Scottish Liberal Democrats

SPRING CONFERENCE
EDINBURGH - 20th & 21st FEBRUARY 2026

AGENDA & DIRECTORY

Welcome to the *Agenda and Directory* for the Scottish Liberal Democrat Spring 2026 Conference.

Conference Venue

Dynamic Earth, 112-116 Holyrood Road, Edinburgh, EH8 8AS

Further information, registration and Conference publications (including plain text and clear print versions) are available at:

www.scotlibdems.org.uk/ conference

Welcome

Welcome to Conference

from Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP, Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats

Welcome to Edinburgh!

Its fantastic to be here in Scotland's capital - my home. Edinburgh, with it's blend of tradition and forward-thinking, captures that spirit perfectly as we look ahead to the Scottish Parliament election. There's no more fitting backdrop for our conference over the next two days.

Conferences like this remind us of the liberal society we are trying to build. They're about public service, shared ambition, and the belief that politics can be a force for good, and our agenda over the next two days reflects this. Tackling medical misogyny; making plans to boost our youth work capabilities; supporting those in the gaming industry; fixing rural bridges - the broad scope of topics covered shows that we are willing to help change Scotland, and that change comes with fairness at its heart.

Across the country, campaigns for the election in May are really motoring. We've strengthened our presence in communities, supported dedicated local representatives, and demonstrated that liberal values still speak powerfully to people's hopes and concerns. It's a clear sign that our movement is growing not only in size, but in confidence and purpose.

We are on the cusp of something potentially magical over the next few months - together, we can get Liberal Democrat MSPs elected across Scotland. Sanne Dijkstra-Downie, David Green, Adam Harley, Neil Alexander, Andrew Baxter, Alan Reid, Emma Macdonald, Yi-Pei Chou Turvey, Claire McLaren, Paul McGarry and Daniel Khan-O'Malley; to name but a few. Those names need 'MSP' after them.

So, let's make the most of our time in Edinburgh - and let's ensure that when we meet again, we do so in order to celebrate a historic breakthrough for our party.

Welcome

Welcome to Conference

from Fraser Graham,
Convener, Conference Committee

Welcome to our Spring Conference in Edinburgh!

I am so excited to be in the wonderful venue of Dynamic Earth for my first conference as Convener. It seems very fitting to be so close to Holyrood for this vital conference ahead of the Scottish Parliament elections.

We have an excellent line-up of motions, speakers and special events in the hall, as well as some fantastic fringes planned between sessions. We'll be hearing from several of our key target candidates across Scotland, as well as Sir Ed Davey MP and Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP.

It is at this conference that we will debate our pre-manifesto, and this will be crucial to help our policy team finalise the details of the full manifesto. As such, we've arranged a special Q&A session with the Policy Committee, ahead of the full debate and vote on the pre-manifesto motion.

In addition to this, we have some extra special sessions on Friday afternoon, including a 'Getting to Know You' session with some of or candidates, hosted by the inimitable Jamie Greene MSP, and a chance to hear from some of our councillors ahead of next year's Council elections.

This conference comes at a crucial time, with the Holyrood elections just around the corner, and is a great opportunity for us to set out our stall as a party, and for our members and campaigning teams to come away energised for the campaign ahead.

I am looking forward to some fantastic debates, helpful conversations around the venue and an excellent chance to catch up with Lib Dem colleagues from across Scotland.

Enjoy the conference, and thanks to all of you for coming!

Manifesto 2026

Act Now for Arthritis:
Building a Healthier Scotland

A call for action in the next Scottish Parliament:

To transform musculoskeletal services, tackle orthopaedic waiting times, and deliver a long-term plan for better musculoskeletal health.

Find our full manifesto at arthritis-uk.org/scotland-manifesto

- arthritis-uk.org/policy-and-data
- PublicAffairs@arthritis-uk.org

ArthritisUK
Scotland

Agenda Information

Debates and Votes at Conference

Debates on policy and business motions are at the heart of federal conference. It is through them that the party sets its policy and future direction. Unlike in other parties, Liberal Democrat members are sovereign, and what they decide really matters.

The structure of debate on policy and business motions:

Proposer of the motion speaks

v

Proposers of any amendments speak in turn

v

Speakers called on all sides of the debate
with the chair seeking to ensure balance

v

Summators of amendments speak in turn

v

The summator of the motion speaks

v

The chair takes votes for and against the amendments
and separate votes (if any) in turn

v

A vote will be taken on the motion as a whole

Interventions: concise (one minute) speeches made from the intervention microphone(s) on the floor of the auditorium, during debates where it is indicated in the **Agenda.**

Amendments: all motions are open to amendment; amendments accepted will be published in **Conference Daily**.

Reference Back: a proposal to refer a motion to a named body of the Party for further consideration.

Voting: decisions on most motions and all amendments and separate

Agenda Information cont.

votes are by simple majority of those voting (2/3 majority for constitutional amendments). To vote, voting members must show their voting badge whilst seated on the ground floor of the auditorium.

Separate votes: a vote to delete or retain the specified words or section of a motion or amendment.

The request for a separate vote should be submitted in writing to the Speakers' Table in the auditorium.

Counted vote: the chair of the session may decide that a vote needs to be counted. Any voting member may request a count from the floor; if twelve voting members stand and show their voting cards, a count will be taken.

Communications with the chair and aide: the chair and aide team can be contacted at conference – solely for formal communication on procedural motions and points of order, via the Speakers Desk.

Speaking and Voting at Conference

Eligibility to speak and vote

All Members of the Scottish Party attending in person are entitled to speak and vote in conference debates, providing they are attending conference as a party member (and not for example an exhibitor or observer). Party members fulfilling these criteria are known as 'voting members'. A non member may in certain circumstances be permitted to speak at the discretion of SCC, and such requests should be directed to SCC through the help desk.

Length of speeches

The length of speeches is shown against each motion in the **Agenda.** This is usually three minutes, except where stated otherwise in the Standing Orders (at the back of this document), or the Chair announces they are varying it.

There are three lights on the speaker's rostrum and visible either side of the stage. The green light comes on at the beginning of the speech. The amber light comes on 60 seconds before the end of the allowed time (20 seconds before the end of an intervention). The red light comes on when all the time is used up, and the speaker must stop immediately.

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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.

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.

Interventions

To speak during interventions, voting members should complete an intervention form, collected from and returned to a steward in the auditorium. Speakers will be chosen by the chair of the session by random.

Other Conference Sessions

Emergency motions

Emergency motions are debated and voted on and make formal party policy like other motions, but refer to a substantial development since the deadline for submission of motions.

There is are two slots for emergency sessions, one on Saturday morning and one on Saturday afternoon.

The motions for selection will be printed in **Conference Bulletin**.

Topical issue discussions

The SCC may decide to use part of this slot for topical issue discussions. This will allow members and spokespeople to discuss and comment on a political issue live at the time of conference; they do not make party policy.

Party members may submit suggested topics for a discussion, which will be considered by officers of the SCC and SPC. If a topical issue discussion is selected, it will be published in the relevant **Conference Bulletin.**

Submitting Amendments, Emergency Motions, Topical Issues, Requests for a Reference Back, and Appeals

Amendments, emergency motions and requests for a reference back

Amendments, emergency motions and requests for a reference back must be:

- signed by 5 party members; **or**
- submitted by one or more of: a local party, Affiliated Organisation or Party Committee.

Requests for a reference back can be made by one voting attendee.

Submitters should include:

- For amendments – a short explanation of the intended effect of the amendment.
- For emergency motions – a short explanation of its emergency

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nature.

Topical issues

The title of the issue should be no more than ten words, and should not include an expression of opinion; please include full contact details of the submitter and up to 100 words explanatory background.

Appeals

If you wish to appeal the SCC's decision not to select your emergency motion or amendment, follow these instructions.

The appeal should come from the email address of the original contact for the motion and should be no longer than one side of A4.

It should explain why you are appealing and any new information the SCC was unaware of when it made its decision.

The email should also contain a contact name and telephone number.

Agenda Index and Timetable

Friday 20th February

09:30	First Timers Session
10:00	Welcome - **Cllr Robert Aldridge**, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh
	Motion SC1 - Ending Medical Misogyny
	Holyrood Campaign Briefing - **Wendy Chamberlain MP** and **Paul Trollope**
	Motion SC2 - Tackling Loneliness as a Public Health Emergency
	Motion SC3 - Building a Stronger Scotland Through Youth Work
	Speech - **Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP**, Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats
13:00	Break for Lunch and Fringes
14:30	In Conversation with Our Candidates - Discussion Panel hosted by **Jamie Greene MSP**
	Mini Motions - Planning Reform
	Being a First-Time Councillor - Discussion Panel hosted by **Christine Murdoch**
	Manifesto Q&A with the Policy Committee

Saturday 21st February

09:30	Annual General Meeting
10:00	Speech - **Sir Ed Davey MP**, Leader of the Liberal Democrats
	Motion EM1 - Emergency Motion
	Motion SC4 - Game On: Supporting Scotland's Gaming and Digital Media Sectors

Motion SC5 - Pre-Manifesto: Change with Fairness at its Heart

12:15   Break for Lunch and Fringes

14:30   Motion SC6 - Restoring and Protecting Scotland's Rural Bridges

Speech - **Adam Harley**

Motion SC7 - Safe and Ethical AI Deployment in GP Practices and NHS Scotland

Speech - **Yi-Pei Chou-Turvey**

Motion SC8 - Safeguarding the Scottish School Estate

Tribute: Lord Wallace of Tankerness

Motion EM2 - Emergency Motion

Motion SC9 - Digital Inequality as Modern Poverty

Party Awards

All conference sessions take place in the Biosphere at Dynamic Earth, except the fringe and training sessions - for these, please see the relevant page of the Agenda.

Friday 20th February

09:30   First Timer's Session

10:00   Welcome

Chair: Fraser Graham

Welcome: Cllr Robert Aldridge
Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh

Friday 20th February cont.

Motion SC1 - Ending Medical Misogyny

Chair: Paul McGarry
Aide: Leo Dempster
Submitted by Scottish Liberal Democrat Women

Mover: **Christine Jardine MP**, Edinburgh West
Summator: **Cllr Sally Pattle**, West Lothian

1   Conference notes that:

2   i)   The Scottish Government began developing the Women's
3   Health Plan in 2021, which led to the appointment of
4   Professor Anna Glasier as the first Women's Health
5   Champion in 2023.

6   ii)   The first phase of the Women's Health Plan was published
7   in 2024, and while some steps have been taken to address
8   health inequality, by almost every measure the SNP were
9   forced to admit those inequalities are only widening.

