 Stream Energy.

8 *After B. (line 45), insert:*

9 C. Allocate to the development of Marine Energy those revenues from Crown Estates' off-  
10 shore wind licensing that are to be returned to the Exchequer by HM King Charles III  
11 for use in the public interest.

12 D. Establish a not-for-profit company, British Marine Energy, with a task force to plan a  
13 series of Tidal Range Energy schemes commencing with a "Pathfinder" project.

### Amendment Two

*60 members*

Mover: Steve Mason.

Summation: Keith Melton.

1 *After K. (line 87), insert:*

2 L. Establish a Net Zero Delivery Authority sponsored jointly by the Department for Energy  
3 Security and Net Zero and the Treasury to oversee the delivery of Net Zero; coordinate  
4 cross departmental coordination; and facilitate the devolution of powers and  
5 resources to local governments.

### Amendment Three

*ALDC*

Mover: Katie Hall.

Summation: To be announced.

1 *In F. (line 56), after 'by 2030,' insert 'with a central role in delivering this programme being*

2 taken by local authorities,'.

3 *In 3. (line 100), after 'countries', insert 'to ensure that any such interconnectors are located*  
 4 *to avoid disruption to local communities and to minimise environmental damage'.*

### **Background briefing**

This motion updates and develops policy on energy production, consumption and regulation, housing and relations with the European Union.

This builds on existing policy as set out in the policy paper 144 *Rebuilding Trade and Cooperation with Europe* (March 2022), policy motion *Building Communities* (September 2021), policy paper 140 *Giving Consumers a Fair Deal* (March 2021) and policy paper 139 *Tackling the Climate Emergency* (September 2019).

### **F12 Towards a Fairer Society**

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

1 *In 2. a) (line 65), after 'government', insert 'including funding for skills training'.*

### **Amendment One**

*13 members*

Mover: Ellen Nicholson.

Summation: Charley Hasted.

1 *After e) (line 112), insert:*

2 f) Protecting the right to withdraw your labour, (the right to strike), whether that right is  
 3 exercised individually or collectively.

### **Amendment Two**

*12 members*

Mover: Kevin Daws.

Summation: Richard Whelan.

1 *After e) (line 112), insert:*

2 f) Implementing the Disability Employment Charter to help create a level playing field for  
 3 disabled workers.

*In voting on the three options in 1. b) (lines 48–59), a vote will be taken between options 1 and 2, and then a second vote between the winner of the first vote and option 3.*

### **Background briefing**

This motion updates and develops policy on Universal Basic Income, poverty and the welfare system.

This builds on existing policy as set out in the policy motion *Universal Basic Income* (September 2020), the General Election Manifesto *Stop Brexit and Build a Brighter Future* (2019) and policy paper 136 *A Fairer Share for All* (September 2019).

## **F14 Reports of the Parliamentary Parties**

*We have an unusually large number of questions to reports at this conference. In order to try to address as many of the issues raised as possible in the time available, questions will be grouped and the movers of reports will try to answer each group collectively. Supplementary questions will then be taken from the first questioner in each group.*

### **Q1. Submitted by Andrew Hudson**

Are the parliamentary parties opposing the strikes minimum services bill?

### **Q2. Submitted by Juliet Line**

Last year Lord Strasburger challenged our unlawful debate-suppressing Definition of Transphobia. Will our Peers continue to promote freedom of speech within the party?

### **Q3. Submitted by Juliet Line**

Do MPs support the new MoJ guidelines that help protect females in prison from violent male offenders, however those males identify?

### **Q4. Submitted by John Grout**

How can Lib Dems best help Parliamentarians prevent the UK from back-sliding on LGBT+ rights, especially given the current right-wing culture war around trans rights?

### **Q5. Submitted by Timothy Oliver**

What have the Lords and Commons groups done in the last year to promote the rights of all LGBT people in Britain?

### **Q6. Submitted by Fraser Graham**

What was the parliamentary party's response to the blocking of the Scottish GRR bill Section 35, and how do we prevent future abuse of Section 35?

### **Q7. Submitted by Joe Toovey**

In this climate of increasing hostility to LGBT+ and specifically to trans rights, what work are the Parliamentary Parties currently planning in this area?

