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Friday 15th March

The morning session runs from 10.00 to 12.30.

10.00 Conference opens

Welcome address

SC1: A long term sustainable energy strategy *Tweeddale, Lauderdale & Midlothian South local party*

Mover: David Millar

Summator: TBC

Conference notes that –

The Scottish Government's energy policy is woefully inadequate. In particular, it places undue reliance on electricity generation from wind power and fails to take into account a whole range of other important technologies for securing long term energy supply and for reducing carbon dioxide and other harmful emissions.

~~Conference believes that over reliance on wind power has the following adverse consequences:~~

- ~~i) Other viable methods of reducing reliance on fossil fuels are not being properly exploited.~~
- ~~ii) The full potential for job creation in the renewable sector is not being realised.~~
- ~~iii) Security of supply cannot be guaranteed under climate scenarios that are likely to occur.~~
- ~~iv) The scale of wind turbine developments already within the planning system fails to take sufficient account of their cumulative impact on the landscape. Also lack of an independent overview is causing some parts of Scotland to be affected disproportionately. As a result there is growing public backlash against the whole concept of renewable energy.~~
- ~~v) The current subsidy to the wind industry is ill directed to a mature technology and to predominantly large companies and landowners, rather than to communities.~~

Conference therefore proposes, further to the points addressed in the 27/10/2012 conference motion SC4, that the Scottish Government should be urged to take immediate steps to utilise effectively the Green Investment Bank in Edinburgh and to create a comprehensive long-term sustainable energy strategy covering:

- a. A government-led mapping exercise to identify those geographical areas which have the optimum potential for renewable energy generation – taking full account of landscape and biodiversity factors and the views of local councils.
- b. Significant research into development and deployment of alternative forms of renewable energy such tidal and wave power (building on the outstanding work of the European Marine Energy Centre in Orkney).
- c. Further research into development and deployment of other technologies which will reduce our reliance on fossil fuels – such as systems for more efficient power transmission, for power storage and for the use of biomass as a source of generation where by-product heat can be used.
- d. Encouragement of heat and electricity production by micro-renewables and the introduction of policies for reduction of energy consumption – at both the domestic and business level.
- e. Creation of more hydro electric schemes through comprehensive river catchment management plans.

- f. Measures to ensure that fossil fuelled power stations operated during the transition to carbon free generation use carbon capture and storage to the maximum extent.

Amendment 1 – East Lothian & Scottish Green Lib Dems

After line 42 insert the following:

- g. A moratorium on planning permission and all processes associated with unconventional gas and oil extraction in Scotland until all necessary research on the potential long term social, public health and environmental implications of these processes has been carried out and made public.

Cards:

Move – David Millar, Tweeddale, Lauderdale & South Midlothian - called
Sum Up - Christine Jardine, Caithness, Sutherland & Easter Ross - called
Move Amd - Ettie Spencer, East Lothian - called
Liam McArthur, Orkney - called
Alison Barrett, Galloway - called
Andy Myles, Edinburgh North - called

Votes:

Separate Vote on lines 6-20 (wind power) – lines are deleted
Amendment – carried
Motion as amended - carried

Speech by Alison McInnes

1 **SC2: Secret courts** **Caron Lindsay and 25 members**

Mover: Caron Lindsay

Summator: Alex Cole-Hamilton

2 Secret Courts

3 Conference notes:

- 4 • The motion “No Government Above the Law – the Justice and Security Bill” passed
5 overwhelmingly at the Liberal Democrat Federal Conference in September 2012
6 called for:
7 ➤ Part II of the Justice and Security Bill to be withdrawn or defeated by Liberal
8 Democrat parliamentarians; and
9 ➤ Public Interest Immunity to be put into legislation;
10 • That the amendment calling for “CMPs to be used only as a last resort and in cases
11 that would otherwise be incapable of being tried” was rejected overwhelmingly by the
12 Liberal Democrat Conference;
13 • That Liberal Democrat peers formed the majority of those voting in the Lords to
14 remove secret courts from the Justice and Security Bill;
15 • That, despite the above, the government’s intention as stated by Ken Clarke in the
16 Commons on 18th December 2012 is to pursue enactment of Part II of the Justice
17 and Security Bill including some, but not all, of the amendments proposed by the
18 Joint Committee on Human Rights.