10   iii) In Scotland, it takes an average fo 7.5 years to be diagnosed
11   with endometriosis, that cancer screening and diagnosis
12   waiting times are longer than in other parts of the UK, and
13   that Scottish women are far more likely to be living with
14   undetected heart disease than in other parts of the UK.

15   iv)   Recent figures published by the Royal College of
16   Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) show that waiting
17   lists for gynaecological care in Scotland have risen by more
18   than 250% in seven years, with more than 66,000 women
19   currently waiting for diagnosis and/or treatment across
20   Scotland.

21   v)   In 2024, the House of Commons' Women and Equalities
22   Committee published a report, "Women's Reproductive
23   Health Conditions", detailing the shocking levels of mdedical
24   misogyny experienced by women at every stage of their
25   reproductive health over their life course. While necessarily
26   limited to women's experiences in England, it is beyond
27   doubt that similar failings are occuring in Scotland's NHS.

28   Conference believes that:

Friday 20th February cont.

29   i)   Together, we must acknowledge the failings of the NHS, the
30   Scottish Government and years of negligence towards
31   women.

32   ii)   We must take all necessary steps to move towards a system
33   that will enable every woman, at every stage of their lives, to
34   regain confidence that their concerns are valid and will be
35   treated accordingly by those medical professionals in whom
36   we place so much trust.

37   Conference therefore calls for the Scottish Government to:

38   i)   Urgently publish the second phase of the Women's Health
39   Plan, laying out clear goals to tackle health inequalities, and
40   a clear pathway to achieving those goals.

41   ii)   Commit to reprioritising health investment and enabling the
42   NHS to deliver the capacity needed to make real changes to
43   women's lives.

44   iii)   Work with MSPs, experts and medical professionals to build
45   on the findings of the Women's Reproductive Health
46   Conditions report to include the experiences of women here
47   in Scotland, and to develop recommendations to end the
48   medical misogyny faced by more than half the population
49   seeking help over their life course.

50   iv)   Instruct Public Health Scotland to launch an awareness
51   raising campaign for both medical professionals and the
52   wider public aimed at ending stigma faced by women
53   seeking help for their reproductive health over their life
54   course.

55   v)   Improve access to diagnosis, including an end to the
56   dismissal of symptoms and normalisation of pain faced by
57   so many women.

58   vi)   End the postcode lottery with better access to treatment
59   and support, including pain relief, and a better
60   understanding of conditions both rare and common,
61   including but not limited to, endometriosis, the menopause,
62   polycystic ovary syndrome, hyperemesis and ectopic
63   pregnancies.

Friday 20th February cont.

64   vii)   Embed a better understanding within the health service of
65   the effects that reproductive health conditions have when
66   considered alongside women's mental health, period
67   poverty, and women in the workplace.

68   viii)   Vastly reduce waiting times for referrals, and then
69   treatment, particularly in gynaecology and urology.

70   ix)   Improve training and standards across NHS services in
71   Scotland.

72   x)   Increase research into reproductive health over a woman's
73   life course, moving away from the belief that this is a 'niche'
74   area.

Movers and summations; 12 minutes. This is assumed to be Mover: 8 minutes, and Summator: 4 minutes. All other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see pages 5-9.

Holyrood Campaign Briefing with Wendy Chamberlain MP and Paul Trollope

Motion SC2 - Tackling Loneliness as a Public Health Emergency

Chair: Sanne Dijkstra-Downie
Aide: Mel Sullivan
Submitted by member signatories.

Mover: **Paul McGarry**, East Dunbartonshire
Summator: **Jane Alliston Pickard**, Edinburgh West

1   Conference notes that:

2   i)   The Scottish Household Survey conducted in 2024 showed
3   that 1 in 5 adults in Scotland experienced feelings of
4   loneliness in the previous week.

5   ii)   Further research from Age Scotland in 2025 showed nearly

Friday 20th February cont.

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8   half of all (46%) Scots aged over 50 experienced loneliness all or some of the time. It reports particularly high levels among unpaid carers.

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11   iii)   Studies by the Scottish Public Health Network shos a link with loneliness and increased risks or mental or physical health illness.

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14   iv)   A recent report from Chest, Heart & Stroke Scotland showed that those who report as lonely cost health services aroudn £900 extra per person per year.

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17   v)   Evidence from the COVID-19 Pandemic in Scotland showed a sharp rise in reported loneliness, particularly among young adults and those facing financial insecurity.

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21   vi)   A link between poor public transport and increased loneliness, suggesting that car-dependent environments and reduced bus services contribute to isolation, especially in rural areas.

22   Conference believes:

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24   i)   Loneliness should be treated as a public health priority, alongside other major risk factors.

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27   ii)   Tackling loneliness requires investment in social infrastructure, places, services and relationships, not only individual 'resilience'.

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31   iii)   Interventions to reduce loneliness must be inclusive, reaching older adults, disabled people, carers, young people, ,igranst, LGBTQ+ people and others who are disproportionately affected.

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33   iv)   Better public transport and safe, welcoming spaces are central to reducing loneliness

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39   Conference recognises the tremendous success of schemes such as the befrienders programme in East Kilbride founded by Avril Anderson and run alongside Calderglen High School. It builds a long standing bond that is multi-generational and has provided a valuable lifeline for many in the community and mutual benefits for all involved.

Friday 20th February cont.

40   Conference therefore calls for the Scottish Government to:

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43   i)   Recognise loneliness formally as a public health emergency, with a cross-government strategy and clear targets to reduce chronic loneliness over the next decade.

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47   ii)   Expand social prescribing through GPs, community link workers, schools and mental health services, ensuring people can be referred into community groups, arts, sport, volunteering and peer-support networks.

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51   iii)   Invest in evening and weekend community spaces, including and further developing existing warm spaces, intergenerational cafes, youth hubs and arts venues, with a particular focus on high-poverty and rural areas.

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55   iv)   Work with local authorities and transport operators to improve and, where appropriate, subsidise off-peak public transport for social and community activities, recognising its role in preventing loneliness.

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59   v)   Fund a Neighbourhood Connector Network of paid or supported volunteer roles tasked with identifying isolated individuals, connecting them to local opportunities and supporting them to attend.

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62   vi)   Ensure that loneliness impact is routinely considered in public and budget decisions, especially those affecting community facilities, transport, housing and digital access.

Movers and summations; 12 minutes. This is assumed to be Mover: 8 minutes, and Summator: 4 minutes. All other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see pages 5-9.

Motion SC3: Building a Stronger Scotland Through Youth Work

Chair: Kevin Lang
Aide: Leo Dempster
Submitted by member signatories.

Mover: **Michael Gregori,** Dumfries and Galloway
Summator: **TBC**

Friday 20th February cont.

1   Conference notes that:

2   i)   Scotland has a proud youth work tradition delivered
3   through local authorities, voluntary organisations,
4   uniformed groups, community projects, and national youth
5   organisations.

6   ii)   The Scottish Government's real-terms cuts to local authority
7   budgets have forced many youth services to close or reduce
8   provision, leaving significant inequalities in access across
9   Scotland.

10   iii) Particular chaallenges are faced by young people in rural,
11   island, and deprived urban communities, where acess to
12   safe spaces and extra curricular opportunities is limited.

13   iv)   Care-experienced young people, disabled young people,
14   LGBTQ+ youth, young carers, and those facing poverty or
15   discrimination continue to experience the greatest barriers
16   to support.

17   Conference believes that:

18   i)   Youth work is an essential part of Scotland's education,
19   wellbeing, and community infrastructure.

20   ii)   Youth workers are skilled professionals who require stable
21   funding, proper pay, and clear progression pathways.

22   iii) Young people's voices must be embedded at every level of
23   decision-making - local, national, and within service design.

24   iv)   Scotland needs a long-term, cross-government plan for
25   youth work.

26   Conference calls for the Scottish Government to deliver:

27   i)   A National Youth Work Guarantee for Scotland that
28   includes:

29   a)   A commitment that every young person aged 11-25 can
30   access high-quality open-access youth work in their
31   community.

32   b)   Statutory protection for youth work within local
33   authority budgets, supported by increased government

34   funding.

35   ii)   New Ideas for Innovation and Access, such as:

36   a)   Youth Work on Wheels - a national programme of
37   mobile youth work units to serve rural and island
38   communities, staffed by qualified youth workers.

39   b)   Youth Worker First Aid & Wellbeing Training - a
40   standardised wellbeing support qualification enabling
41   youth workers to deliver early mental health
42   interventions.

43   iii) A Stronger Workforce and Sector, through:

44   a)   A funded national strategy to recruit and retain youth
45   workers, including bursaries, apprenticeships, and
46   clearer professional accreditation.

47   b)   Multi-year grant funding for voluntary youth work
48   organisations to replace the current patchwork of short-
49   term competitive bids.

50   iv)   An Embedded Youth Voice and Participation, with:

51   a)   A statutory requirement for meaningful youth
52   participation in local authority and Scottish Government
53   policy development.

54   b)   A national annual 'Youth Work Hearing' in the Scottish
55   Parliament, led by young people and youth workers, to
56   scrutinise progress.

57   c)   Expansion of participatory budgeting to ensure young
58   people directly influence local spending priorities,
59   including on youth services.

60   v)   Improved Safety and Wellbeing, through:

61   a)   A trauma-informed youth work framework for all
62   services with specialist support for care-experienced
63   young people and those affected by violence,
64   exploitation, or homelessness.

65   b)   Collaboration between youth work, schools, mental
66   health services, and community safety partnerships to

Friday

Friday

Friday 20th February cont.

67	ensure early intervention and shared pathways of
68	support.

Movers and summations; 12 minutes. This is assumed to be Mover: 8 minutes, and Summator: 4 minutes. All other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see pages 5-9.

Speech: Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP

Friday

Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP
Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats

13:00 Lunch Break and Fringes

See pages 43-47 for Fringe session details.

14:30 In Conversation with Our Candidates

Mini Motions: Planning Reform

Discussion Panel: Being a First-Term Councillor

Manifesto Q&A with the Policy Committee

Please note that for all of these sessions, questions should be submitted in advance via question cards, rather than being taken from the floor. These can be requested from the front desk or speaker's table.

Saturday 21st February

9:30 Annual General Meeting

10:00 Speech: Sir Ed Davey MP

Sir Ed Davey MP
Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Saturday

Motion EM1: Emergency Motion

Motion SC4 - Game On: Supporting Scotland's Gaming and Digital Media Sectors

Chair: Kevin Lang
Aide: Jacquie Bell
Submitted by member signatories.