**Q8. Submitted by Richard Gadsden**

Following the decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal in Forstater vs CGDE, the Equalities Act is being interpreted to protect discriminatory and transphobic beliefs if disguised as "gender critical". What are the Parliamentary Parties doing to amend the Equalities Act to overturn this disgraceful decision?

**Q9. Submitted by Greg Webb**

With our diminished Parliamentary presence, what's the best way to maximise the audience for our pro-European policies as Brexit's damage becomes clearer?

**Q10. Submitted by Katherine Macy**

In the lead up to the next election cycle how can we make sure we're championing liberal policies like trans rights and pro international policies and not just being an anti Tory party?

**F15 Diversity on Party Committees**

Mover: Zoe Hollowood.

Summation: Juliet Line.

# Emergency Motions Ballot

*One of the following motions will be selected by ballot to be debated at F16 on Sunday 19 March. The ballot paper is printed at page 26 of this document and the ballot box will be open in the Auditorium between 09.00 and 12.50 on Saturday 18 March.*

## **Emergency motion 1: A Better Alternative to the Small Boats Legislation**

10 members

- 1 Conference notes with concern the Conservative Government's alarming Illegal Migration  
2 Bill, which was introduced to Parliament on 7th March.
- 3 Conference further notes that:
- 4 i) Under this policy, anyone who enters the UK via a small boat crossing will be  
5 immediately detained and deported to another country as soon as possible.
- 6 ii) An analysis of Home Office statistics by the Refugee Council showed that in 2022 48%  
7 of those who crossed the channel were from just 5 countries, all with asylum grant  
8 rates over 80% – Afghanistan, Eritrea, Sudan, Syria and Iran.
- 9 iii) The 1951 Refugee Convention, of which the UK is a signatory, confirms that asylum  
10 seekers have a right to not be penalised for illegal entry to a country.
- 11 Conference believes that the Government's plans to stop small boats:
- 12 A. Are immoral, ineffective and incredibly costly for taxpayers.
- 13 B. Will do nothing to address the criminal gangs responsible for arranging these  
14 dangerous crossings, and instead punishes the victims of human trafficking.
- 15 C. Betray the UK's proud tradition of providing sanctuary to refugees fleeing war and  
16 persecution, and breaches our commitments under international law.
- 17 Conference further believes that the best way to stop these dangerous crossings and  
18 tackle smuggling and trafficking is to provide safe and legal routes to sanctuary for  
19 refugees.
- 20 Conference calls on the Government to:
- 21 1. Immediately scrap the Illegal Migration Bill.
- 22 2. Fix the broken asylum system by taking powers away from the Home Office and  
23 establishing a new, dedicated unit to make decisions quickly and fairly.
- 24 3. Provide safe and legal routes to sanctuary for refugees from all countries, including:
- 25 a) An expanded, properly-funded refugee resettlement scheme.
- 26 b) A new scheme to resettle unaccompanied child refugees from elsewhere in Europe.

- 27 c) Reuniting unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in Europe with family members  
28 in the UK.
- 29 d) Expanding the scope of refugee family reunion, including enabling unaccompanied  
30 child refugees in the UK to sponsor close family members to join them.
- 31 e) Humanitarian visas that would allow asylum seekers to travel to the UK safely to  
32 proceed with their claims.

