



# AUTUMN CONFERENCE - GLASGOW - 18 OCTOBER 2025

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## 09.30 Welcome

Chair: Daniel O'Malley

### Allow extra time after EM1 to debate EBM1

Point of Order – Alistair Carmichael – request to reject as EBM1 is not an “emergency” and does not meet the rules of Emergency Motions and so should not be accepted.

Point of Order – Alan Reid – Not meeting timescales, against the constitution.

#### Votes:

Carried, time will be allocated

## SC1 Policy Motion - Islanders and Rural Communities Deserve Better: Ending the Ferries Fiasco

Chair: Cllr Kevin Lang. Aide: Jacqueline Bell

Submitted by Scottish Policy Committee.

#### Conference notes:

- i) Islanders and coastal communities are paying the price for the failure of the Scottish Government to provide the ferries they need, manage maintenance and procure new vessels on time or on budget.
- ii) The Scottish Government's Island Business Resilience Fund allocated a mere £4.4m to only eight islands, excluding many island firms and mainland port businesses.
- iii) Essential upgrades are required to harbour infrastructure so that they can accommodate the vessels required to serve routes in line with communities' needs, such as Ardrossan for which a ferry has been built that does not fit the port.
- iv) There is an absence of strategic ferry building strategy for Scotland, demonstrated by Calmac resorting to paying £6m more to loan the MV Alfred to provide emergency cover than it would have cost to buy the vessel outright.
- v) The Northern Isles have missed out on cheaper ferry fares, the removal of shared cabins has pushed up costs and reduced options for islanders, and freight capacity hasn't met the needs of businesses.
- vi) The current structures of the governance, oversight and operation of ferry contracts are not fit for purpose.



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Conference believes:

- i) Islanders, coastal communities and businesses deserve a better service and deserve to reap the rewards this would bring.
- ii) The SNP Government have had their chance and shown themselves to be incapable of running the ferries that islanders and coastal communities rely upon.
- iii) It is scandalous that no SNP minister has ever resigned over the ferries fiasco.
- iv) A fairer compensation scheme should be open to those whose businesses have suffered as a result of the SNP Government's ferries fiasco.
- v) Islanders deserve better than a 'Holyrood knows best' attitude.
- vi) Communities often lack a meaningful role in ferry decisions, despite ferries being vital to local businesses, services, tourism and community resilience.
- vii) Island and coastal communities have the greatest stake in ferry services and deserve a real say on vessel types, service-level obligations, routes and contracts, with clear mechanisms to hold elected representatives, public bodies and stakeholders to account.
- viii) Calmac is valued by its staff, islanders and coastal communities.
- ix) Islanders require every layer of government to work together in their interest.

Conference calls on the Scottish Government to:

- i) Introduce a new Ferries Bill within the first year of the new Parliament which guarantees that island communities are served by a reliable, affordable, safe ferry network, underpinned by a statutory duty to replace vessels and port infrastructure as required, which listens to the needs and requirements of island communities and which empowers islands in the decision-making process.
- ii) Introduce a new legal requirement for the Scottish Government to produce a rolling 30-year ferry and port infrastructure replacement strategy, which is renewed every five years and approved by Parliament, which ensures that no community is ever left without a viable lifeline service.
- iii) Introduce a new statutory duty on the Scottish Government to replace ferries when they reach the end of their shelf life backed up by legislation which commands the government of the day to fund and finance port and ferry replacement.
- iv) Undertake a complete restructuring of the current tripartite governance arrangements of Scotland's maritime assets which includes community voices at its heart, which sits independently of government and has statutory powers.
- v) Expand the compensation scheme for those affected by the SNP's ferries fiasco, removing the current arbitrary limits that are unfair to so many businesses in island and coastal communities.

### SC1 Cards:

Mover & Summator: Jamie Greene MSP, , called  
Fraser Graham, Edinburgh South, called  
Alan Reid, Argyll & Bute, called



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Neil Casey, East Renfrewshire, called  
Christine Murdoch, Dumbarton, called

### Votes:

Motion – Carried nem con

## SC2 Policy Motion - Supporting and Improving Scotland's Nighttime Economy

Chair: Fraser Graham Aide: David Evans

Submitted by Glasgow City Liberal Democrats.