Mover: **Neil Alexander**, Highland
Summation: **Cllr Michael Crichton**, Dundee

1		Conference believes that:
2	i)	The Scottish video games sector makes a massive
3		contribution to the Scottish economy and culture,
4		producing worldwide success stories. The gaming industry
5		now generates larger revenues globally than the film and
6		music industries combined.
7	ii)	According to the Uk-wide games trade body, UKIE, the
8		games sector contributes £188.4m annually to the Scottish
9		economy and employs over 2,181 full-time staff.
10	iii)	Despite Scotland's games and digital sectors making a
11		meaningful contribution to the economy and employment,
12		the overall ecosystme remains smaller, more fragile, and

Saturday 21st February cont.

13   less coordinated than those of comparable European
14   nations. Scotland's current approach is fragmented, with
15   games, digital media, and technology businesses often
16   treated separately across economic, digital, skills, and
17   cultural strategies, limiting collaboration, scalability, and
18   long-term resilience.

19   iv)   For Scotland to reach its full potential, the digital media and
20   video games sectors must be supported to grow
21   nationwide, creating opportunities for new start-ups and
22   long-term economic development in rural, Highland and
23   island communities.

24   Conference notes with concern that:

25   i)   Video games and digital media companies face significant
26   financial challenges during their initial startup pphase,
27   before products are ready for market. Following Brexit,
28   Scotland's games and digital media companies lost access
29   to vital funding streams. The UK Trade and Business
30   Commission estimates that the EU's Creative Europe Project
31   would have delivered £163m in arts funding had the UK
32   Government not decided to pull out of it during the Brexit
33   negotiations.

34   ii)   Despite success stories across the sector in Scotland,
35   significant difficulties remain, evidenced by the closure of
36   Axis Animations (resulting in over 160 job losses) and mass
37   redundancies at companies such as Build A Rocket Boy,
38   where over 300 staff were cut.

39   iii)   There are well-documented concerns within the industry
40   regarding exploitative practices such as 'crunch culture',
41   where employees are routinely expected to work excessive
42   and often unpaid hours to meet deadlines, as well as
43   alleged union-busting. Despite these issues being widely
44   recognised, no action has been taken by either the UK or
45   Scottish Governments to address them.

46   iv)   While Techsaler Hubs off tech start-ups paid hot-desking
47   and bookable event spaces, these are not ideal for new
48   studios, which are better suited to group office
49   environments, nor are they specific to digital media and

Saturday 21st February cont.

50   video games. Furthermore, provision is geographically
51   sparse; for examplpe, the Highlands & Islands region has
52   only one such hub.

53   v)   Research on the Scottish Games Ecosystem by the
54   University of Glasgow and the University of Stirling found
55   significant challenges facing the industry, including a deficit
56   in business skills within games companies, a lack of
57   dedicated funding and academic support, poor
58   understanding of the industry, and the absence of a central
59   gaming 'hub' or support body.

60   Conference calls for the Scottish Government to:

61   i)   Formally recognise the video games sector as a distinct
62   industry in its own right, with tailored policy support
63   reflecting its specific challenges; embed the sector across all
64   relevant digital, economic and technical strategies; and
65   recognise eGaming as an emerging part of Scotland's
66   sporting and cultural landscape.

67   ii)   Establish regional 'Hubs' across all areas of Scotland for
68   both digital media and the video games industry, providing
69   low cost office space for both sectors, rather than just rent-
70   a-desk options currently available within Techsaler Hubs.

71   iii)   Create a Games Innovation Centre to act as a central hub
72   for research, development and expertise sharing, to support
73   the development of regional hubs that facilitate upskilling
74   new start-ups with vital business skills, ensuring long-term
75   survival and encouraging good practices against exploitative
76   design mechanics.

77   iv)   Work with the Scottish Games Network in enacting the
78   Scottish Games Action Plan, which has been co-created with
79   all key stakeholders within the industry.

80   v)   Launch a new pilot fund specifically dedicated to both
81   industries and targeted at sector growth for newer start-up
82   studios, with specific consideration for the cultural
83   significance of the projects.

84   vi)   Condition access to any public funding or support body on
85   games companies adhering to fair work policy practices,

Saturday

Saturday 21st February cont.

86   such as Fair Work First, to ensure the fair treatment of all
87   employees within the industry across Scotland.

88   vii) Engage with the industry, alongside the UK Government, to
89   define and support established trade union bodies for the
90   industry, and take steps to prevent any 'union-busting'
91   practies by companies.

92   viii) Develop a new educational strategy which moves beyond
93   relying on past success by actively attracting industry-
94   leading experts and developing the next generation of high-
95   quality univeraity courses, putting practical experience, such
96   as guaranteed industry placements, at the core to address
97   barriers to entering the sector.

98   ix) Explore business rate exemptions for digital media and
99   video games start-ups for the period of a 'first product
100   release window' while these companies establish a steady
101   revenue stream.

Movers and summations; 12 minutes. This is assumed to be Mover: 8 minutes, and Summator: 4 minutes. All other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see pages 5-9.

Motion SC5 - Pre-Manifesto: Change with Fairness at its Heart

Chair: Jenni Lang
Aide: Paul McGarry
Submitted by member signatories.

Mover: **Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP,** Edinburgh West
Summation: **Neil Casey,** Central Scotland

1   Conference accepts 'Change with Fairness at its Heart' - the pre-
2   manifesto of the Scottish Liberal Democrats and calls for it to be
3   combined with additional points of detail and further relevant
4   provisions, further proposals made at conference, and with up-
5   to-date budget and economic forecasts, to provide the basis for
6   the manifesto for the 2026 Scottish Parliament elections.

The full pre-manifesto document can be found on the conference hub

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at scotlibdems.org.uk/conference/pre-manifesto

This motion is a ratification of a policy paper. The paper will be published no later than two weeks before Conference, and amendments may be submitted by five members, a local party or an associated organisation. They must be sent to conference@scotlibdems.org.uk by 12pm on Thursday 19th February 2026.

12:15 Lunch Break and Fringes

See pages 43-47 for Fringe session details.

14:30 Motion SC6 - Restoring and Protecting Scotland's Rural Bridges

Chair: Mel Sullivan
Aide: Ross Stalker
Submitted by member signatories.

Mover: **Isobel Knights,** Angus & Mearns
Summation: **TBC**

1   Conference notes that:

2   i)   Scotland's local authorities are responsible for maintaining
3   33,534 miles of roads and 13,350 bridges, of which
4   approximately 9,200 are in areas classified as rural.

5   ii) In 2023, RAC Foundation research estimated the bridge
6   maintenance backlog across Scotland's local authorities to
7   be £918,257,831. Local authorities reported that they wish
8   to return a combined total of 302 bridges to full carrying
9   capacity, but that at current funding levels they would only
10   be able to do so for 20 of these by 2027/28.

11 iii) The maintenance backlog is disproportionately distributed
12   across local authorities, with Aberdeenshire reporting an
13   estimated figure in 2024 of £100 million.

14 iv) In 2023, the Scottish Government opted not to renew the

Saturday 21st February cont.

15   Local Bridge Maintenance Fund.

16   Conference also notes with concern that:

17   i)   There is a dual crisis facing rural infrastructure:

18
19
20   a)   Economically damaging weight restrictions on bridges that are backlogged for maintenance to bring them back to full carrying capacity.

21
22   b)   Deteriorating bridges on lifeline routes that are at risk of total closure which would isolate communities.

23
24
25
26   ii)   The absence of a dedicated fund for bridge maintenance means that rural council are forced to prioritise keeping lifeline routes open over restoring full capacity, effectively engaging in the managed decline of the rural road network.

27   Conference believes that:

28
29
30   i)   People in Scotland deserve to live in flourishing communities with the agency and resources to improve their local area.

31
32
33   ii)   Local authorities must receive fair and adequate funding to fully service their communities, moving away from short-term 'patch-up' repairs towards long-term resilience.

34
35
36   Conference reaffirms the Scottish Liberal Democrat commitment to a strong rural economy and the protection of lifeline transport services.

37   Conference calls for the Scottish Government to:

38
39
40   i)   Reinstate the Local Bridge Maintenance Fund as a multi-year capital programme, and expand it to cover two distinct funding streams.

41
42
43   a)   A Strategic Capacity Stream to provide capital for strengthening bridges where load restrictions are creating a significant economic bottleneck, and

44
45
46   b)   A Lifeline Resilinece Stream to provide emergency capital for bridges where deterioration threatens imminent closure of a lifeline route.

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47
48
49
50   ii)   Work in partnership with COSLA to agree a Strategic Bridge Renewal Programme, with the explicit goal of delivering a year-on-year reduction in the maintenance backlog and the number of load restricted bridges.

Movers and summations; 12 minutes. This is assumed to be Mover: 8 minutes, and Summator: 4 minutes. All other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see pages 5-9.

Speech - Adam Harley

Adam Harley
Candidate for Strathkelvin & Bearsden

Motion SC7 - Safe and Ethical AI Deployment in GP Practices and NHS Scotland

Chair: Fraser Graham
Aide: David Evans
Submitted by Paisley and Renfrewshire Liberal Democrats.

Mover: **Ross Stalker**, Paisley and Renfrewshire
Summation: **TBC**

1   Conference notes that:

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3
4
5   i)   According to the latest survey by the Royal College of General Practitioners Scotland, GPs spend around 22% of their day on administrative tasks that do not improve patient care.

6
7
8
9
10   ii)   Rapid development of Large Language Models (LLMs) and Large Multimodal Models (LMMs) has led to American Big Tech firms now strongly pushing the narrative that these models represent a form of general purpose artificial cognition.

11
12
13   iii)   There is growing evidence that LLMs and LMMs are not cognitive, but probabilistic, and therefore, issues such as confabulation, token bias and algorithmic pareidolia are

Saturday 21st February cont.

14 ultimately not solvable.

15 iv) The increasing environmental cost of generative AI is
16 particularly pronounced when the data centres powering
17 the models are located in the United States.

18 Conference believes that:

19 i) While we should embrace the potential of technology to
20 reduce the administrative buden on GPs, it is critical that a
21 distinction is maintained between generative AI (which
22 unreliably creates new contetn, even when it appears to be
23 referencing existing knowledge) and extractive NLP (Natural
24 Language Processing, which reliably organsies and
25 categorises data).