*Applicability: Federal.*

## **Emergency motion 2: Brexit, food shortages and the Northern Ireland Protocol**

*44 members*

- 1 Conference notes the growing evidence of the negative impacts of the UK's withdrawal  
2 from the EU, including:
- 3 A. Recent shortages of fruit and vegetables, due to the UK's exclusion from EU supply  
4 chains, alongside other underlying causes.
- 5 B. An estimated shortfall of 330,000 people in the UK labour force, comprising 460,000  
6 fewer EU citizens, not compensated for by 130,000 additional non-EU workers.
- 7 C. The loss of trade and business investment, causing the UK economy to be an  
8 estimated 5.5 per cent smaller than it would have been in the absence of Brexit, in  
9 turn leading to an annual loss of tax revenue of £40 billion.
- 10 D. The sharp rise in numbers of asylum-seekers and immigrants risking their lives  
11 crossing the Channel since the end of the Brexit transition period in 2020, because of  
12 the absence of a returns agreement.
- 13 Conference welcomes the agreement on the Windsor Framework, as easing the tensions  
14 round the implementation of the Northern Ireland Protocol and paving the way for  
15 improved relations between the UK and EU.
- 16 Conference notes, however, that this package is intended to deal only with a limited range  
17 of the effects of Brexit in a single part of the UK, and will do very little to address the  
18 major negative impacts of Brexit on Great Britain.
- 19 Conference therefore reiterates its support for the roadmap to re-establishing good  
20 relations between the UK and EU set out in policy paper 144, *Rebuilding Trade and*  
21 *Cooperation with Europe*:
- 22 i) Immediate unilateral UK initiatives to repair the UK–EU relationship.
- 23 ii) Rebuilding confidence through seeking to agree partnerships or associations with EU  
24 agencies and programmes.
- 25 iii) Deepening the trading relationship, including negotiating a veterinary agreement for  
26 trade in food and livestock and mutual recognition agreements.



27 iv) Once the trading relationship between the UK and the EU is deepened, and the ties of  
28 trust and friendship are renewed, aiming to place the UK–EU relationship on a more  
29 formal and stable footing by seeking to join the Single Market.

30 Conference recognises that these steps are necessary both to undo much of the  
31 economic damage caused by Brexit and to maximise the chances of the UK ultimately  
32 rejoining the EU, which remains the Liberal Democrats' objective.

33 Conference calls on:

34 1. The Federal Policy Committee to ensure that party policy on UK–EU relations features  
35 prominently in all relevant future policy papers, the pre-manifesto paper and the  
36 forthcoming general election manifesto.

37 2. Party spokespeople in Parliament and the party leadership to argue strongly for  
38 improving the UK–EU relationship, through following the steps set out in the roadmap  
39 above, as a necessary solution to issues such as the cost-of-living crisis, shortages of  
40 workers in both the commercial and public spheres, and declines in environmental  
41 quality, such as the uncontrolled discharge of sewage into rivers and seas.

*Applicability: Federal.*

### **Emergency motion 3: Detoxifying Public Debate and protecting minority groups**

*LGBT+ Liberal Democrats*

1 Conference notes that:

2 i) We have recently seen a number of disturbing attacks against people from a variety of  
3 marginalised communities.

4 ii) Over 150,000 hate crimes were recorded in England and Wales in 2022 – a 26%  
5 increase over 2021 and nearly 400% over the last decade.

6 iii) Dehumanisation is step 4 of the ten steps of genocide policy model developed by  
7 Gregory Stanton of Genocide watch, this frequently comes in terms of referring to  
8 members of marginalised groups in ways calculated to draw associations with criminal  
9 behaviour or vermin; at the same time the Government is calling refugees and asylum  
10 seekers 'swarms' and 'illegal migrants'.

11 iv) The Government has been accused of stating that it will use 'culture war' to distract  
12 from its mismanagement of the country.

13 Conference believes that:

14 a) Dehumanising and hateful words create environments in which those seeking asylum  
15 and people from minority communities feel unsafe and threatened.

16 b) These words, used by those in positions of power can embolden those who wish to  
17 harm minority groups.

- 18 c) Rhetoric used by the Government and media attacking marginalised communities has  
19 a direct effect on the way those communities are treated.
- 20 d) Freedom of Speech is essential but it carries a responsibility not to use it to cause  
21 harm to others.
- 22 e) The media and people with power have a duty to lessen hate in the world.
- 23 Conference resolves to:
- 24 1. Continue our calls to make misogyny a hate crime.
- 25 2. Ask our representatives to continue actively combating hateful and false rhetoric  
26 about minority groups.
- 27 3. Support and celebrate minority groups in our communities and to stand in solidarity  
28 with them when they come under attack.
- 29 4. Improve the powers of bodies such as Ofcom or any successor bodies to challenge  
30 and censure misleading, false or malicious rhetoric in the media regarding minority  
31 groups.

