

Conference Daily



Autumn Conference, Brighton 19–22 September 2026

Information from the Federal Conference Committee for Saturday 19 September.
Please read in conjunction with the **Agenda & Directory** and **Conference Extra**.



Timetable and Contents

13.00–14.30	Consultative session: A Thriving Economy #		
09.00–09.10	F1	Opening of Conference	
09.10–09.25	F2	Report: Federal Conference Committee	
	F3	Report: Federal Policy Committee	
09.25–09.55	F4	Policy Motion: Mortality of Children in Temporary Accommodation	7
09.55–10.40	F5	Policy Motion: Securing the Future of Rural and Coastal Education	9
10.40–11.35	F6	Policy Motion: Liberal Democrats Mean Business	10
11.35–11.50	F7	Speech: Al Pinkerton MP	
11.50–12.50	F8	Policy Motion: Tackling the Maternity Crisis	12
12.50–14.10		Lunch break and fringe	
14.40–16.00	F9	Policy Motion: <i>Strength, Resilience and Partnership: Securing Britain and Defending Liberalism in Turbulent Times</i> (International Security Policy Paper)	
16.00–16.15	F10	Speech: Munira Wilson MP	

16.15–16.45	F11	Policy Motion: Rebuilding Health Visiting and Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life	16
16.45–17.15	F12	Policy Motion: Fixing Family Courts	17
17.15–17.30	F13	Speech: Cllr Lisa Spivey	
17.30–18.00	F14	Policy Motion: Local Candidate Safety	
18.30–19.30		Conference Rally	

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

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



Spokespeople Q&A Sessions

There will be three Q&A sessions at conference where you can ask questions of our spokespeople. Sessions on Saturday and Sunday will take place in the Brighton Centre and the session on Monday will take place in The Grand Hotel.

Saturday 19th September

16.30–17.30: Victoria Collins MP and Lord Clement-Jones on Science, Innovation and Technology.

Brighton Centre, Meeting Room 1D; Chair: Dr Chris Adams.

Sunday 20th September

16.30–17.30: Helen Morgan MP and Baroness Pidgeon on Health and Care.

Brighton Centre, Meeting Room 1D; Chair: Jennie Rigg.

Monday 21st September

16.30–17.30: Lisa Smart MP and Lord Pack on Political and Constitutional Reform.

The Grand Hotel, Charlotte Room; Chair: Dr Chris Adams.

Representatives from Sussex Police will be at the ALDC and LGA stand from 16.30-17.30 on Saturday.

The Defending Democracy Policing Protocol is a UK framework that enhances the safety of elected representatives. It mandates consistent police responses to harassment, restricts intimidating protests outside politicians' homes, and ensures robust protection at democratic venues and events.

Operation Bridger and Operation Ford are the trigger words to quote by Councillors, MPs and elected officials when contacting ANY police force in the UK.



Wifi details

BC

Network name: Brighton Centre

No password needed – follow instructions



The Grand

Network name: TheGrand

No password needed – follow instructions

DoubleTree by Hilton Brighton Metropole

Network name: Hilton Honors

Click: I have a promotional code

Code: VIP

Speaking and Voting at Conference

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, an auditorium steward or the Information Desk; **or**
- submit an electronic speaker's card, from Monday 14 September up to one hour before the start of the debate, online at:

www.libdems.org.uk/speakers-card

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.

Live Stream

The conference will be streamed live. In case you miss any sessions or want to watch again, go to www.LibDems.org.uk/conference-live

Updates and amendments to the Agenda printed in the *Agenda & Directory*.

Saturday 19 September

F2 Federal Conference Committee Report: questions and accountability

Q1. John Grout

In recent years, Scottish Conference has trialled a 'Dragon's Den' style slot where miniature motions could be pitched in short sessions, to be drafted into full motions at subsequent Conferences. Are there proposals to trial this at an upcoming Federal Conference?

Q2. Alisdair Calder McGregor

What proportion of Conference Office expenditure goes to each of Spring and Autumn Conferences?

Q3. Alisdair Calder McGregor

Does the Conference Office provide non-Conference related support to other areas of the Party?

Q4. Alisdair Calder McGregor

How is the expenditure on Spring, Autumn and non-Conference related expenditure accounted for in determining the net financial returns from Conferences?