26 ii) The industry narrative suggesting that LLMs and LMMs
27 possess 'cognition', 'reasoning' or 'understanding' is
28 scientifically flawed, and dangerous when applied to a
29 healthcare context.

30 iii) The use of models which are affected by token bias in a
31 decision making context will inevitably introduce an
32 upredictable and unacceptable source of discrimination.

33 iv) the 'human-in-the-loop' principle is non-negotiable, and as
34 such a GP or another appropriate clinician must remain the
35 final author and auditor of all clinical decisions and
36 communications.

37 v) Using generative AI for direct diagnostic purposes, such as
38 interpreting medical imagery or data, or summarising
39 unread patient histories, poses unacceptable patient safety
40 risks.

41 vi) The appropriate use of AI in healthcare is proven,
42 specialised tools that primarily assist with workflow
43 management, rather than generative tools that make false
44 claims of reasoning and dangerously overpromise on their
45 capabilities.

46 Conference calls for Healthcare Improvement Scotland to:

47 i) Classify LLMs/LMMs as entirely unsuitable for diagnostic or

48 clinical decision-making duties.

49 ii) Produce a Safe Transcription Standard for GP surgeries and
50 consultants, such that voice-to-text tools are only permitted
51 if they:

52 a) Incorporate preprocessing steps such as noise gating,
53 voice activity detection and speaker classification to
54 reduce the risk of confabulation.

55 b) Are limited to acting as transcription assistants, with a
56 mandatory 'human-in-the-loop' verification step before
57 any data is committed to the patient record.

58 iii) Ensure that only predictable, narrow-scope Computer
59 Vision tools with medical device certification are deployed
60 for patient image analysis.

61 iv) Require that NHS Scotland data remains within the
62 European Economic Area of UK jurisdiction and that
63 nomodel training or computation is carried out under a US
64 Data Processing Agreement.

65 v) Permit the use of LLMs to generate synthetic training data
66 only for the purpose of building smaller, more reliable, and
67 fully auditable NLP tools.

68 vi) Promote the use of reliable extractive NLP technologies
69 specifically designed to reduce the administrative burden
70 on GPs.

Movers and summations; 12 minutes. This is assumed to be Mover: 8 minutes, and Summator: 4 minutes. All other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see pages 5-9.

Speech - Yi-Pei Chou Turvey

Yi-Pei Chou Turvey
Candidate for the North East Scotland region

Saturday 21st February cont.

Motion SC8 - Safeguarding the Scottish School Estate

Chair:
Aide:
Submitted by member signatories

Mover: **Noah McGarry**, East Dunbartonshire
Summation: **TBC**

1   Conference notes that:

2   i)   A Fire report for Lenzie Academy in 2025 found a
3   'substantial risk to lfie' because of broken fire doors and
4   obstructions to fire exits.

5   ii) Lenzie Academy is over 68 years old. The discussion to
6   rebuild the secondary school has been going on for over a
7   decade. It is proposed that the school will be rebuilt,
8   however, this is controversial because the identified site was
9   deemed unsuitable for a school in 2018.

10   iii) Public consultation on the school site began only after the
11   decision had already been made, and followed the rejection
12   of an amendment by the Liberal Democrat Council group
13   calling for a public consultation.

14   iv) In Scotland, six schools have been rated as in bad condition
15   and 195 in poor condition. It should be noted that both the
16   East Dunbartonshire Council and Scottish Parliament
17   buidlings are still in excellent condition. Only one council
18   has a headquarters rated as being in bad condition.

19   Conference believes that:

20   i)   No student or teacher should have to go to school
21   wondering if the building is a fire trap or has other safety
22   risks. Scotland should guarantee a safe place for every
23   student.

24   ii) Waiting until something breaks before fixing it is not a good
25   way for local authorities to run schools.

26   iii) The root cause of this mess is a failure to fund local

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27   authorities. For years, the Scottish Government has
28   squeezed council budgets leaving them with no choice but
29   to let buildings crumble. You can't fix a national
30   infrastructure crisis with 'pocket change' and empty
31   promises.

32   iv) Teachers are excellent and work hard for students, if they
33   do not have the right environment of building or the correct
34   facilities to teach students, then they are being expected to
35   do the job with one hand tied behind their back.

36   v)   A fair society requires that schools are 'fit for the 21st
37   century', and include ASN facilities and respond to climate
38   change.

39   vi) We shouldn't have to send Freedom of Information
40   requestes just to find out if our school is safe. We have a
41   right to know the truth about the buildings that students
42   spend six to seven hours a day in.

43   Conference calls on the Scottish Government to:

44   i)   Start a massive, independent fire safety check of every
45   single school in Scotland right now, so no other school ends
46   up in the same state as Lenzie.

47   ii) Establish a 'Duty to Maintain' that forces councils to be
48   honest every year abouce what needs fixing and how
49   they're going to pay for it over the next five years.

50   iii) Create a special fund to fix crumbling schools, and make
51   them safe.

52   iv) Change how we build schools so that:

53   a) They actually ask us, the students and staff, what we
54   need during the design phase.

55   b) Every new school s built for ASN students as standard,
56   with sensory rooms and proper facilities included from
57   the start.

Movers and summations; 12 minutes. This is assumed to be Mover: 8 minutes, and Summator: 4 minutes. All other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see pages 5-9.

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Tribute: Lord Wallace of Tankerness

Motion EM2: Emergency Motion

Motion SC9 - Digital Inequality as Modern Poverty

Chair: Sanne Dijkstra-Downie
Aide: David Evans
Submitted by member signatories

Mover: **Paul McGarry**, East Dunbartonshire
Summation: **TBC**

1 Conference notes that:

2 i) Audit Scotland reports that around 1 in 6 adults in Scotland
3 lack essential skills for everyday life, and that 9% of
4 households do not have an actual internet connection.

5 ii) Current work on a Minimum Digital Living Standard shows
6 that 60% of Scots fall below the designed standard. This
7 means they lack sufficient devices, connectivity or the skills
8 to access some essential services.

9 iii) Groups that are disproportionately affectd by digital
10 inequality include low-income households, digital people,
11 older people, carers and those who are in social housing or
12 rural areas.

13 iv) Audit Scotland highlights that digital exclusion limits
14 people's access to services and life opportunities, and many
15 are excluded entirely from services that are 'digital by
16 default'.

17 v) Evidence from the Scottish Census and local education
18 statistics show that digital exclusion affects children and
19 their ability to engage in remote learning, accessing
20 resources and leads to a deepening in the attainment gap.

21 Conference believes that:

22 i) Digital Access is a basic necessity, not a luxury.

23 ii) Tackling digital inequality is essential to tackling poverty,
24 reducing isolation, improving economic productivity and
25 supporting participation in communities, society and wider
26 democracy.

27 iii) Digital inclusion requires affordable connectivity, suitable
28 devices, and the skills and confidence to use them safely.

29 iv) Digital-first service design must never mean digital-only, and
30 offline routes must remain genuinely accessible.

31 Conference therefore calls for the Scottish Government to:

32 i) Introduce a Scottish Digital Access Guarantee, providing:

33 a) Affordable broadband and mobile sata offers for low-
34 income households.

35 b) Device loan and repair schemes, particularly in social
36 housing and schools.

37 c) Local digital skills hubs in libraries, colleges and
38 community centres.

39 ii) Conduct a feasibility study in offering free broadband
40 across Scotland.

41 iii) Work with social landlords and local authorities to roll out
42 secure, shared Wi-Fi in social housing and community
43 buildings, prioritising areas of high deprivation and rural
44 communities.

45 iv) Establish Digital Apprenticeships for Community
46 Technologists, enabling people to gain qualifications while
47 supporting their local community with skills training, device
48 setup and troubleshooting.

49 v) Require all public bodies to provide non-digital access
50 routes to essential services, and to assess the impact of
51 'digital by default' approaches on people at risk of exclusion.

52 vi) Embed digital privacy, safety and confidence education
53 across the Curriculum for Excellence from upper primary

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54		onwards, including consent, scams, misinformation and
55		online mental health.
56	vii)	Commit to measuring progress towards a Minimum Digital
57		Living Standard for all households in Scotland, with regular
58		public reporting and targeted support where gaps remain.

Movers and summations; 12 minutes. This is assumed to be Mover: 8 minutes, and Summator: 4 minutes. All other speakers: 3 minutes. For eligibility and procedure for speaking in this debate, see pages 5-9.

Party Awards

Close of Conference

Accessibility

If you need assistance at the venue, please contact the Information Desk where our stewards will be on hand to help. If you need assistance or information in advance, please contact the Conference team on:

conference@scotlibdems.org.uk

Auditorium facilities

- A wheelchair ramp at the front of the stage; the chair of the session will ensure wheelchair users are called in plenty of time to access the stage.

- A permanent wired induction loop hearing system - consisting of an 8 way loop. The system transmits sound wirelessly directly to the hearing device, such as a hearing aid, cochlear implant, or loop listener, when it is switched to the hearing loop setting.

- Reserved seats at the front of the auditorium for those who would benefit from being closer to the stage due to a visual or

other access reason.

- If you have any accessibility requirements in the auditorium and need guidance, please reach out to one of the stewards in the auditorium who will be able to assist, or speak to someone at the Speakers Desk near the front of the auditorium.

Conference Access Fund

We have established a Conference Access Fund to improve accessibility for members attending conference.

The fund consists of a contribution from the conference budget as well as donations from party members. Contributions made by members are ring-fenced and only used for these purposes. We often have a shortfall of funds donated so appreciate all contributions.

For details email:

conference@scotlibdems.org.uk

Assistance and Emotional Support Animal Policy

Please ensure that you have read our policy regarding assistance and emotional support animals at conference prior to arriving onsite:

www.libdems.org.uk/conference/animalspolicy

Agenda Update and Daily Bulletin

Agenda Update is published ahead of conference and Daily Bulletin each day at conference, containing updates to the agenda including changes to timings, amendments, topical issues, emergency motions and questions to reports, available at:

www.scotlibdems.org.uk/conference

Limited hard copies of Daily Bulletin will be available each morning from the Information Desk.

Distribution of Literature

Distribution of literature is not allowed inside or directly outside the conference venue.

Saturday

Information

Any persons attempting to bring a large number of flyers/literature into the conference centre may be prohibited from entering and a dilapidation charge will be levied against any organisation or individual responsible for 'fly-posting'.

First Aid

In the event of needing First Aid, please speak go to Information Desk. The team will arrange for First Aiders to attend and/or request a paramedic.

Live Stream

The conference will be streamed live at:

www.youtube.com/@scotlibdem

in case you miss any sessions or want to watch again!