### Conference notes:

i) That the Nighttime Economy (NTE) brings significant economic and cultural benefits to Glasgow and Scotland more broadly, employing over 137, 000 people across Scotland and generating £43.5 billion in economic activity.

ii) The recent failures in Glasgow's night bus system, where in 2023 First Bus intended to scrap all of its Friday and Saturday late night services, and (even after reaching an agreement with McGills to continue some routes) proceeded with axing significant routes such as the N2 through Finnieston and Partick and the N6 to East Kilbride, which together with the total absence of Subway services on Sunday nights has left many Glaswegians with no public transport route home from the city centre at night.

iii) That a well-supported and thriving NTE is a matter of public safety, as bars and nightclubs being understaffed and struggling to recruit bouncers and other security staff leaves patrons vulnerable to violence and anti-social behaviour.

iv) That NTE opportunities and activities are not currently not equally accessible to protected characteristic groups in Scotland, with the EHRC reporting that women, trans and non-binary people were all less likely than men to feel safe using a bus at night, and Transport Scotland reporting that disabled people are less likely to feel safe and secure on buses and trains at night than non-disabled people.

v) The boost to the NTW that can come from the creation of a dedicated ministerial role, as in New South Wales where the creation of a Minister for the Nighttime Economy has led to innovative publicly-funded programmes such as Culture Up Late, an initiative which extended museum and gallery hours in the region to 9pm, and facilitated world class exhibitions, live music, film screenings, workshops, talks and pop-up bars.

### Conference believes:

i) That a flourishing nighttime economy is vital to Scotland's economy and society.

ii) That support for the NTE ideologically aligns with the Scottish Liberal Democrats' manifesto commitment to modernise employment rights and support people in choosing unconventional working patterns and working hours while maintaining a commitment to safety and workers' rights.



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iii) That both a practical focus on public safety and an ideologically liberal commitment to support the individual's right to choose how they enjoy their own evenings implore us to support the nighttime economy across Scotland.

iv) That ensuring the operation of regular trains, trams, electric buses, and subway services at night is necessary to support the proper functioning of the Low Emission Zones in both Glasgow and Edinburgh, which are vital instruments for cutting pollution in our towns and city centres.

Conference calls on the Scottish Government to:

i) Commit to stronger and clearer political support of Scotland's NTE.

ii) Create a dedicated Minister for the Nighttime Economy, tasked with implementing innovative national and local strategies to actively promote and support Scottish nightlife.

iii) Improve public safety in city centres at night, through increased and more visible policing in ASB hot spots, facilitating better communication networks between the police and NTW businesses such as nightclubs and pubs, and exploring other practical solutions to keep patrons and nighttime workers safe.

iv) Improve public safety on nighttime public transport services, to make these vital services safer for individuals belonging to protected characteristic groups and thereby empower these individuals to benefit from and more fully participate in Scotland's NTE.

v) Work with all public transport providers in large towns and cities across Scotland to increase the frequency and improve the reliability of late night services, in order to mitigate the transport availability issues that often put people off staying out late in the city.

vi) Explore the possibility of alternatives to traditional nighttime transportation options such as driverless taxis, which may work well in Glasgow due to the city's grid layout, and when polled appear an appealing option for women seeking safer and more private travel options.

### Amendment:

Add to the end of Conference believes point 1 (line 36) “; and that Scotland's city centres should support and protect diverse communities of residents.”

Add to the end of Conference calls on point 2 (line 57) “, alongside the comfort and safety of all visitors and residents.”

In Conference calls on point 3 (line 62): Add “, residents, ” after “patrons”

### SC2 Cards:

Mover: Daniel O'Malley, Glasgow, called

Move Amd: Charles Dundas, Edinburgh North East & Leith, called

Summation: Rachel Park, Glasgow City,

Eugene Clarke, North East & Central Fife, called

Jack Caldwell, North East & Leith, called

Verity Wooley, Glasgow, called

Andy Williamson, Edinburgh South, called

Scott Simpson, East Dumbartonshire



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### Votes:

Amd: Carried

Motion as amended: Carried

### 10.45 Speech Cllr Sanne Dijkstra Downie,

Scottish Parliamentary Candidate for Edinburgh Northern.