Q5. Alisdair Calder McGregor

Does the Conference Committee's assessment of Conference finances align with that of the Federal Board, and if not in what way does this affect the figures?

Saturday 19 September cont

F3 Federal Policy Committee Report: questions and accountability

Q1. Alisdair Calder McGregor

In your report you note that "FPC has decided that it will require all of our working groups in future to take special account of issues of racial inequality and the needs of young people."

Will FPC also commit to extending this to require all future working groups to take special account of the needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans People?

F4 Mortality of Children in Temporary Accommodation

The Conference Committee has agreed to make the following drafting amendment to the motion:

1 *After c) (lines 43-47) insert a new clause d):*

2 d) Building 380,000 new homes per year, which will reduce the need for
3 temporary accommodation by lowering private rents.

Amendment One

Lib Dem Women

Mover: Cllr Hina Bokhari AM

Summation: Donna Harris

1 *After line 8 insert new v) and vi):*

2 v) Women make up well over half of households living in temporary
3 accommodation in England, with domestic abuse, a leading driver of
4 homelessness.

5 vi) Homeless pregnant women are more likely to experience premature
6 birth and stillbirth, and housing instability routinely disrupts access
7 to continuous antenatal and postnatal care.

8 *After line 47 insert new d):*

9 d) No woman should be made to feel unsafe in her own home or suffer
10 preventable risks to her or her baby's health, whether that home is
11 temporary or permanent.

12 *After line 72 insert new 7. and 8.:*

Saturday 19 September cont

- 13 7. Introduce a duty on local authorities to carry out risk assessments for
14 survivors of domestic and sexual abuse, pregnant women and new
15 mothers and their babies to ensure they are provided safe, suitable
16 housing that meets their needs.
- 17 8. Improved joint working between housing authorities and NHS
18 maternity services, so that pregnant women in temporary
19 accommodation are not lost to antenatal and postnatal care as a
20 result of moves between placements.

Amendment Two

LDCRE

Mover: Humaira Sanders

Summation: To be announced

1 *After line 28 insert new vii), viii) and ix):*

2 vii) People from ethnic minority backgrounds are over-represented in
3 the population of temporary accommodation.

4 viii) Black-led households are disproportionately represented in
5 temporary accommodation – 4 per cent of the general population
6 but 21 per cent of households in temporary accommodation – and
7 stay longer, with 18 per cent there over five years compared with 8
8 per cent of white-led households.

9 ix) Data by ethnicity for the population in temporary accommodation is
10 not collected consistently or completely.

11 *After line 47 insert new d):*

12 d) Everyone, regardless of race or background, should have a stable,
13 permanent home.

14 *After line 67 insert new 6. and 7.:*

15 6. The national strategy to include specific, published targets for
16 reducing the disproportionate representation of ethnic minority
17 households in temporary accommodation, along with a clear
18 methodology for how these targets will be achieved.

19 7. Population in Temporary Accommodation data to be recorded by
20 ethnicity in a consistent and complete manner.

Saturday 19 September cont

Background briefing

This motion develops new policy on temporary accommodation and homelessness. It builds on existing policy as set out in the 2024 General Election Manifesto, *For a Fair Deal*, and policy paper 155, *Tackling the Housing Crisis* (2023).

F5 Securing the Future of Rural and Coastal Education

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

- 1 *At the end of line 55 delete full stop and insert: ' – this must include SEND*
- 2 *provisions to ensure that the funding for SEND provision takes account*
- 3 *of the higher cost of delivery from rurality.'*
- 4 *At the end of line 84 delete full stop and insert: ' – this must also take SEND*
- 5 *transport needs into account.'*

Amendment One

LDEA

Mover: Sarah Anderson

Summation: Joshan Parmar

- 1 *At end of line 17 insert: '...; and poor rural public transport is a key factor*
- 2 *in reducing access to these crucial aspects of education.'*
- 3 *After line 24 insert new H.:*
- 4 H. The increasing pressure on school finances has led to a reduction of
- 5 schools being used as community assets alongside their role in
- 6 educating our young people. In rural areas the large travel areas
- 7 between education centres, has meant that schools are frequently
- 8 unavailable as a community resource for education and community
- 9 activities outside school hours in the evenings or at weekends.
- 10 *At end of line 96 insert: '...; also making it a requirement that schools work*
- 11 *with local authorities to facilitate after school learning, sport and cultural*
- 12 *activities and community engagement on school premises where these*
- 13 *are the only large scale community or sports facilities available in a*
- 14 *community.'*