Lost Property

Any lost property will be handed into the front desk or the venue reception.

Member Welfare

Health Assured is an independent health and wellbeing provider that can offer wellbeing resources as well as a 24/7 365 helpline. All Liberal Democrat members have access to the Health Assured Support Helpline at 0800 028 0199. Members should feel free to use this service as needed.

If you wish to make a complaint regarding conduct or behaviour at conference please do so by contacting the main help desk or the Scottish Conference Convenor, making clear that you wish to make a complaint.

Recycling Facilities

Recycling facilities are available throughout the venue. Please make use of the collection bins.

Registration On-site

On-site registration is located at the front desk and will be open at the following times (if you need to register or collect your badge):

Friday 20th February: 8.45am

At busy times you may experience queues at on-site registration and we strongly advise all those wishing to attend conference to pre-register.

Security and Safety

Access to conference is possible only with a valid conference pass worn with the official lanyard. Conference photo passes must be worn visibly at all times within the secure zone. Anyone found in the secure area without a valid pass will be escorted from the venue.

Information

Information

Directory of Exhibitors

ALDC – Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors

ALDC provides advice, training and resources for local campaigners and councillors. Visit the stand to get updates on local government, campaigning and much more.

British Heart Foundation

BHF is the UK's largest independent funder of research into heart and circulatory diseases in Scotland, currently funding £52 million across eight research institutions. We strive to be at the heart of decision making in Scotland to offer our expertise and experience.

We will be spotlighting BHF Scotland's work to improve survival rates of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, highlighting advancements like The Circuit and RevivR. We will be discussing our latest report exploring inequalities in the provision of public-access defibrillators and potential ways to improve survival rates in Scotland.

Cancer Research UK - *Saturday only*

Cancer Research UK is the world's largest independent cancer charity dedicated to saving lives through research. We support research into over 200 types of cancer, and our vision is to bring forward the day when all cancers are cured. In 2023/24, we invested over £31 million in research in Scotland.

Chest, Heart & Stroke Scotland

We are Scotland's leading healthcare charity for people with chest, heart, stroke conditions and long covid. Find out more about our services and lived-experience led manifesto.

Crisis

Crisis is the national charity for people experiencing homelessness. We research and campaign for the social changes needed to solve homelessness, with our latest campaign focused on how to end all forms of homelessness in Scotland by 2040.

EIS

The Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) is Scotland's largest teaching trade union with almost 65,000 members employed in nursery, primary, special, secondary, further and higher education. The EIS represents over 80% of all teachers and lecturers in Scotland and campaigns to protect and improve their pay and conditions of service as well as seeking to promote "sound learning" across all sectors.

European Movement in Scotland

The European Movement in Scotland(EMiS) is Scotland's pro Europe voice. We are the largest pro-EU non-party political campaigning organisation in Scotland. Our goal is membership of the European Union. We campaign to promote the European Union and Scotland's fullest possible participation now and for the future.

Hospice UK - *Friday only*

As the national champion for hospices, we fight to make sure hospice care is there for everyone, from every background. We fight to make sure hospices are able to deliver the best, most personalised care. We fight to make sure hospices can thrive – today and into the future.

Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine

LDFP has been campaigning for nearly 20 years to support peace, justice, accountability and self-determination for the Palestinian people under international law. We call on all Lib Dem party members to back this objective, and we actively lobby for it within Parliament and in the wider political sphere.

Exhibition

Exhibition

Liberal International Group

Liberal International Scotland is part of LIBG, affiliated to Liberal International - the global federation of liberal parties. Its aims are to keep liberal values - human rights, social justice, democracy and rule of law - alive in the face of adversity. Working with like-minded parties across the globe, we want to keep Britain's pro-European, internationalist voice audible loud and clear across the globe.

Liberal Voice for Women - *Saturday only*

Liberal Voice for Women exists to protect and advance the rights and interests of women and girls from within the Liberal Democrats.

Marie Curie

Marie Curie is the largest third sector provider of palliative care for adults in Scotland, supporting over 8,000 terminally ill people in 2022-23.

#MEAction Scotland

#MEAction Scotland is a registered charity raising awareness of Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) throughout Scotland, campaigning for health equality for the patient community, and calling for education on ME for GPs and other health professionals. ME is a profoundly debilitating, complex energy-limiting disease, affecting multiple systems within the body.

National Autistic Society

We're here to help the 700,000 autistic people in the UK and their families. Be it running specialist schools, campaigning for improved rights or training companies on being more autism-friendly, we are dedicated to transforming lives and changing attitudes.

Exhibition

NSPCC Scotland - *Friday only*

We are the UK's leading charity dedicated to keeping children safe and ending child abuse and neglect. For over 140 years, we've worked to create secure, inclusive environments where babies, children and young people can grow free from harm. NSPCC Scotland believes every childhood is worth fighting for.

Ramblers Scotland, Scotways & The British Horse Society

Ramblers Scotland, ScotWays (The Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society) and British Horse Society Scotland share a common passion for ensuring that Scotland's world class outdoor access rights are reflected in everyday reality.

These access rights were introduced in 2003 by a Liberal Democrat Cabinet Minister in a Labour-Liberal Democrat government in Scotland. However, 20 years on, they are being undermined, at a time of record demand, by chronic underfunding of infrastructure, education and compliance.

Join us to discuss our shared policy proposals for the next Parliament and how, together, we can put that right! www.ramblers.org.uk/Scotmanifesto

RSPB Scotland

RSPB Scotland is part of the RSPB, the UK's largest nature conservation charity, with 1.2 million members and 11,000 volunteers, all acting for nature. We protect and restore habitats and landscapes, save species and are helping to tackle the nature and climate emergency. For over a century we've been a voice for birds and the natural world, inspiring and influencing millions through conservation, powerful partnerships and campaigning. Our network of nature reserves sits at the heart of our world-leading science and conservation delivery. We want to see a shared world where wildlife, wild places and all people thrive.

Exhibition

Scottish Autism

We are Scotland's leading autism charity. We support autistic people and their families across the country, and take action to achieve the more inclusive world we want for all autistic people.

Scottish Police Federation

The Scottish Police Federation is the staff association that represents over 99% of the police officers in Scotland; currently more than 16,250 members. With a remit for both the welfare of our members and efficiency of the service we are the only statutory consultative body for the police service in Scotland.

Scottish Swimming

Scottish Swimming is the national governing body for swimming and aquatics in Scotland. Scottish Swimming represents our clubs, swim schools, aquatic disciplines, athletes, teachers and thousands of talented and committed volunteers across the entire swimmer pathway. We are focused on delivering in the following key areas to reach our vision to ensure that everyone can swim: More Swimmers; Stronger Clubs; Supporting Athletes; Active Communities

Scottish Liberal Democrat Policy Committee

The Scottish Liberal Democrat Policy Committee is an elected group of party members. Its role is to support policy development, help shape the manifesto, and turn conference motions and mini-motions into formal policy. The committee acts as a bridge between members and the party in the policy-making process. If there is an idea for a policy, motion, or mini-motion, we're here to help — get in touch.

Scottish Lib Dem Women/LGBT+ Lib Dems

SLDW are an associated group of the party, advocating for and representing women in the Scottish Liberal Democrats.

LGBT+ Lib Dems are an associated group of the party, advocating for and representing the LGBT+ community within the Liberal Democrats.

Scottish Young Liberals

We are the youth and student wing of the Party.

We exist to fight for a fair Scotland, free and tolerant based on our own values and principles of liberty and equality. We have a proud history dating back to the early 20th century championing radical and liberal thought.

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS) is Scotland's climate coalition, bringing together over 70 civil society organisations campaigning together on climate change.

Our membership is diverse and includes national and community organisations working on climate justice, environment and nature, gender and social justice, faith and belief, international development, worker and human rights, and health and inequality.

Walking Scotland

We promote the benefits of walking and wheeling on our physical, social, and mental health. Our programmes connect communities and inspire positive behaviour change. We also improve places and spaces to walk and wheel.

Fringe Guide

What is Fringe?

The 'fringe' is the term used for the many individual events, hosted by businesses/commercial organisations, charities, think tanks, party bodies, NGOs and trade bodies, etc. They take place around the main conference and offer the opportunity to hear from expert guest speakers on a huge range of topics. Events taking place can include seminars, debates, workshops and receptions.

Fringe meeting access

All fringe events listed in the official fringe venues are wheelchair-accessible.

If you experience any access difficulties, please let the Information Desk know or make a comment on your online feedback.

If you have any concerns or compliments about a fringe event at conference, please contact the event organiser during or at the end of the session.

Key to fringe listings

 Hearing loop   Refreshments provided

Friday 20th February

Fringe Session: 13.15 - 14.15

NSPCC Scotland

Read, Write, Relationships Campaign

Ozone Room

Join us for a fringe event on NSPCC Scotland's new Read, Write, Relationships campaign. This campaign calls for the prioritisation of Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP) education within the Scottish curriculum and follows calls for a statutory duty to provide RSHP education by young people involved in the Young Women Know campaign.

As part of the event, we'll be looking at what children and young people get taught in school to help keep them safe and what more we can be doing to ensure that relationships education is at the heart of Scottish schools.

Speakers: **Niamh Mussen**, NSPCC Policy & Public Affairs Officer; other panellists TBC

Fringe Session: 17.00 - 18.00

ASLDC

Annual General Meeting

Biosphere Green

For further details see the daily bulletin.

Saturday 21st February

Fringe Session 1: 12.15 - 13.15

Robert Gordon University & North East Scotland College

Unlocking Skills for Scotland's Future

Biosphere Blue

Scotland's future prosperity depends on equipping people with the skills to meet evolving economic, social and technological challenges. This joint panel will explore how Robert Gordon University (RGU) and North East Scotland College (NESCol) are leading the way in developing the workforce of tomorrow. Speakers will discuss the role of colleges and universities in supporting economic transformation and social mobility. The discussion will highlight pathways into education and training, the importance of lifelong learning, and the power of collaboration. With the Scottish elections fast-approaching, join us to discuss what Scotland needs from our universities and colleges.

Panel Speakers: **Willie Rennie MSP**; **Duncan Cockburn**, RGU Deputy Vice Chancellor; **Neil Cowie**, NESCol Principal; and **Zaibi Nisa**, RGU Student Ambassador. Chair: **Susan Elston**, Chair of the NESCol Regional Board

MCS Foundation

A Commitment to Clean Heat: From Ambition to Action at Home

Ozone Room

Scotland has set some of the most ambitious climate targets in the UK, with a legal commitment to reach net zero by 2045. Yet homes remain a major part of the challenge, accounting for around 13% of Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time, Scotland is rapidly becoming a nation powered by clean, renewable electricity, creating a major opportunity to put that homegrown energy to work heating our homes.