### 11.00 Presentation: Retiring Party President Willie Wilson

### 11.15 Mini Motions: Local Communities

Chair: Neil Casey. Aide: Fraser Graham.

## MM1 - Coordinating Road and Pavement Resurfacing and Utility Works

Submitted by Fraser Graham

Conference notes that:

At present, councils can spend large sums carrying out road and pavement resurfacing works, only for newly laid surfaces to be disrupted soon after by utility works and their resulting patchwork infills

Councils do not have the ability to compel utility companies to carry out utility works prior to or as part of a resurfacing scheme, nor can they compel full surface replacement following utility works.

Utility companies may use the loosely defined blanket reason of 'emergency repairs' to carry out works which would better be characterised as routine maintenance.

Conference believes:

Where public funds are being spent on road or pavement resurfacing or repair works, it should be expected that a newly laid finish will not be immediately disrupted and patched.

Local Councils are best placed to coordinate the opportunity for utility works into a resurfacing scheme, to prevent future disruption of a newly laid surface finish.

Emergency utility works should be more strictly legally defined, and utility companies should be subject to enforcement where an emergency repair is only needed due to a failure to carry out routine maintenance.

Conference suggests developing policy to:



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Give Local Council powers to require utility companies to coordinate repair/replacement works with any planned resurfacing schemes, to allow new road and pavement surfaces to remain undisturbed following works.

Give Local Councils the power to compel utility companies to carry out a full width replacement of any disturbed road or pavement surface, where utility works are carried out within 5 years of a full road or pavement resurfacing having been completed.

Create a strong definition of 'emergency repair works' which prevents utility companies using loopholes to avoid the need to properly plan utility works.

Fine utility companies which fail to adequately maintain their networks, resulting in avoidable emergency repair works.

### MM2 – Local Power to Local People

Submitted by Duncan Dunlop

#### Policy Suggestion

Give fiscal and policy-making autonomy over local services to locally elected community councils based on the high school catchment area. The areas of responsibility should include primary health care, education, social care, housing, local leisure services, the environment and roads.

#### Issue to be addressed:

- 1) In the most recent British Social Attitudes survey, only 12% say they trust government most or all of the time – a record low – and 46% say they almost never trust government – a record high.
- 2) The SNP government who promote independence nationally, have paradoxically centralised increasing powers to Holyrood, stripping services and decision-making powers from local communities.
- 3) There is such low local interest in participation in community councils that 20% have been suspended, and 9/10 have such low participation they do not hold elections. Whilst Parent Teacher Associations are struggling to recruit members. This suggests that people do not think these bodies are worth engaging with in their present form.

#### Benefits to be realised:

- 1) When people feel disempowered and disengaged from decisions that impact their lives, this feeds the kind of populist sentiment that is currently an escalating threat to democracy in the UK. Enabling people to have meaningful power locally can alleviate these negative forces.
- 2) Liberal Democrats are the party of localism, and while voters value and respect the impact we manage to make at a local level when hard-working dedicated Liberal Democrat Councillors are elected, we should also be pushing for more systemic change that gives people a more direct say over the decisions that affect their lives.
- 3) In Scandinavia comparable sized municipalities are associated with much higher levels of civic engagement and increased trust in local government. We should be optimistic and ambitious that it can deliver the same benefits in Scotland.



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- 4) The 32 local authority regions of Scotland are too remote and disconnected from the people they serve. Local government structures that are aligned to high school catchment areas would be more responsive to local problems and hit the sweet spot to drive engagement.
- 5) Community based decision-making is cost-effective and enables genuine civic engagement. Services should be overseen by people who understand the local context and are motivated by civic duty and building community spirit.

### MM Votes:

Coordinating Road and Pavement Resurfacing and Utility Works: Carried, to be further explored

Local Power to Local People: Carried, to be further explored

## SC3 Policy Motion - Reverse the Cuts in Service for People with Dementia and Alzheimer's and their families

Chair: Cllr Mel Sullivan. Aide: Paul McGarry

Submitted by 10 members.