Saturday 19 September cont

Amendment Two

Lancaster & Morecambe

Mover: Rowan Fitton

Summation: Cllr Alex Deacon

- 1 *At end of line 102, insert: '... with additional support to be provided for*
- 2 *primary and secondary schools in rural and coastal areas, to cover the*
- 3 *additional costs related to facilitating outdoor learning sessions in their*
- 4 *local area and support the integration of outdoor learning within the*
- 5 *wider curriculum.'*

Background briefing

This motion develops new policy on education and regional disparities. It builds on existing policy as set out in the 2024 General Election Manifesto, *For a Fair Deal*, and policy paper 128, *Every Child Empowered: Education for a changing world* (2023).

F6 Liberal Democrats Mean Business

The Conference Committee has agreed to make the following drafting amendment to the motion:

- 1 *Delete lines 48–50 and insert:*
- 2 a) Build an economy that works for everyone, including by broadening
- 3 ownership and economic power through employee ownership,
- 4 mutuals, co-operatives, community businesses, social enterprises,
- 5 community interest companies and locally rooted finance.

Amendment One

12 members

Mover: Chris Bowers

Summation: To be announced

- 1 *After line 15 insert new E.:*
- 2 E. Given the appropriate regulatory framework, business can play a
- 3 crucial role in delivering public goods, including tackling the climate
- 4 and nature emergencies.

Saturday 19 September cont

5 *After line 46 insert new x):*

- 6 x) That the UK's green and net-zero economy, valued at £105 billion in
7 Gross Value Added, is currently expanding at more than triple the
8 growth rate of the wider UK economy and could deliver even faster
9 growth and prosperity.

10 *After line 65 insert new 2.:*

- 11 2. Task the Department for Growth with producing a revised industrial
12 strategy that places a higher priority on supporting zero-carbon,
13 renewable and resource-efficient businesses, including through
14 innovation support, public procurement policy, tax incentives and
15 other measures.

Amendment Two

Kingston Borough

Mover: Cllr Jo Barker

Summation: Mary Reid

1 *After line 15, insert new E.:*

- 2 E. People who own and work in small and micro-businesses are
3 workers too; many take a low or unreliable income, particularly when
4 their business is in its early years or facing challenges often caused
5 by global factors, while still carrying responsibility for their
6 employees and the costs of keeping the business running, and their
7 circumstances should be properly considered when employment, tax
8 and benefits policies are developed.

9 *In line 73, after 'cumulative' insert ', employment and regulatory'*

10 *After line 75 insert new 4.:*

- 11 4. Give higher consideration to the impact of government policy on the
12 owners of small and micro-businesses by:
- 13 a) Taking account of the cost and cash-flow impact of statutory
14 employment obligations when assessing the burden on small
15 businesses
- 16 b) Reviewing the support that is available to the small employers
17 when long-term staff absence or other statutory employment
18 costs put an otherwise viable business at risk.

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- 19 c) Reviewing how low-income owner-directors and self-employed
20 people are treated under Universal Credit, so that policy reflects
21 the income they actually receive rather than income they are
22 assumed to have.
- 23 d) Take into account when developing employment, tax and benefits
24 policy that small business owners are not only employers but
25 people who work in those businesses and depend on them for
26 their own income.

Amendment Three

12 members

Mover: Cllr Katie Mansfield

Summation: To be announced

1 *After line 102, insert new 10.:*

- 2 10. Replace the broken business rates system with a Commercial
3 Landowner Levy, ensuring that high streets everywhere in the UK are
4 protected; scrap the Labour Government's unfair changes to
5 Agricultural and Business Property relief and introduce an active
6 family farm test, so that no active family farm or business is unfairly
7 penalised.

Background briefing

This motion develops new policy on the economy and business. It builds on existing policy as set out in the 2024 General Election Manifesto, *For a Fair Deal*, policy paper 162, *Revitalising Town Centres and High Streets* (2026), and policy motion *Backing Hospitality for Growth and Jobs* (2025).