*Applicability: Federal.*

#### **Emergency motion 4: Gender Recognition and Scottish Devolution**

*11 members*

- 1 Conference notes that, on 17th January 2023, the Conservative Government made an  
2 order under Section 35 of the Scotland Act 1998 to block Scotland's Gender Recognition  
3 Reform Bill from becoming law.
- 4 Conference further notes that:
- 5 i) The Bill was passed by the Scottish Parliament by 86 votes to 39, with support from  
6 MSPs of all parties, after extensive consultation and debate.
- 7 ii) Gender recognition is a devolved matter within the legislative competence of the  
8 Scottish Parliament.
- 9 iii) This is the first time that Section 35 has ever been used.
- 10 Conference believes that:
- 11 a) Nothing in the Bill would undermine hard-won rights and protections for women.
- 12 b) None of the reasons claimed by the Conservative Government justify its  
13 unprecedented use of Section 35 to block the Bill.
- 14 c) Recklessly undermining the devolution settlement plays into the hands of the Scottish  
15 National Party, who are seeking to tear our family of nations apart.

- 16 Conference reaffirms that trans men are men, trans women are women, non-binary  
17 people are non-binary, and trans rights are human rights.
- 18 Conference condemns the Conservative Government's decision to block the Bill, and calls  
19 on it to:
- 20 1. Negotiate with the Scottish Government to allow the Gender Recognition Reform Bill  
21 to become law.
  - 22 2. Uphold the rights and dignity of trans and non-binary people.
  - 23 3. Work to strengthen the future of our United Kingdom, instead of jeopardising it.

*Applicability: Federal.*

### **Emergency motion 5: Responding to the Emergency in Ukraine**

*Twickenham & Richmond*

- 1 Conference notes the rapidly changing military situation in Ukraine, including:
- 2 A. The killing – in Europe, in 2022 – of between 20,000 and 22,000 people (mostly  
3 civilians) in one city, Mariupol and Russia's near victory in Bakhmut.
  - 4 B. Russia's partially implemented emergency draft of 300,000 military reservists, amid  
5 Putin's nuclear threats.
  - 6 C. Russia's deployment of Iranian attack drones to target critical energy infrastructure.
  - 7 D. By late January 2023, Ukraine had liberated around 54% of the territory Russia seized  
8 since February 2022, according to the UK Ministry of Defence.
  - 9 E. Russia's new offensive has already begun, though with little to show for it so far.
  - 10 F. Russia's intensive manufacturing of ammunition, new tanks, new planes and new  
11 ships, necessitating urgent additional support for Ukraine from allies.
- 12 Conference further notes:
- 13 i) The threat which Putin's warmongering poses to Europe's future security, including to  
14 non-NATO countries Sweden and Finland, unless Russia is strongly opposed.
  - 15 ii) The heroic courage shown by Ukraine's people in defending their country from the  
16 aggressor.
  - 17 iii) The US is on red alert about China starting to supply advanced weaponry to Russia.  
18 With Ukraine's current limited war machine, this could well tip the balance.
  - 19 iv) Volodymyr Zelensky's speech to the UK Parliament in February 2023 in which he  
20 pleaded for fighter jets.
  - 21 v) The recent cross-party plea (supported by all UK Liberal Democrat MPs) to Germany to

- 22 send Leopard tanks to Ukraine.
- 23 vi) The latest crisis in the war is Russia's activity in their annexed (pro-Russian) territory of  
24 Transnistria, in Moldova, where they are fomenting political trouble to justify a new  
25 front on Ukraine's south western flank; this will potentially let Russia cut off Ukraine  
26 from Odessa and access to the Black Sea, and, combined with similar tactics from  
27 Belarus, would oblige Ukraine to spread out its soldiers and weaponry even more  
28 thinly.
- 29 vii) Other countries, including the UK, persuaded Ukraine, in the Budapest Memorandum  
30 of 1994, to give up its nuclear weapons in return for security assurances.
- 31 viii) The effect of Russia's invasion, combined with Brexit and the pandemic, on the  
32 mounting cost-of-living crisis in the UK.
- 33 Conference believes that:
- 34 a) The defence of freedom, human rights and the rule of law lie at the heart of liberal  
values.
- 35 b) Liberal Democrats should send a clear message that affirms their commitment to  
36 forcefully standing up to Putin in defence of these.
- 37 c) As an investment in Western security, it is worth depleting the UK's own weaponry to a  
38 limited extent, to send more to Ukraine – the West's front line.
- 39 d) This conflict will determine the future of freedom and democracy in Europe, and  
40 Europe's standing on the world stage.
- 41 e) The value of passing this motion is that it demonstrates the cross-party strength of  
42 British support for Ukraine, and that support will continue despite changes of prime  
43 minister or government.
- 44 Conference calls on the UK Government to:
- 45 1. Do all it realistically can, in view of Putin's horrific actions, to help arm Ukraine,  
46 including with longer-range precision weapons, as well as provide regular ammunition  
47 and artillery, tanks etc., and the military training it needs to defeat Russia.
- 48 2. Since British arms have already made a real difference, it is essential that these efforts  
49 are continued and strengthened, boosting the arms supply coming from EU countries  
50 and, still more, the USA.
- 51 3. Strive to establish formal cooperation mechanisms on foreign and security issues with  
52 the EU.
- 53 4. Pursue vigorously the freezing of Russian oligarchs' assets in the UK.
- 54 5. Ensure that any aid the UK supplies is not at the cost of cutting international  
55 development funding to other countries by restoring the International Development  
56 budget.