Making the most of this opportunity means scaling up the use of modern, efficient heat pumps and heat networks, while ensuring the transition to clean heat works for all households across Scotland. This fringe event will explore how we can deliver a fair, affordable, and practical transition away from fossil-fuel heating.

The panel will discuss what a just transition looks like in practice, how energy costs and policy signals shape consumer choices, and the role of quality standards and consumer protection in building trust and confidence. Speakers will also reflect on clean heat success stories, the respective roles of local, national and UK government, and how clear targets can help households and industry prepare for change.

Speakers: **Susan Murray MP**; **Paul McGarry**, Spokesperson for Housing & Homelessness; **David Cowdrey**, Director of External Affairs, The MCS Foundation; **Gillian Campbell**, Director, Existing Homes Alliance

Fringe Session 2: 13.20 - 14.20

Nuclear Industry Association

Nuclear Power in a Balanced Energy Mix: Scotland's Path to a Just Transition

Biosphere Blue

Nuclear energy is the ideal complement to renewables in Scotland's drive towards a new, green economy. It provides clean, reliable baseload power, delivering the stability required for an affordable and secure electricity system. Nuclear power reduces reliance on imported gas and supports well-paid, highly skilled jobs, particularly in rural Scotland.

Yet while England and Wales are moving ahead with new nuclear developments, Scotland is missing out on investment as a result of the SNP Government's short-sighted stubbornness and ideological opposition to nuclear. By embracing a balanced energy mix of nuclear and renewables, Scotland could unlock significant investment, create high-quality jobs and secure a stronger energy future.

Speaker: **David Green**, Liberal Democrat Candidate for Caithness, Sutherland and Ross; other speakers TBC

Uplift

Building a Liberal vision for the energy transition in Scotland

Ozone Room

Scotland stands at the forefront of a significant opportunity. The transition away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy offers Scotland the chance to demonstrate global leadership whilst strengthening communities and putting power back into people's hands through locally-owned energy. In an increasingly uncertain world where the liberal, rules-based order is under strain, join us to explore the role Scotland can and must play in leading a fair energy transition – showing that championing climate action and upholding liberal democratic values can go hand in hand.

Speakers: **Alastair Carmichael MP** for Orkney and Shetland (invited) and **Tessa Khan**, Executive Director, Uplift

Liberal International Scotland

The Forgotten Conflicts: Sudan, DRC & Myanmar

Biosphere Green

Ongoing, unresolved conflicts are pushed aside when the world's attention moves on to the next disaster. Yet, millions of people have to try to survive the intense violence of warring political factions in deadly civil wars as in Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo and Myanmar. What is going on in these countries right now? What are the chances of peace? Is the UN powerless to act? Does the new, rapidly changing world order and empire building mean that some conflicts will be left to burn on full fire regardless of their humanitarian consequences?

Speakers: **Sir Graham Watson**, Chair of Liberal International British Group, **Gillian Gloyer**, Secretary of Liberal International Scotland, **Lord Purvis of Tweed**, Leader of the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords, **Dr Matteo Fumagalli**, Director of the Institute of Middle East, Central Asia and the Caucasus Studies (MECACS) at St Andrews University

Training & Skills at Conference

Friday 20th February

11:00 - 12:00 - Pick your 2027 candidates early!

A training session about all things 2027 local council elections selections - why getting selections sorted now will help you hit the ground running for 2027, as well as where to get started!

ALDC

Salisbury Suite

15:00 - 16:00 - Winning Online

As more and more voters turn to the internet for news and connection, it's never been more important for Liberal Democrats to engage with voters online. But the online campaigning landscape can be confusing and constantly changing. What works? What should we prioritise? How can we make the biggest impact?

Digital Team

Hutton Suite

16:00 - 17:00 - Confidential Campaign Briefing

Join this session to learn about our core national message for the Holyrood elections, what we're aiming for and how you can play your part. Whether you're a candidate who wants to find out more about what we're saying and why, or an activist that wants to play a part in a winning campaign, this is your chance to find out more.

Scottish Campaigns Team

Salisbury Suite

Saturday 21st February

10:30 - 11:30 - Beating Reform UK

Get a clear picture of the different types of Reform UK voters in Scotland and how to campaign smartly in response. We'll share ways to win over the waverers and push back effectively against the hardliners.

Scottish Campaigns Team

Salisbury Suite

14:30 - 15:30 - Recruiting More People

Join this session to learn about recruiting more people to your campaign, more members to your local party, and turning members and supporters into volunteers and activists.

Scottish HQ Team

Hutton Suite

15:45 - 16:45 - What To Do In The Last Ten Weeks

The Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors & Campaigners take you through the last 10 weeks of the 2026 Scottish Parliament Election, what to do and what to avoid. All of the tips and tricks you can learn to help us get even more MSPs at Holyrood!

ALDC

Salisbury Suite

Fringe & Training

Standing Orders

1.   Abbreviations and Definitions

1.1.   "Scottish Conference Committee" (SCC) refers to the committee specified in Clause E10 of the Constitution. A "Standing Order" may be abbreviated as SO.

1.2.   An "attendee" is anyone registered and present at a Conference. An attendee participating under Clauses E18 or E19 of the Constitution is a "remote attendee". A "voting attendee" is an attendee entitled to vote under Clause E5 of the Constitution.

1.3.   A "qualified submitter" is any organisation or group of members authorised to submit motions or amendments under Clause E9 of the Constitution.

1.4.   "Party Committees" are the Executive specified in Clause F19 of the Constitution and the Standing Committees specified in Clause F26 of the Constitution.

1.5.   "Code of Conduct" refers to the Federal Party's Code of Conduct for Members and Registered Supporters.

2.   The Timetable and Agenda

2.1.   Before each Conference, SCC shall prepare a timetable that includes:

2.1.1.   the deadline for receipt of policy and business motions, not later than six weeks before Conference.

2.1.2.   an Agenda publication date, not later than four weeks before Conference.

2.1.3.   a deadline for emergency motions, not later than 5pm on the day before the debate.

2.1.4.   a deadline for amendments, not later than 5pm two days before the relevant debate.

2.2.   SCC may set later deadlines than in SO 2.1 in extraordinary circumstances, and shall report its reasons to the Conference.

2.3.   SCC shall decide the time allocation and order of Agenda items, which may take the form of:

2.3.1.   debates on policy motions, emergency motions, or Policy Paper ratifications.

Standing Orders cont.

2.3.2. internal Party business sessions open only to voting attendees, such as business motion debates, the Party's Annual General Meeting, and any debate of amendments to the Constitution or Standing Orders.

2.3.3. any session deemed appropriate by SCC or required by these Standing Orders.

2.4. Outwith the context of scheduled Agenda items, the Conference Convener is the Chair of Conference. If the Conference Convener is absent, SCC shall appoint one of their membership or a member of the Party Executive to act in their place. For each Agenda item, SCC shall appoint a Chair to direct proceedings, who:

2.4.1. shall be assisted by an Aide, also appointed by SCC, if the item is a debate or if SCC deems it necessary.

2.4.2. shall be appointed as soon as practicable but may be substituted by SCC at any time up to the start of the session.

2.4.3. shall normally be the Party Convener during internal Party business sessions.

2.5. As soon as practicable after publication of the Agenda, SCC shall make Party members broadly aware that it is available for viewing. The Agenda shall contain:

2.5.1. the order of Agenda items and the timings of any internal Party business session.

2.5.2. the full text of accepted policy and business motions, and notification of Policy Paper ratification motions scheduled under SO 3.4.

2.5.3. the full text of motions to amend the Constitution or Standing Orders that are scheduled for debate.

2.5.4. notification of reports to voting attendees scheduled under SO 7, and the report text if available.

2.5.5. the provisional text of any holding motions submitted under SO 3.3.

2.5.6. any deadlines not already included in SO 2.1 relating to proceedings at the Conference.

2.6. SCC shall publish an Agenda Update online the evening before a Conference and provide paper copies at the Conference. This

Standing Orders cont.

shall contain:

2.6.1. the final text of any holding motions.

2.6.2. any motions to be debated following a successful appeal under SO 3.5, and resultant Agenda adjustments.

2.6.3. a notification of any Policy Paper to be put to voting attendees under SO 3.4, with a link to a digital copy.

2.6.4. the text of reports to voting attendees under SO 7, unless already published in the Agenda.

2.6.5. a reminder of deadlines relating to proceedings at the Conference.

2.6.6. the name of at least one SCC member, aside from the Conference Convener, designated to receive complaints and appeals under SO 16.

2.7. SCC shall publish a Daily Bulletin online the evening before each day of a Conference and provide paper copies at the start of the day's proceedings. This shall contain:

2.7.1. any emergency motions scheduled for debate that day, and the amendment deadline as per SO 8.

2.7.2. any amendments scheduled for debate that day.

2.7.3. any information the SCC deems pertinent to the day's Conference events.

2.8. SCC may propose variations in the order or timing of Agenda items, which shall be put to attendees for a vote and take immediate effect if approved. SCC need not seek approval for such variation if its purpose is:

2.8.1. to address technical disruptions preventing the participation of remote attendees.

2.8.2. permitted as a specific Agenda adjustment under the Standing Orders.

3.   Submission of Motions and Amendments

3.1. Any submission to a Conference must:

3.1.1. be well-structured, workable, and clear in its aims.

Standing Orders cont.

3.1.2.   not obstruct separate votes or amendments.

3.1.3.   not be fundamentally incompatible with the Party's objectives as outlined in the Preamble to the Constitution.

3.1.4.   in the case of business motions and amendments to the Constitution, be supported by the timely publication of any reports created to develop the requirement, purpose, scope, or method of the submission, unless there is sufficient legal justification not to.

3.2.   SCC may require that a motion or amendment be redrafted for inclusion in the Agenda. Qualified submitters shall provide the name and contact details of a person authorised to agree to any redraft at the time of submission. SCC shall inform qualified submitters of the outcome of its selection process as soon as is practicable.

3.3.   Party Committees may submit policy or business motions as holding motions. SO 2 and SO 3 shall apply to holding motions, except that:

3.3.1.   the text published in the Agenda is provisional, but must clearly identify the issues to be addressed in the final motion text.