Conference notes with concern that:

- i) Dementia is the leading cause of death in the UK, yet Dementia UK cites that one in three people with the condition are living without a diagnosis.
- ii) Alzheimer's UK states that it has identified a cumulative £154 million in proposed cuts to older people's and community care services in the financial plans of Integrated Joint Boards (IJBs) over the coming years.
- iii) The Accounts Commission has issued dire warnings about worsening IJB finances and the need to reform how services are delivered to secure better outcomes for people.
- iv) When plans for the National Care Service were abandoned, no alternative mechanism for achieving a consistent minimum standard of care was provided for in the Care Reform (Scotland) Act.
- v) The wider harms caused by dementia and related conditions, which impact not only the person with the diagnosis but also their families, friends and unpaid caregivers.
- vi) Within the medical research community, funding is tight; vital research is heavily dependent on charitable groups such as Medical Research Scotland supplementing the government grants awarded through sources such as the Scottish Government's Chief Scientist Office, the Medical Research Council and the National Institute for Health Research.

Conference believes that:

- i) People with dementia are more than statistics; they are individuals who deserve to be treated with dignity and supported to live as full a life as possible.



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- ii) The inevitable collapse of the unworkable approach of a National Care Service has created a policy vacuum, with no coherent plan to achieve a consistently high standard of care across Scotland.
- iii) The cuts currently proposed by IJBs will have a devastating effect on people living with dementia and their families by restricting access to vital services, ultimately undermining their quality of life.
- iv) Older members of society who have contributed through taxes and national insurance should not be left behind by government inaction at their time of greatest need.
- v) Families and unpaid caregivers providing essential support for loved ones with dementia must also be recognised, valued and assisted.
- vi) Real-terms cuts to research budgets in Scotland are holding back vital work on new treatments and identification of the root causes of dementia.

Conference reaffirms our commitment to:

- i) Giving people more control over their own lives and health so that everyone gets the care they need, when they need it and where they need it.
- ii) Helping people spend more of their lives in good health.
- iii) Ensuring that everyone has high-quality social care when they need it, so that all can live independently and with dignity.

Conference calls for the Scottish Government to:

- i) Establish the level of cuts being made by IJBs to dementia services in their 2025/26 budgets, and use its mid-year budget revisions to avert harmful outcomes for patients and their families.
- ii) Improve core dementia support services, fix care and put IJBs on a stable footing, including through service transformation, collaboration, shifting the focus to prevention and early intervention, and solving costly recruitment and retention problems with enhanced career pathways.
- iii) Establish and deliver Dementia Care Pathway Guarantees.
- iv) Urgently establish minimum national care standards and entitlements with detailed, measurable, and enforceable delivery requirements.
- v) Develop and fund a comprehensive support plan for the families and unpaid caregivers of people with dementia that includes guaranteed access to respite care.

Conference also calls on the UK Government to provide a rebate for the 2025/26 hike in employer's National Insurance Contributions to higher educational institutions and other public research institutes that undertake medical research.

Conference further calls for both Governments to end the cycle of real-terms cuts to research funding by:

- i) Uprating the total public funds available for new medical research grants annually to keep pace with inflation.
- ii) Instructing public bodies to utilise Office of Budget Responsibility inflation forecasts when determining the final award of multi-year research grants.



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### SC3 Cards:

Mover: Les Tarr, Banff & Buchan, called  
Summation: Jackie Bell, East Lothian, called  
Lorna Cammock, Rutherglen, called  
Lee Manley, Ayrshire & Arran, called  
Thomas Prag, Highland, not called

### Votes:

Motion: Carried nem con

## 12.10 - 14.10 Lunch Break and Fringes

## 14:10 SC4 Policy Motion - A Fair Deal for Rural Communities

Chair: Ross Stalker. Aide: Andy Williamson

Submitted by Highland Liberal Democrats.

Conference believes:

- i) Scotland's rural communities are vital to our economy, our environment, and our culture - but are too often left behind by the SNP's centralised, urban-focused policy.
- ii) Many rural communities have a wealth of opportunities but also face significant challenges, including:
  - a) Depopulation and the loss of young people;
  - b) A chronic shortage of affordable housing;
  - c) Poor transport connectivity;
  - d) Recruitment and retention of staff to deliver public services, especially in the education, health and social care sectors;
  - e) Digital exclusion and lack of access to reliable broadband and mobile coverage.
- iii) Existing policy frameworks often fail to reflect the lived realities of rural communities.
- iv) The centralisation of the police, the ill-judged attempt to impose Highly Protected Marine Area, and the botched national Care Service are examples of decisions that run against the interests of rural communities and embody the SNP's broken relationship with rural Scotland.
- v) Scottish Liberal Democrats have a proud history of standing up for rural Scotland - from island transport to crofting rights - and must remain at the forefront of shaping fair and sustainable rural futures.