*Applicability: Federal.*

**Emergency motion 6: Tackling Food Shortages**

10 members

1 Conference notes with concern that:

- 2 a) On 21st February ASDA and Morrisons began limiting the purchases of certain fruits  
3 and vegetables, including tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers, with Tesco, Lidl, and Aldi  
4 also introducing limits. This was caused partly by the weather in Spain, with some  
5 growers warning that shortages could last until May.
- 6 b) High energy costs in the UK has led to British growers reducing their plantings of fruit  
7 and vegetables for the coming season - tomato plantings in the UK are at their lowest  
8 level since 1985.
- 9 c) The Government is phasing out the Energy Bill Support Scheme meaning farmers are  
10 likely to see significant increases in their bills.
- 11 d) A long-term lack of fairness in retail supply chains has meant UK farmers and growers  
12 often not receiving a fair price for their produce.
- 13 e) There is a significant shortage in seasonal workers to pick UK produce due to the  
14 Conservatives' botched deal with Europe leading to unpicked food rotting in fields.
- 15 f) The government's response to the Avian Flu outbreak has been lacklustre which  
16 coupled with the cost of energy, feed and other factors has led to a shortage of eggs.
- 17 g) Farmers Basic Payments are being phased out when the replacement Environmental  
18 Land Management Scheme (ELMs) is not yet accessible or workable for everyone.
- 19 h) The Conservative government's trade deals with Australia and New Zealand are  
20 actively undermining UK farmers and the values of UK consumers.
- 21 i) The Conservatives' deal with Europe has erected trade barriers and red tape, making  
22 our food supply chain significantly more complicated and expensive.
- 23 j) The Conservative Government's lack of engagement and poor communication with  
24 farmers about food shortages and supply chain issues.
- 25 k) The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Thérèse Coffey is failing  
26 to take the issue seriously and is clearly out of her depth.

27 Conference calls on the Government to:

- 28 1. Produce a comprehensive national fruit and vegetable strategy covering both the  
29 growing and consumption of these important foods.
- 30 2. Extend the Energy Bill Support Scheme for a further six months and treat farmers as  
31 "Energy Intensive" businesses to ensure they get the support they need.
- 32 3. Strengthen the Grocery Code Adjudicator to ensure farmers are treated fairly by  
33 supermarkets and other intermediaries.

- 34 4. Work with farmers and their organisations to ensure that the sector can access  
35 sufficient labour harvest crops , including implementing a farming workforce plan.
- 36 5. Delay the phase out of existing farm payments until the replacement is fully  
37 operational and accessible.
- 38 6. Legislate to protect British farmers by ensuring that imported food in trade deals  
39 meets UK standards of animal welfare and environmental protection.
- 40 7. Strengthen the role of the Trade and Agriculture commission, to allow it to review the  
impact of international trade deals prior to Parliament approving deals.
- 41 8. Work with the EU to agree a new veterinary agreement and alignment on Sanitary and  
42 phytosanitary (SPS) standards to reduce red tape and unnecessary costs.
- 43 9. Replace Thérèse Coffey as Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