3.3.2.   the final text shall be submitted not less than two weeks before the start of the Conference, when SCC shall make it broadly available to Party members with a reminder of the deadline for amendments.

3.4.   The Policy Committee may submit motions for the ratification of a Policy Paper, to the same deadline as policy motions under SO 2. This Policy Paper:

3.4.1.   shall be made available to Party members as soon as practicable, ideally at the same time as the Agenda but no later than two weeks before the start of the Conference.

3.4.2.   shall have its ratification debated at the Conference as would the passage of a motion under SO 5 and be subject to amendment of its text under SO 3 as would a motion.

3.4.3.   may be subject to separate votes on its text as would a motion under SO 13.

3.4.4.   should, if deemed beneficial by Policy Committee,

Standing Orders cont.

    contain bracketed passages enabling voting attendees to, at points during the debate deemed appropriate by the Chair, vote between alternative versions of the text.

3.5.   Qualified submitters whose motion or amendment is not selected for debate may appeal according to a procedure determined by SCC. Appeals:

3.5.1.   for motions must be received no less than three weeks before the start of the Conference.

3.5.2.   for amendments must be received no later than 24 hours before the scheduled debate.

3.5.3.   if upheld, shall result in a specific Agenda adjustment to make time for it, by SCC substituting a scheduled emergency motion debate, reducing the time allocated to other items by a maximum of five minutes each, or both.

3.6.   Copies of motions and amendments not selected for debate at the Conference shall be available for inspection by voting attendees upon request.

4.   Agenda for Special Conferences

4.1.   Special Conferences are as defined in Clause E16 of the Constitution.

4.2.   Other Standing Orders only apply to a Special Conference where not inconsistent with SO 4.

4.3.   Special Conferences shall address only the matters in the requisition notice. However, SCC may allow some time for:

4.3.1.   emergency motion debates.

4.3.2.   other urgent business arising since the requisition notice.

4.3.3.   internal Party business that cannot reasonably wait until the next ordinary Conference.

5.   Rules of Debate

5.1.   The Chair directs the order of debate, such that:

5.1.1.   the motion's mover speaks first, followed by speakers moving amendments in an order determined by SCC.

Standing Orders cont.

5.1.2.   general debate follows the proposing speeches, with the Chair calling attendees who have submitted Speaker's Cards.

5.1.3.   amendment summators speak after the general debate, in the same order as their amendments were moved.

5.1.4.   the motion's summator is the final speaker.

5.1.5.   unless otherwise directed under the Standing Orders, votes are taken after all speeches have concluded, first on amendments in the order they were moved, and then on the resultant motion.

5.2.   Anyone wishing to speak in a debate, including the mover and summator, must submit a Speaker's Card that indicates whether they intend to speak for or against a motion or amendment, and should also detail the points they intend to make.

5.3.   Movers and summators shall share:

5.3.1.   twelve minutes for policy motions and business motions.

5.3.2.   eight minutes for each amendment.

5.4.   The mover and summator may divide time as they wish, provided they notify the Chair on the mover's Speaker's Card.

Otherwise, the Chair may limit the mover to three-quarters of the time and the summator to one-quarter.

5.5.   Speakers in general debate are allocated three minutes. However, the Chair may vary this.

5.6.   The Chair is responsible for allocating speakers within the available time for general debate, informed by:

5.6.1.   all aspects presented by way of the Speaker's Cards.

5.6.2.   the principle that attendees can make the most informed decision when presented with the widest range of distinct points.

5.6.3.   an aspiration that the allotment provide equitable allowance for each side.

5.7.   To advance the Party's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion:

5.7.1.   SCC shall ensure that individuals from all backgrounds

Standing Orders cont.

can contribute to debates and are encouraged to do so.

5.7.2.   the Chair shall be mindful of gender balance and shall always seek to include underrepresented groups with a pertinent perspective on the issue under debate.

5.8.   No person may speak more than once in any debate, except that:

5.8.1.   a motion or amendment's mover may also be its summator.

5.8.2.   speeches during consideration of a petition arising from SO 11 or SO 12 are not counted towards this limit.

5.9.   The mover of any motion may speak to their endorsement of an amendment, in which case a vote shall still be taken on the amendment, but the Chair need not call the amendment's summator if no speech is made against it.

5.10.   Usually, only voting attendees may speak in a debate. However, SCC may authorise other attendees to speak.

5.11.   The Chair may direct that specific sections of text are to be debated separately. SCC may also combine multiple motions into one debate. In such cases, the Chair determines how the debate is structured but may only accordingly increase, not reduce, the total speaking time for movers and summators.

5.12.   For any motion not submitted by a Party Committee, the Committee with remit may nominate a member to report its views to the Conference. This person shall be called at any time up to the debate's conclusion and shall be allocated speaking time equal to the motion's mover. The Committee with remit is:

5.12.1.   Policy Committee for policy and emergency motions.

5.12.2.   the Executive Committee for business motions or motions to amend the Constitution.

5.12.3.   SCC for motions to amend Standing Orders or motions otherwise relating to Conference proceedings.

5.13.   SO 5 applies to the consideration of petitions arising from SO 11 or SO 12:

5.13.1.   only where not inconsistent with the Standing Order relevant to the petition.

5.13.2.   except that speakers do not submit Speaker's Cards but

Standing Orders cont.

are called directly by the Chair.

5.14.   The Chair shall have general discretion over matters relating to the debate. So long as it is one that a reasonable person would have reached given the available facts, the Chair's decision is binding.

6.   Emergency Motions

6.1.   Other Standing Orders only apply to emergency motion debates where not inconsistent with SO 6.

6.2.   Emergency motions may be submitted by five Party members or any qualified submitter.

6.3.   The content of an emergency motion must be such that it could not have been submitted by the ordinary deadline for policy motions in SO 2. It must relate only to the emergency it seeks to address.

6.4.   Emergency motions cannot be holding motions or motions for Policy Paper ratification. They follow the same format as policy motions. However, SCC may allow an emergency business motion if there is a compelling justification for doing so.

6.5.   If no suitable emergency motions are received by the deadline, SCC may make a specific Agenda adjustment to replace the debate with an open forum on a topical issue.

6.6.   Emergency motions do not have a summator. The mover shall be allocated five minutes to speak.

6.7.   Notwithstanding SO 5.4, the motion's mover may be called again as the final speaker if, in the Chair's judgement, they have a right of reply to points raised in the debate. Such speeches are limited to two minutes.

6.8.   Amendments to emergency motions are not usually permitted. However, SCC may consider amendments submitted by five voting attendees or a qualified submitter if they are:

6.8.1.   brief, and proposing a change to the material effect of the motion that is suitable for debate.

6.8.2.   of a similar emergency nature to the motion itself.

6.8.3.   received by a member of SCC no later than one hour before the debate is scheduled to begin.

Standing Orders cont.

6.9.   Any amendment accepted under SO 6.8 shall be circulated to voting attendees before the debate.

7.   Reports to Conference

7.1.   Party Committees may invite reports to be presented for ratification by voting attendees. Reports may be authored by Party bodies or individual members.

7.2.   SCC must be notified of any invited report before the motion deadline in SO 2. Ideally, the report text should be provided to SCC before Agenda publication. Otherwise, it must be received by 5pm two days before the Conference.

7.3.   Reports may contain new policy for ratification if, in SCC's judgement, it is likely to have overwhelming support and does not necessitate debate. Ratification of such reports requires a four-fifths majority of voting attendees taking part in the vote.

7.4.   Voting attendees may submit questions for the report author:

7.4.1.   directly to SCC before the Conference, and SCC shall periodically compile and pass these to the author.

7.4.2.   during the Conference, at any time before the start of the session, via the Speaker's Desk, which the session's Chair shall pass to the author as soon as practicable.

7.5.   When notifying SCC under SO 7.2, the Committee shall state whether the report author wishes to address voting attendees. If so, SCC shall schedule appropriate speaking time.

7.6.   The author may direct the Chair as to when they wish to use their speaking time relative to the vote. However, if the vote falls, the Conference immediately proceeds to the next Agenda item.

7.7.   No amendments or separate votes shall be taken on the text of a report.

8.   Open Forums

8.1.   SCC has wide latitude over the format of any open forum session. For example, a panel-led Q&A or a consultation with Party Committees are both possible. The Chair shall explain the format to attendees at the beginning of the session.

8.2.   The Chair may hold indicative votes at any time during an open

Standing Orders cont.

forum, unless SCC directs otherwise. These votes are non-binding and do not make Party policy, and the Chair shall periodically remind attendees of this.

8.3. Indicative votes held during an open forum are not to be counted. Instead, the Chair's perception shall be recorded in the Conference minutes. This could be, for instance, that the cards appear evenly split, or that one suggestion appears to have attracted more support than another.

8.4. Although open forum sessions are not debates, the Chair should aspire to act in the spirit of SO 5.7.

9.   Mini Motions

9.1. Mini Motion sessions are a specific type of open forum in which:

9.1.1. the discussion topic is a series of written policy proposals submitted in advance to SCC by Party members.

9.1.2. indicative votes are taken at the end of the session or, if proposals are grouped under themes, at the end of each group's discussion.

9.2. The author of a policy proposal submitted under SO 9 shall have three minutes for a podium speech at the start of its discussion and may make a two-minute podium speech at the end to reply to points raised.

9.3. SCC shall normally invite a report under SO 7 from Policy Committee at the Conference following a Mini Motion session, detailing any policy development actions.

10.   Points of Order

10.1. Any voting attendee may raise a point of order directly with the Chair.

10.2. A point of order shall be taken immediately, except during a vote, unless it relates to the vote.

10.3. The decision of the Chair on all points of order shall be final.

11.   References Back

11.1. Any voting attendee may submit a petition to refer a policy or business motion back to a specific Party body. Such a petition:

Standing Orders cont.

11.1.1. must be submitted to SCC before 5pm on the day before the debate, unless submitted under SO 11.2.

11.1.2. must name the body to which the motion is to be referred and include a statement of reasons not exceeding two hundred words.

11.1.3. shall only require a procedural vote to progress to consideration if it was submitted directly to the Chair under SO 11.2.

11.2. After 5pm on the day before the debate, but before the beginning of the motion's summation, a petition to refer back may be submitted directly to the Chair via the Speaker's Desk, in which case it shall require a procedural vote of two-thirds majority to progress to consideration.

11.3. If more than one petition to refer back is received:

11.3.1. by the usual deadline in SO 11.1, SCC shall determine to which the Chair shall attend, and it takes precedence over any petition under SO 11.2 unless the Chair judges a compelling reason to depart from this rule.