F8 Tackling the Maternity Crisis

Amendment One

12 members

Mover: Marie Goldman MP (Spokesperson for Women and Equalities)

Summation: To be announced

1 *After line 107 insert new 14.:*

Saturday 19 September cont

- 2 14. An end to coverups of maternity scandals including through:
- 3 a) Creating a standardised framework for coroners and medical
4 examiners to formally refer suspected health system failings
5 (including systemic issues) directly to the police, the CQC, the
6 Department of Health and Social Care, and the HSSIB, with a duty
7 on coroners to participate, and statutory whistleblowing
8 protection for those making such referrals.
- 9 b) A duty for members of ICB and NHS Trust boards to escalate any
10 evidence of systemic medical malpractice to the CQC, the
11 Department of Health and Social Care, and the HSSIB, under a
12 standardised framework, alongside a collective duty on the board
13 to formally refer the trust to regulators if staff raise concerns
14 regarding malpractice; this would come alongside statutory
15 whistleblowing protection for those making such referrals.
- 16 c) A corresponding duty on senior leadership, including those
17 currently not bound by GMC or NMC regulations, to escalate any
18 concerns they have regarding safety or malpractice to the
19 relevant board.

Amendment Two

10 members

Mover: Laura Gordon

Summation: To be announced

1 *After line 107 insert new 14.:*

- 2 14. A review of approaches to post-natal care including staffing ratios
3 and the impact on women who have given birth of 'rooming in'
4 policies and limitations on birthing partner visitation.

Amendment Three

12 members

Mover: Alison Bennett MP (Spokesperson for Care and Carers)

Summation: To be announced

1 *After line 107 insert new 14.:*

Saturday 19 September cont

- 2 14. The government to ensure that all pregnant women and people are
3 given clear, evidence-based information about group B Strep (GBS),
4 and that those who wish to know their GBS carriage status are able
5 to access an appropriate GBS-specific test through the NHS, following
6 an informed discussion with their healthcare professional,
7 supporting informed choice and equitable access to care.

Background briefing

This motion develops new policy on health outcomes and safety standards for new mothers and their babies. It builds on existing policy as set out in policy motion *Equitable and Improved Outcomes Throughout Pregnancy and the Neonatal Period* (2024).

F9 *Strength, Resilience and Partnership: Securing Britain and Defending Liberalism in Turbulent Times* (International Security Policy Paper)

Please note this debate starts at 14.40, not 14.10 as in the printed Agenda.

Amendment One

14 members

Mover: Al Pinkerton MP

Summation: To be announced

- 1 *At end of line 75 insert: '... negotiating a new Growth and Defence*
2 *Partnership with the EU, which would include:'*

3 *After line 79 insert new b):*

- 4 b) Agreeing a UK-EU customs union, removing 'rules of origins' barriers
5 to trade and reducing red tape for British businesses.

6 *After line 89 insert new d):*

- 7 d) Securing the UK's access to the EU's Security Action for Europe (SAFE)
8 programme, which would support British business and the UK's drive
9 to rearm.

Amendment Two

Lambeth Borough

Mover: Cllr Tamora Langley

Saturday 19 September cont

Summation: Duncan Brack

1 *After line 119, insert new e):*

- 2 e) Tackling many of the root causes of instability and conflict by
3 promoting global cooperation on development, including reversing
4 the government's cuts in ODA and setting out a roadmap for the UK's
5 return to the UN target of 0.7 per cent of GNI in ODA.

Amendment Three

14 members

Mover: David Chalmers

Summation: To be announced

1 *After line 119, insert new 5.:*

2 5. Meet the threat of Russia, by:

- 3 a) Ramping up sanctions against the Kremlin, including by banning the
4 provision of all UK maritime services for the export of Russian oil, gas
5 and coal.
- 6 b) Coordinating a Europe-wide ban on the provision of maritime
7 services for the export of Russian fossil fuels.
- 8 c) Expanding the Royal Navy's interception of Russian Shadow Fleet
9 vessels operating illegally in or near British waters, seize and sell the
10 oil being transported, and send the resulting funds to Ukraine to
11 support its war effort.