*Applicability: Federal; except 1. (lines 28–29) and 4. & 5. (lines 34–37), which are England only.*

### **Emergency motion 7: Türkiye and Syria Earthquake**

*10 members*

- 1 Conference notes:
- 2 a) The terrible earthquake in Türkiye and Syria on 6 February 2023, which has caused  
3 widespread destruction with a death toll of over 50,000.
- 4 b) That response efforts have been hampered by the sheer scale of the disaster, terrible  
5 weather, and subsequent aftershocks, as well as the difficulties of delivering aid to  
6 Syria.
- 7 c) That the Diaspora here in the UK have been desperately trying to find out what has  
8 happened to their family and friends in Türkiye and Syria.
- 9 d) The generosity of the British public, who raised over £50 million in just two days in  
10 response to this humanitarian disaster.
- 11 e) The UK Government's limited response to the earthquake, failing to set up a scheme to  
12 allow people with family in the UK to come here (which Germany and the Netherlands  
13 have done), and only promising to match £5 million in UK aid match.
- 14 f) The decision to abandon the international development target of 0.7% of GNI, which  
15 has hampered the UK's ability to respond to humanitarian emergencies like this one.
- 16 g) That the Liberal Democrats enshrined the 0.7% of GNI target in law in 2015 and that  
17 we are the only major UK political party to oppose the decision to abandon it.
- 18 Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrats' commitment to the 0.7% of GNI target for  
19 international development spending.
- 20 Conference calls on the UK Government to:

- 21 1. Work closely with European and international allies and agencies to respond to this  
22 humanitarian disaster.
- 23 2. Increase the level of consular support available to British nationals and their families  
24 left stranded on the ground.
- 25 3. Set up a visa sponsorship scheme, so those who've been affected by the earthquake  
26 with family in the UK can get the support they need.
- 27 4. Take all steps possible to ensure the delivery of aid into Syria.
- 28 5. Increase the scope of UK aid match for this disaster significantly, so that the UK  
29 government matches the generosity of the British people.
- 30 6. Accordingly, restore the 0.7% of GNI target for international development spending –  
31 with increased aid made available for the response to this emergency with immediate  
32 effect.

*Applicability: Federal.*

## 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](http://www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card). Cards can also be submitted in person as usual before and during the debate. See page 8 of the Agenda and Directory.

## Live stream

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

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### Left Luggage

On Sunday 19 March please store your luggage at your hotel after check out.

Alternatively, there is a secure, complimentary luggage service in operation at the Novotel in Meeting Rooms 5 & 6. There will be a charitable box if you wish to donate to one of the hotel's chosen charities. Please note that no large suitcases or bags are allowed into York Barbican.

### Q&A Sessions

**There will be three Q&A sessions at conference where you can ask questions of our spokespeople. All sessions will take place in the Lendal Room, York Barbican.**

#### **Health Q&A**

Saturday 18 March 13.00-14.00

Daisy Cooper and Richard Allan

Chair: Jennie Rigg

#### **Defence Q&A**

Saturday 18 March 14.30-15.30

Richard Foord and Julie Smith (Baroness Newnham)

Chair: Hannah Kitching

#### **Economy Q&A**

Sunday 19 March 10.15-11.15

Sarah Olney and Dick Newby on the Economy

Chair: Eleanor Kelly

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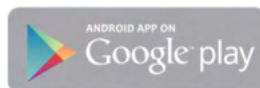


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# Emergency Motions Ballot

*Please vote by indicating your preferences in order (1, 2, 3, etc)*

	Emergency Motion	Preference
1	<b>A Better Alternative to the Small Boats Legislation</b>	
2	<b>Brexit, food shortages and the Northern Ireland Protocol</b>	
3	<b>Detoxifying Public Debate and protecting minority groups</b>	
4	<b>Gender Recognition and Scottish Devolution</b>	
5	<b>Responding to the Emergency in Ukraine</b>	
6	<b>Tackling Food Shortages</b>	
7	<b>Türkiye and Syria Earthquake</b>	

*Please return this ballot paper to the ballot box in the auditorium in the York Barbican between 09.00 and 12.50 on Saturday 18 March.*

*Please note that you will need to show your voting member's photo pass when submitting the ballot paper.*