Conference notes:



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- i) Scotland already has statutory duty for Island Communities Impact Assessments (ICIAs) under the Islands Act 2018; however, no equivalent statutory framework currently exists for rural Scotland.
- ii) The work of the Scottish Rural and Islands Parliament, and its call for legislation to protect and enhance the resilience of rural places through their proposal to enshrine a Rural Lens in law.
- iii) Scottish Land and Estates and others have advocated for formal rural proofing legislation, such as mandatory impact assessments or rural-lens duty for all public policy proposals - similar in statutory weight to ICIAs.
- iv) A Rural Delivery Plan is due to be published by the Scottish Government by 2026, but accompanying guidance and toolkits insufficiently fall short of formal legislation or impact assessment duties.
- v) In Northern Ireland, rural proofing has been required since 2002 and is part of a range of impact assessments, while in 2022 the Spanish congress adopted a new law on the evaluation of public policies that includes a 'rural proofing mechanism'.

Conference calls for:

- i) The Scottish Liberal Democrats to support legislation that:
  - a) Requires the Scottish Government to apply a statutory rural communities Impact Assessment to new policies and legislation;
  - b) Embeds a Rural Lens in all public policymaking that ensures transparency, scrutiny, and stakeholder inclusion, not just voluntary guidance;
  - c) Requires monitoring of policies, so rural proofing is not a 'tick-box' exercise but a meaningful driver of outcomes;
  - d) Commits ministers to regularly report on the wellbeing and sustainability of rural communities.
- ii) The Scottish Government to enable a review of the shape and size of rural local authorities - subject to their request - and funding formulas to ensure local services are properly resourced and meet the needs of local communities.

### SC4 Cards:

Mover: David Green, Highland, called  
Summation: Neil Alexander, called  
Jeff Goodhall, Aberdeenshire East, called  
Yi-Pei Turvey, Aberdeenshire, called  
Michael Turvey, Aberdeenshire, not called  
Ray Georgeson, Midlothian & Borders, called  
Trevor Mason, Aberdeenshire, called  
Conrad Wood, Aberdeenshire, not called  
Claire McLaren, Perth & Kinross, called

### Votes:

Motion: Carried



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### Tribute: Lord Campbell of Pittenweem

### 14.35 Speech Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP,

Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats

### 15:10 SC5 Policy Motion - Tackling Misogyny and Violence against Women and Girls

Chair: Paul McGarry. Aide: Lucy Smith

Submitted by Scottish Policy Committee.

Conference notes with regret:

- i) Violence against women and girls is endemic in our society.
- ii) In 2023/2024, Police Scotland recorded 63, 867 incidents of domestic abuse, the third highest level on record, with available data showing around two thirds of incidents involved a victim and suspected perpetrator who had previously been recorded in a domestic abuse incident.
- iii) In the year to June 2025, 15, 129 sexual crimes were recorded, a 5% increase on the previous year (14, 417) and up 9% on the year ending June 2021 (13, 989).

Conference further notes:

- i) The Scottish Government's recent decision to not bring forward a dedicated law to tackle misogyny in this Parliament, as recommended by Baroness Helena Kennedy KC, despite spending more than £140, 000 commissioning her working group in 2022.
- ii) The Scottish Government's refreshed Equally Safe Strategy in 2023, outlining steps and measures aimed at preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls.
- iii) The Scottish Government has recently announced funding to establish a national 'fund to leave' to help women and children leave abusive relationships, akin to the Destitution Fund called for by Scottish Liberal Democrats in 2021.
- iv) The UK Government has pledged to halve violence against women and girls in the next decade.

Conference believes:

- i) No one should ever live their life in fear of violence.
- ii) Misogyny is deeply rooted in nearly every facet of society and thus any response to tackle it, as well as violence against women and girls, requires widespread and holistic strategies.

Conference reaffirms that the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, with protections for all survivors regardless of nationality or immigration status, must be fully implemented.