Amendment Four

14 members

Mover: Baroness Smith of Newnham (Lords Spokesperson on
Defence)

Summation: To be announced

1 *After line 119, insert:*

- 2 Conference also recognises the critical importance to the UK's national
3 security of fixing the perennial problem of recruitment and retention
4 across our armed forces, and calls on the Government to bolster support
5 for service personnel and veterans, including but not limited to:

Saturday 19 September cont

- 6 I. Creating a statutory standard for Single Living Accommodation (SLA)
7 which is equivalent to the Decent Homes Standard, and establishing
8 a duty for all SLA to meet that standard.
- 9 II. Normalising the visible appreciation of Armed Forces' service across
10 British sport and culture, including by working with sporting bodies
11 on a 'Salute to Service' programme which would include more visual
12 and public displays of appreciation for our service personnel.
- 13 III. Requiring that medical records should be provided to veterans no
14 later than one month after leaving the military to ensure discharged
15 personnel can register with civilian GPs and continue to receive the
16 appropriate treatment.

Background briefing

This motion and the accompanying policy paper develops new foreign policy. It builds on existing policy as set out in the 2024 General Election Manifesto, *For a Fair Deal*, policy paper 157, *Liberal Values in a Dangerous World* (2024), policy motion *Trump and the Wider World* (2026), and policy motion *The UK's Response to Trump* (2025).

F11 Rebuilding Health Visiting and Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life

Hall Aide: Jess Brown-Fuller MP

Amendment One

10 members

Mover: Cllr Dr Wendy Taylor

Summation: To be announced

1 *After line 18 insert new h):*

- 2 h) Delivering childhood vaccinations for families facing barriers to
3 access as part of a pilot to tackle reduced vaccination rates.

4 *After line 111 insert new i):*

- 5 i) Expansion of the current pilot to allow all health visitors to provide
6 childhood vaccinations at routine visits in underserved communities.

Saturday 19 September cont

Amendment Two

LDCRE

Mover: Humaira Sanders

Summation: To be announced

1 *After line 56, insert new XI. and XII.:*

2 XI. The 2026 review into the completeness of ethnicity data for children
3 in the Community Services Data Set stated that it is not sufficiently
4 complete or consistent in its recording of ethnicity, and so it is not
5 currently possible to publish data by ethnicity for public health
6 outcomes in the Healthy Child Programme.

7 XII. A 2024 study showed that babies from ethnic minority backgrounds
8 were less likely to get the 6-8 week health check, as were their
9 mothers.

10 *In line 68, after 'regional' insert 'and ethnic'.*

11 *After line 114, insert new 10.:*

12 10. The collection and publication of robust national data on ethnicity of
13 children to enable the CSDS to be used for public health outcomes in
14 the Healthy Child Programme.

Background briefing

This motion develops new public health policies for babies, young children and families. It builds on existing policy as set out in the 2024 General Election Manifesto, *For a Fair Deal*, and policy motion *Equitable and Improved Outcomes Throughout Pregnancy and the Neonatal Period* (2024).

F12 Fixing Family Courts

Summation: Marie Goldman MP (Spokesperson for Women and Equalities)

The Conference Committee has agreed to make the following drafting amendments to the motion:

1 *Delete lines 14-21 and insert:*

2 iv) In July 2026, the Government introduced new rules requiring expert
3 witnesses in children's court cases to be regulated.

Saturday 19 September cont

4 v) The 'Child Focused Courts' model, currently operating in 10 court
5 areas across England and Wales ahead of a planned national rollout,
6 has been described by the President of the Family Division as "far
7 more successful than even its most ardent supporters would have
8 anticipated."

9 *In line 27, delete 'child welfare concerns' and insert 'child protection*
10 *concerns'.*

11 *In line 47, delete 'Pathfinder Courts' and insert 'Child Focused Courts.'*

12 *Delete line 58.*

13 *In line 67, delete 'publish' and insert 'support with the publication of...'*

Amendment One

North Cornwall

Mover: Ben Maguire MP (Shadow Attorney General)

Summation: To be announced

1 *After line 13, insert new clause iv):*

2 iv) Lack of legal aid and provider shortages mean at least one party is
3 unrepresented in around 81% of private law cases.

4 *After line 33, insert new clause IV.:*

5 IV. Legal representation is also an issue in public law cases, with over a
6 quarter of parties unrepresented in some areas of England and
7 Wales due to provider capacity constraints.

8 *In line 44 after 'family justice system' insert 'and legal aid.'*

9 *After line 68, insert new 3.:*

10 3. Expand legal aid eligibility and address legal aid deserts in family law,
11 including by:

12 a) Reviewing and uprating annually the legal aid means test
13 threshold for victims of domestic abuse, and disregarding joint
14 assets where there is evidence of economic coercion.