11.3.2. under SO 11.2, the Chair shall determine precedence by assessing the appropriateness of the body to which the motion would be referred and the validity of the reasons.

11.4. The Chair may attend to a petition to refer back immediately or defer it until the end of the session. The Chair shall read out the petition before any procedural vote.

11.5. If voting attendees decline to consider a petition to refer back, it is immediately denied, and proceedings continue. No further petitions to refer back that motion shall then be considered unless the Chair judges the reasons sufficiently distinct from that of the denied petition.

11.6. If a petition proceeds to consideration but voting attendees ultimately deny it, no further petitions to refer back that motion shall be considered unless submitted under SO 11.2 and, in the Chair's judgement, the reasons:

11.6.1. relate directly to an issue that only emerged during the debate on the motion.

11.6.2. present a sufficiently compelling argument that the reference back process would be more appropriate than rejecting the motion.

Standing Orders cont.

11.7.   The respondent to a petition to refer back shall be:

    11.7.1.   the motion's mover, unless they nominate another voting attendee to speak on their behalf, or waive their right to respond.

    11.7.2.   any voting attendee opposed to the reference back if the mover has waived their right to respond.

11.8.   If a petition to refer back progresses to consideration, the Chair:

    11.8.1.   shall call for a four-minute speech from the petitioner or their nominee, followed by a four-minute speech from the respondent.

    11.8.2.   has the discretion to call further speakers after the petitioner and respondent and shall limit these speeches to two minutes.

    11.8.3.   shall hold a vote to action or deny the petition immediately after the final consideration speech.

11.9.   If a petition to refer back is actioned, the Conference immediately moves on to the next item on the Agenda without a vote on the motion.

11.10.   SCC shall schedule time at the Conference following any reference back for a response, which may be:

    11.10.1.   a revised motion submitted in order to conclude the reference back.

    11.10.2.   a report invited to the Conference under SO 7.

11.11.   Where a response under SO 11.10 is a report, then:

    11.11.1.   ratification shall conclude the reference back if recommended therein.

    11.11.2.   it may recommend sending the reference back to another Party body, which SCC shall action upon ratification.

11.11.3. the reference back shall be considered unresolved if ratification falls, and SCC shall therefore schedule a further response under SO 11.10 at the following Conference.

Standing Orders cont.

12.   Suspension of Standing Orders

12.1.   A voting attendee may, during any Conference session, petition for the suspension of Standing Orders. The petition must:

    12.1.1.   be submitted to the Chair via the Speaker's Desk.

    12.1.2.   not exceed one hundred words.

    12.1.3.   be immediately read to attendees by the Chair.

12.2.   A petition to suspend Standing Orders must not:

    12.2.1.   suspend any requirement of the Constitution.

    12.2.2.   suspend SO 2 or SO 3.

    12.2.3.   introduce a motion or amendment onto the Agenda unless it has been duly submitted to SCC per the published timetable, and any right of appeal has already been exercised.

12.3.   Unless disallowed under SO 12.2, the Chair shall immediately read a petition to suspend standing orders to attendees and hold a procedural vote on whether the petition should be considered. If voting attendees decline to consider the petition, it is denied.

12.4.   If a petition to suspend Standing Orders proceeds to consideration, the Chair:

    12.4.1.   shall call the petitioner to speak, and a representative of SCC may respond.

    12.4.2.   has the discretion to call further speakers after the petitioner and respondent.

    12.4.3.   shall limit all consideration speeches to two minutes.

    12.4.4.   shall hold a vote to action or deny the petition immediately after the final consideration speech.

12.5.   A petition to suspend Standing Orders shall only be actioned if supported by a two-thirds majority of voting attendees taking part in the vote. If actioned, all Standing Orders shall remain in force except only for the purposes set out in the petition.

Standing Orders cont.

13.   Separate Votes

13.1.   A separate vote may be taken on a part of a motion or amendment:

13.1.1.   at the direction of SCC.

13.1.2.   at the Chair's discretion when petitioned to do so by a voting attendee.

13.1.3.   at the Chair's discretion in response to the debate.

13.2.   Any petition for a separate vote:

13.2.1.   must be submitted directly to the Chair in writing via the Speaker's Desk.

13.2.2.   must be received before the beginning of summation speeches.

13.2.3.   must unambiguously identify which words, lines, sentences or paragraphs are to be subject to a separate vote.

13.2.4.   cannot alter the motion text in a way that constitutes a direct negative to the motion.

13.3.   The Chair has complete discretion on whether to action or deny a petition for separate vote. Such a petition is not open for consideration by voting attendees. The Chair may, but is not obligated to, notify attendees of their decision to deny such a petition and its justification.

13.4.   Any separate votes shall, in an order deemed most appropriate by the Chair, be taken:

13.4.1.   after the conclusion of the summation speeches.

13.4.2.   prior to, subsequent to, or interspersed with any votes on amendments.

14.   Voting at Conference

14.1.   All votes at a Conference shall be decided by a simple majority of those voting attendees taking part in the vote, except where otherwise specified in these Standing Orders or the Constitution.

14.2.   Voting attendees shall be issued a voting card, unless they are

Standing Orders cont.

remote attendees, who shall receive credentials for a secure online voting system chosen by SCC.

14.3.   Votes are cast by raising cards visibly to the Chair or via the online voting system as directed by SCC.

14.4.   Remote attendees shall be allowed at least one minute to register their vote. However, the Chair may announce the result and advance proceedings if, based on the visual assessment of voting cards and the number of remote attendees, they judge that any outstanding votes cannot change the outcome. In such cases:

14.4.1.   remote attendees must still be afforded the full time to register their vote.

14.4.2.   the final vote tally shall promptly be made available to attendees in a manner chosen by SCC.

14.5.   The Chair shall direct tellers to take a count of voting cards:

14.5.1.   if, in their judgment, their own visual assessment is inconclusive.

14.5.2.   when twelve voting attendees request one by standing in their places with voting cards raised.

14.6.   Only the Chair may call for a recount of voting cards.

14.7.   If a simple majority vote is tied, the Chair shall decide with a casting vote.

14.8.   Where a vote on text requires a threshold greater than a simple majority to pass, that requirement shall only apply to the concluding vote on the final text. Any voting attendee may request a new vote on the text without the application of specific amendments only if they believe an amendment was the cause of its failure to reach the required threshold. This is done by raising a point of order with the Chair, who has complete discretion over whether to hold such a vote, and only one such vote may be taken on any motion.

14.9.   In the event of a technical issue that disrupts the operation of the online voting system, the Chair may reopen voting as many times as necessary to satisfy them that the outcome reflects the will of attendees.

14.10.   SCC may direct that a single transferable vote ballot of voting attendees shall:

Standing Orders cont.

14.10.1.   select the emergency motions that are scheduled for debate.

14.10.2.   determine which bracketed passages are included in the final text of a Policy Paper ratified under SO 3.4, rather than the vote being taken during the debate.

15.   Remote Attendance

15.1.   At a Conference with remote attendees, SCC shall provide access to an online platform enabling them to engage with and contribute to Conference proceedings as far as practicable. This platform:

15.1.1.   may incorporate the voting system provided under SO 14.2 or may be separate.

15.1.2.   shall provide access to a digital Speaker's Desk that serves the same functions as a physical Speaker's Desk.

15.1.3.   shall provide a specific channel that enables remote attendees to raise points of order or otherwise engage with the Chair directly where required under the Standing Orders.

15.1.4.   shall require attendees to use their real name.

15.2.   The Chair may delegate direct usage of the platform provided under SO 15.1 to their Aide. This must not result in the Chair abdicating from decisions required of them under these Standing Orders.

15.3.   To uphold the Code of Conduct, moderators may restrict use of any communication features in the platform provided under SO 15.1. This is not exclusion under SO 16. The Conference Convener shall be notified of any moderator actions promptly, and ideally in real time.

15.4.   For quorum purposes, the number of remote attendees present shall be the greater of those logged into the participation platform provided under SO 15.1 or the voting system provided under SO 14.2.

16.   Complaints Regarding Conduct

16.1.   Any attendee who believes another attendee's actions at the Conference have breached the Code of Conduct, or created an unsafe or inappropriate environment, must promptly raise a complaint with the Conference Convener or a designated SCC

Standing Orders cont.

member. This complaint should include a description of the incident, names of individuals involved, and details of any supporting evidence or witnesses.

16.2.   For the purposes of SO 16, "Conference" includes the main venue, any fringe venues, accommodation, and any other significant gathering of attendees.

16.3.   The investigator for complaints regarding attendee conduct shall be the Conference Convener, unless the complaint involves the Conference Convener, in which case the Party Convener shall be the investigator. The investigator must:

16.3.1.   inform the complainant and any named witnesses that this investigation is separate from the Federal Party's Complaints Process, and that they may also wish to submit a complaint through that process.

16.3.2.   promptly investigate and determine what action, if any, is necessary by SCC to protect any individuals involved and to maintain a safe and appropriate Conference environment.

16.3.3.   take steps to exclude any attendee from the Conference for part or all of its duration if the investigator believes, based on a reasonable person standard and available information, that this is a necessary action.

16.4.   An attendee excluded under SO 16 may appeal the decision. Any appeal must be submitted as soon as practicable to the investigator or a designated SCC member. Appeals may only challenge the decision for a permitted reason, one of which is that:

16.4.1.   the facts considered by the investigator were incorrect.

16.4.2.   the facts were correct, but the decision was not one that a reasonable person would have made based on those facts.

16.5.   Any appeal against exclusion under SO 16 shall be heard by a panel of three individuals not involved in the original decision, whose decision shall be final. The panel shall:

16.5.1.   where possible, be comprised of one Office Bearer of the Party and two members from SCC or the Party's Executive Committee.

16.5.2.   be convened as soon as practicable after any appeal is submitted.

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16.5.3. determine whether, on the balance of probabilities, the facts used by the investigator were materially accurate.

16.5.4. assess whether the investigator's decision was one a reasonable person would make in similar circumstances.

16.5.5. make its final decision by majority vote.

16.5.6. communicate its final decision to the appellant promptly.

16.6. SCC shall maintain a confidential record of all complaints, investigator decisions, and appeal outcomes for seven years. A summary report, with personal details redacted as appropriate, shall be provided to the Party's Executive Committee after each Conference.

17. Amendments to Standing Orders

17.1. These Standing Orders may be amended by a two-thirds majority of voting attendees present and voting on a business motion duly submitted. Subject to any amendment they shall remain in force from Conference to Conference.