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Conference calls on the Scottish Government to:

- i) Commence and properly resource Part 1 of the Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Act 2021 without any additional delays. This should include specific guidance and training for Police Scotland, social work and the courts to ensure that when Part 1 comes into force there is a consistency of implementation.
- ii) Implement the regulations which add sex to the list of protected characteristics in the Hate Crime and Public Order Act 2021 at pace and review the impact of legislative change in the next Parliament, with a view to bringing in separate legislation as originally recommended by Baroness Kennedy if required.
- iii) Ensure any rehabilitation, mental health and throughcare support provided to prisoners prior to release or upon leaving custody includes, where appropriate, measures designed to prevent further violence against women and girls.
- iv) Follow through on the recommendation by the Scottish Parliament's Social Justice and Social Security Committee that it work with COSLA to establish a single point of contact within a local authority that victims can speak to in order to explain their circumstances, ensuring victims only have to tell their story once.
- v) Introduce a duty on councils to ensure all housing and frontline staff are trained to detect and respond appropriately to domestic abuse and survivors of domestic abuse, with particular measures to assist those survivors under 21 who may have complex circumstances. This duty should be backed with the necessary resources so councils can implement the duty fully.
- vi) Protect funding for the new national 'fund to leave' and ensure that any criteria for eligibility and entitlement takes into consideration individual circumstances, including whether a victim is located in a remote or rural area.
- vii) Designate a Scottish Government minister with the cross-departmental responsibility to tackle violence against women and girls, ensuring that steps are taken across all departments and identifying where more needs done.
- viii) Update the Matrimonial Homes (Family Protection) (Scotland) Act 1981 to include a presumption that the perpetrator of domestic abuse will be required to leave the shared home, allowing survivors greater choice and agency, in line with the provisions in Part 1 of the Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Act 2021.
- ix) Encourage and engage local authorities and schools to register with Equally Safe and develop guidance on how the Equally Safe strategy, including any e-learning modules, should be implemented by schools to ensure a consistency of approach.
- x) Carry out post-legislative scrutiny of acts of the Scottish Parliament, including the Police Scotland (Ethics, Conduct and Scrutiny) (Scotland) Act 2025, to ensure that changes made following Dame Eilish Angiolini's Complaints, Misconduct and Investigations Review are working effectively.

Conference calls on the UK Government to convene a cross-party committee, made up of MPs and Lords, to scrutinise the rollout of the Online Safety Act, as well as examine if further legislative changes



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are needed to ensure that the Act is achieving its aims of keeping users safe, particularly children, and that young women and girls are not being subjected to violence online.

Conference calls on the Scottish and UK Governments:

To work together to identify any gaps in legislation and the legal system that could enable a perpetrator of domestic abuse to continue to exert control over a survivor by acting vexatiously in court proceedings between a perpetrator and a survivor.

To work cross-party and with stakeholders, reporting annually to both Parliaments.

### SC5 Cards:

Mover & Summator: Wendy Chamberlain MP, Central & North East Fife, called  
Prue Bray, Presidential Candidate, called  
Christine Murdoch, Dumbarton, called  
Caron Lindsay, , called  
Jan Allison Pickard, Edinburgh West, called  
Stephen Harte, Edinburgh West, called  
Victoria Collins, Presidential Candidate, called  
Kamran Hussain, Vice Presidential Candidate, called  
Lyn Macmillan, East Lothian, called  
Bruce Wilson, Edinburgh South, called  
Michael Turvey, Aberdeenshire, called  
Aude Boubaker-Calder, Edinburgh North East & Leith, called

### Votes:

Motion: carried

## 15.40 EM1 - Opposing Labour's Digital ID Scheme

Chair: Jenni Lang. Aide: Jacqui Bell

Mover: Kevin Lang

Conference believes:

1. A cornerstone of a liberal society is that law-abiding citizens should be free to live their lives without unnecessary control or interference from the state.
2. These freedoms are fundamental rights, not privileges to be constrained or granted at the government's discretion.
3. Access to public services is a basic right of living in the United Kingdom, not a conditional entitlement subject to government control.
4. Unlike many other countries, including our European neighbours, the UK lacks a written constitution to enshrine rights and protect citizens from excessive state intrusion.