15 b) Extending the December 2025 legal aid fee increases for housing
16 and immigration cases to family law.

Saturday 19 September cont

Amendment Two

12 members

Mover: Will Forster MP

Summation: To be announced

1 *Delete lines 69-72 and insert:*

- 2 3. Ensure that the Family Justice Board's upcoming Family Justice
3 Strategy addresses inefficiencies and regional capacity constraints, is
4 focused on delivering welfare outcomes for children and their
5 families, and contains a timeline for implementation with clear
6 milestones and mandatory progress reporting to allow effective
7 scrutiny.

Background briefing

This motion develops new policy on public and private law proceedings.

F14 Local Candidate Safety

Hall Aide: Chloe Hutchinson

The Conference Committee has agreed to make the following drafting amendments to the motion:

- 1 *In line 2, delete 'and Sir David Amess MP' and insert "..., Sir David Amess*
2 *MP and former MP Ann Widdecombe'.*

Amendment One

Kingston Borough

Mover: Cllr Jo Barker

Summation: Mary Reid

7 *After line 58 insert new b):*

- 8 b) Threats and violence do not affect everyone in the same way.
9 Disabled people and others may have additional needs which make it
10 harder for them to get away from danger, call for help or keep
11 themselves safe. Security arrangements should take account of this
12 and be adapted to the needs of the individual where necessary.

Saturday 19 September cont

7 *After line 123 insert new 11.:*

8 11. The national support service should make sure that security advice
9 and risk assessments take account of disability and any other
10 circumstances which may affect an individual's safety, with
11 reasonable adjustments and additional security measures provided
12 where needed.

Background briefing

This motion develops new policies on candidate safety and democratic participation. It builds on policy paper 145, *Democracy and Public Debate* (2023) and policy paper 130 *Power for People and Communities* (2018).

Emergency Motions Ballot

One of the following motions will be selected by ballot to be debated at F33 on Monday 21 September and one at F34 on Tuesday 22 September. The emergency motions ballot will be held electronically. Members of conference will receive a ballot by email at 17.00 on Friday 18 September, and should complete it online by 16.00 on Saturday 19 September.

Emergency Motion 1: Britain's Wildfire Crisis

Young Liberals

Conference notes with alarm:

- A. The Met Office confirmed that Summer 2026 was the UK's hottest on record, with five widespread heatwaves, 40 days of temperatures above 30°C and the most wildfires ever recorded.
- B. England and Wales each recorded their driest July on record in 2026.
- C. Fire and rescue services attended 458 wildfires in England and Wales in July, the highest in any month on record.
- D. The wildfire at Dunwich Heath devastated 90% of its nationally important ancient heathland, burning underground seedbanks vital for regrowth, whilst 19 houses in Stourbridge were destroyed in August, with major incidents elsewhere destroying homes and forcing evacuations.
- E. Recent analysis by Ordnance Survey found that 1.8 million homes in Britain are exposed to increasing risk from wildfires which are no longer confined to remote areas.
- F. The Climate Change Committee's May 2026 Report, 'A Well Adapted UK', warns that by 2050, the number of high fire risk days could double compared to the late-20th-century average and the wildfire season will extend into late summer and early autumn.
- G. The Government is belatedly convening a wildfire summit but has failed to publish a Wildfire Action Plan for England despite repeated warnings from fire and rescue services about escalating risk.

Conference thanks firefighters, control-room staff, land managers, volunteers, armed forces personnel and communities who responded to this summer's fires and heatwaves with extraordinary dedication and selflessness.

Emergency Motions Ballot

Conference believes that:

- i) Climate change is making the hot, dry conditions in which severe wildfires spread, more frequent and intense, and that this summer's disasters are a direct consequence of decades of inadequate climate action.
- ii) Emergency responses, long-term adaptation and rapid reductions in greenhouse gases are all necessary and that we must reject any false choice between them.
- iii) One-off emergency measures must be replaced with sustained investment in prevention, resilience and a just transition.
- iv) Nature-based solutions including peatland restoration, rewetting and sustainable land management are essential tools for reducing wildfire risk.

Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitment to net zero by 2050 and to a comprehensive UK climate resilience and adaptation strategy.

Conference calls on the Government to:

1. Publish and fund a Wildfire Action Plan for England by spring 2027, with clear, measurable targets.
2. Establish permanent, nationally deployable specialist wildfire capability with common training and modern equipment including off-road vehicles, drones, water carriers and high-volume pumps, along with aerial support as necessary.
3. Require fire and rescue authorities in high-risk areas to maintain multi-agency wildfire plans which take account of access routes, water sources, vulnerable communities and evacuation arrangements.
4. Increase the farming budget by £1 billion and develop a wildfire prevention plan to allow for evidence-based land management and nature-based solutions, such as peatland restoration, rewetting, farm reservoirs, grazing, removal of excess vegetation and firebreaks.
5. Develop a wildfire danger-rating system along with proportionate temporary restrictions when risk is very high or extreme, such as on the use and sale of disposable barbecues and the use of fireworks.

Applicability: England.

Emergency Motions Ballot

Emergency Motion 2: Burnham's faltering and unambitious approach to Europe

14 members

Conference expresses its disappointment that, since taking office on 20 July, the new Prime Minister Andy Burnham has adopted his predecessor's unambitious approach to rebuilding ties with the EU.

Conference notes, in particular:

- A. Andy Burnham's failure to reschedule the second UK-EU 'Reset' Summit, originally scheduled for 22 July, and views this as a critical missed opportunity to strengthen UK-EU ties.
- B. Comments made by the new Minister of State for European Relations, Hamish Falconer on 9 August, stating that the new Government is "committed" to maintaining its 'red lines' on Europe.

Conference believes:

- I. By failing to rapidly reschedule UK-EU talks and continuing to rule out entry to the single market, a UK-EU customs union and return to freedom of movement, this Labour Government - like the one before it - is holding Britain back.
- II. Strengthening our trade ties with Europe is the biggest lever the Government could pull to start growing our economy, tackle the cost-of-living crisis, and undo the damage caused by the Conservatives' botched Brexit deal backed by Nigel Farage.
- III. Securing a new and ambitious deal with Europe on trade and security is the biggest step we can take now back towards membership of the EU, helping to rebuild the trust of European leaders after it was shattered by the Conservatives.

Conference reaffirms the policy recommendations proposed in motion *Making the UK-EU Reset Summit Count (2025)*, motion *The UK's Response to Trump (2025)* and motion *Rebuilding Trade and Cooperation with Europe (2022)*.

Conference calls on Prime Minister Andy Burnham to immediately reschedule the second UK-EU 'Reset' Summit, and use this as an opportunity to:

- 1. Drop the Government's 'red lines' and negotiate a new Growth and

Emergency Motions Ballot

Defence Partnership with the EU, including:

- a) The UK's access to the single market and a new UK-EU customs union, which will tear down barriers to trade and turbocharge British businesses.
 - b) A new UK-EU defence pact which allows us to better fulfil our NATO obligations and makes Britain safer in the face of Vladimir Putin's expansionism and Donald Trump's unpredictability.
2. Secure final agreement on, and a timeline of implementation for, a Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement, a Youth Mobility Scheme, and an Emissions Trading Scheme agreement between the UK and EU – all of which were promised at the May 2025 'Reset' Summit but have yet to be successfully delivered.

Applicability: Federal.

Emergency Motion 3: Restoring Trans Rights

LGBT+ Lib Dems

Conference notes with concern:

- I. On 5 August 2026, the Equality and Human Rights Commission's (EHRC's) updated Code of Practice came into force, which:
 - a) Bars trans people from facilities aligned with their lived gender and, in some cases, also those aligned with their assigned sex.
 - b) Suggests 'policing' gender non-conforming people for how they look.
- II. Between 2020 and 2025, recorded hate crimes against trans people increased by 50 per cent.
- III. Support groups report increased harassment of gender non-conforming women in women's facilities.
- IV. The Chair of the EHRC, Dr Mary-Ann Stephenson, was appointed by the Government against the advice of the Women and Equalities Committee and the Joint Committee on Human Rights.

Conference believes:

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- A. Trans women are women, trans men are men, and everyone deserves to live in safety and with dignity.
- B. The rights of women and of trans people are not in competition; both are essential to a fair society.
- C. The Code of Practice is discriminatory and unworkable, and places an undue burden on service providers.

Conference reaffirms its commitment to reforming the Gender Recognition Act to remove the requirement for medical reports, end the spousal veto, and recognise non-binary people in law.