Conference notes:



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The UK Government's plan to introduce digital ID, which Ministers have already suggested could become a requirement for accessing public services, with one Minister claiming its potential uses were "limitless."

No party sought a mandate for this policy at the 2024 General Election, and no major manifesto included a compulsory digital ID scheme.

A digital identity system would disproportionately disadvantage older people, disabled residents, and those on low incomes, who are most affected by digital exclusion.

The Government's repeated failures to safeguard sensitive data demonstrate why citizens should not be compelled to entrust further personal information to the state.

Conference therefore:

Declares its outright opposition to Labour's proposed digital ID scheme.

Calls on Scottish Liberal Democrat representatives at all levels to use their influence to resist these proposals.

Urges the UK Government to redirect the substantial funds required to design and operate a digital ID scheme into frontline public services, which continue to face acute financial pressures.

### EM1 Cards:

Mover: Christine Jardine, Edinburgh West, called

Summation: TBC

Donald Harley, South Lanarkshire, called

Caron Lindsay, ,

Flora Sharp, Edinburgh West

Sally Pattle, West Lothian, called

Bruce Wilson, Edinburgh South, called

Neil Casey, East Renfrewshire

Jack Clark, Glasgow

### Votes:

Carried

## 16.10 EBM1 Business Motion - Implementing the Lessons of the General Election Review

Chair: Paul McGarry. Aide: Leo Dempster

Submitted by Scottish Campaigns & Candidates Committee.

Conference notes:

- 1) Liberal Democrat Federal Spring Conference in Harrogate (March 2025) agreed an amendment to the Federal Constitution entitled "F10: Implementing the Lessons of the General Election Review".



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- 2) That amendment did the following:
  - a. Increased the membership of the Joint Candidates Sub-Committee (JCSC) - which already includes the Chairs of the English, Welsh and Scottish Candidates Committees - to also include the Party's Vice-President responsible for working with ethnic minority communities, and the Chief Whip.
  - b. Transferred responsibility for Westminster candidate approval and selection processes from the English, Scottish and Welsh Parties individually to the collective responsibility of the JCSC.
- 3) Article 2.10(c) of the Federal Constitution requires that any "alteration of the relative powers and functions of the Federal Party and the State Parties... [to be] passed by the internal procedures of each State Party."
- 4) Article L4 of the Constitution of the Scottish Liberal Democrats states that: "Any proposed amendment to the Federal Constitution referred to the Party in terms of Article 2.10(c) of the Federal Constitution shall require a two thirds majority of those present and voting at Conference to be effective."
- 5) Article H23 of the Constitution of the Scottish Liberal Democrats states that "Candidates for the United Kingdom Parliament shall be selected in a manner consistent with the requirements of Article 19 of the Federal Constitution."
- 6) Due to a clerical error, the Business Motion text that was submitted to Scottish Conference Committee was not included in the preliminary Agenda that was made available to members on Saturday 6th September. It was included in the final Agenda that was made available to members on Thursday 9th October.

Conference believes:

- 1) Since the only reference to the selection of Westminster candidates in the Constitution of the Scottish Liberal Democrats is Article H23 - which simply points to Article 19 of the Federal Constitution - no amendment to the wording of the Constitution of the Scottish Liberal Democrats is required to accommodate Federal motion F10's amendment to the Federal Constitution.
- 2) That recognition of the clerical error meets the requirements under Standing Orders 6.3 and 6.4 as it is a situation that arose after the normal deadline that also constitutes a compelling justification for SCC to allow an emergency business motion.

Conference resolves:

- 1) To ratify Federal Conference's amendment of the Federal Constitution as set out in the agreed motion "F10: Implementing the Lessons of the General Election Review."

### EBM1 Cards:

Mover: Charles Dundas, Edinburgh North East & Leith, called  
Summation: Wendy Chamberlain MP, Central & North East Fife, called  
Sally Pattle, West Lothian, called  
Alan Reid, Argyll & Bute, called  
Caron Lindsay, West Lothian, called  
Leo Dempster, Inverclyde, called  
Conrad Wood, Aberdeenshire, called  
Nigel Lindsay, East Lothian, called



## **AUTUMN CONFERENCE - GLASGOW - 18 OCTOBER 2025**

Votes:

17.00 - Federal Presidential Hustings