Conference calls for:

- 1. Parliament to appoint a dedicated cross-party committee to review how the law should better protect trans people's rights, taking evidence from impacted groups, including trans people, and proposing amendments to legislation where necessary.
- 2. The EHRC to issue a new Code of Practice that is inclusive, workable and ensures everybody can safely access public facilities and providers are protected from legal risk.
- 3. The EHRC to monitor the impact of any Code of Practice it produces, and update it should evidence demonstrate that it is unworkable, harmful or discriminatory.
- 4. Future appointments of the EHRC Chair to be subject to a confirmatory vote by the Women and Equalities Committee.

Applicability: Federal.

Emergency Motion 4: "Snarling, thin-skinned and aggressive": ensuring accountability in the age of Reform UK

12 members

Conference notes that:

- i) Reform UK leader Nigel Farage, received a £5 million gift from Thai based crypto-billionaire Christopher Harborne before the 2024 General Election, which Farage said was a reward for campaigning for Brexit.

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- ii) On the 7th July 2026 it was disclosed that this gift had been reported to the National Crime Agency over money laundering concerns.
- iii) It was reported on 10 July that donations to Reform UK by the mother of convicted fraudster 'Posh George' Cottrell, a close associate of Farage, were being investigated by the Met Police.
- iv) When questioned about the £5 million gift, Farage has sought to dodge scrutiny, telling journalists: "What's it got to do with you? ... It's an unconditional gift. I can spend it on Ferraris if I want ... I can do what I want with it. I can put it on the horses."
- v) Following the launch of a Parliamentary Standards investigation into his conduct Nigel Farage resigned his seat in Clacton and stood in the ensuing by-election, in a ploy to avoid scrutiny.
- vi) Prominent Reform UK member and Brexit campaigner Arron Banks is reported to have set private investigators on a Sunday Times journalist after he broke a series of stories about Nigel Farage.

Conference calls for:

1. The Parliamentary Standards investigation to act without fear of Farage or his bullying tactics.
2. A dedicated investigation into the role and influence of unpaid political advisers, in light of revelations about George Cottrell's relationship with Reform UK.
3. Public scrutiny of suspect financial behaviour by politicians to be protected in law, by:
 - a) Passing a comprehensive Anti-SLAPP law providing robust protection for journalists, whistleblowers, campaigners and others facing Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation.
 - b) Introducing new protections against the vexatious use of private investigators targeting journalists.
 - c) Strengthening donor transparency, including tougher know-your-donor rules, greater resourcing and powers for the Electoral Commission, and more accessible donor records.

Applicability: Federal.

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Emergency Motion 5: Trading with our allies, standing up to Trump

12 members

Conference notes with concern that:

- a) On July 23rd, president Trump hit dozens of countries, including the UK, with new tariffs, after the Supreme Court ruled his previous 'liberation day' tariffs illegal.
- b) The US Government has begun accepting refund applications from businesses around the world for the legally void tariffs they paid, with \$100 billion already refunded.
- c) On August 22nd, the Trump administration escalated its trade war against Canada, by applying 50 per cent tariffs on \$20 billion of Canadian imports.
- d) In August, the White House threatened the UK with 100 per cent tariffs over Britain's Digital Services Tax, levied on global tech giants, with the Burnham Government reportedly being "open to discussing US concerns".

Conference reaffirms Liberal Democrat commitments to championing free trade and expanding the UK's multilateral partnerships with counterparts whom Britain can rely on – particularly in Europe and the Commonwealth.

Conference therefore calls on the Government to:

1. Immediately drop its red lines on Europe and negotiate a new Growth and Defence Partnership with the EU, including joining the Single Market and a new Customs Union.
2. Offset Trump's latest tariffs in the short term, by urgently securing participation in the EU's 'Made in Europe' scheme, vital for our steel industry; concluding an SPS agreement for food and agricultural produce; and securing regulatory alignment in key areas, such as the mutual recognition of professional qualifications.
3. Stand shoulder to shoulder with Canada, commit to closer trade links with our Commonwealth allies and build an economic coalition of the willing to end Trump's trade war.
4. Launch a new initiative supporting eligible UK businesses in claiming US tariff refunds, including raising awareness and providing

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information and advice.

5. Defend British taxpayers against Trump by resisting US pressure to water down or scrap the Digital Services Tax.

Applicability: Federal.