19 Conference believes:

- 20 • That the measures in Part II of the Justice and Security Bill will mean the courts
 21 system of the United Kingdom will provide neither justice nor security in cases
 22 involving allegations against the state of the most serious nature including torture,
 23 rendition, negligence of armed forces, malicious prosecution and false imprisonment;
 24 • That the proposals in the Justice and Security Bill are directly contradictory to the
 25 core values and stated purpose of the Liberal Democrat party as enshrined in the
 26 Preamble to the Constitution, namely to “build and safeguard a fair, free and open
 27 society”;
 28 • That Part II of the Justice and Security Bill should be withdrawn immediately;
- 29 Conference calls for:
- 30 • A pledge to repeal Part II of the Justice and Security Act (if so enacted) to be
 31 included in the Liberal Democrat manifesto for the next General Election.

Deadline for amendments is midday 12th March. Send to: dundee2013@scotlibdems.org.uk

Cards:

Move - Caron Lindsay, Dunfermline & West Fife - called
 Sum-up - Alex Cole-Hamilton, Edinburgh West
 Robert Leslie, Banffshire & Buchan Coast - called
 Hugh Waterfield, Glasgow North - called
 Clive Sneddon, Angus & Mearns - called
 Katy Gordon, Glasgow South - called
 Hannah Bettsworth, Aberdeen Donside - called
 Alexandra White, Galloway - called
 Elspeth Attwooll, North Glasgow - called
 Kavya Kaushik, Aberdeen Central, South & North Kincardine - called
 Jenny Lang, Edinburgh N&L – called

Votes:

Motion – carried overwhelmingly

1 Business Q&A with Willie Rennie MSP + others

Chair: Christine Jardine

Katy Gordon, Glasgow South x 2 - called
 Galen Milne, Stirling & Clackmannanshire - called
 Susan Leslie, Kirkcaldy – called
 Callum Leslie, Kirkcaldy – addendum
 Paul McGarry, Glasgow North – called
 Sanjay Samani – addendum
 Mysterious grey haired man at the back of the hall - called

2 **12.30-14.00 Lunch**
12.40-13.40 Fringe meetings

**3 SC3: Leaving care
 Edinburgh West local party**

Mover: Mike Crockart MP Summator: Alex Cole-Hamilton

4 Leaving care

5 Conference notes:

6 1: that at any given point in time over 16,000 children are looked after or accommodated
 7 by Scottish Local Authorities.

- 8 2: that Scottish Local Authorities are only obliged to provide care to looked after children
9 up to the age of 16, and whilst some local authorities offer care past that age, many
10 will withdraw care when a child becomes 16 due to organisational culture and
11 spending considerations. Government statistics show that eight times as many young
12 people leave care at 16 as leave at 18
- 13 3: that on leaving care, many young people receive inadequate housing support and are
14 placed in bed and breakfasts or homeless hostels where they may be at risk of
15 abuse, exploitation or exposure to drugs and alcohol use.
- 16 4: that educational attainment in care leavers is markedly low with 65% failing to attain
17 qualifications in English and Maths at SQF level 3 or above; whilst only 2.6% of care
18 leavers will enter either further or higher education
- 19 5; that the life chances of Scottish care leavers remain unacceptably bleak with care
20 leavers making up over 20% of Scotland's 20,000 16-19 year olds currently outside of
21 Education or Employment and over one quarter of Scotland's prison population

22 Further notes

- 23 6; that in policy development around the Children and Young People's Bill, the Scottish
24 Government proposed to increase the age at which care leavers have the right to ask
25 for after-care support from their local authority from 21 to 25, but stopped short of
26 placing a duty on local authorities to provide such support at either age.

27 Conference believes

- 28 1: that how the state discharges its corporate parental responsibilities to looked after
29 children and care leavers is one of the most important tests that any administration at
30 any level of government faces and should be resourced accordingly.
- 31 2: there to be a clear correlation between the destabilisation of leaving care,
32 inappropriate after-care housing support and the poor educational attainment of care
33 leavers, most of whom will leave care at a time when their peers are working towards
34 key qualifications and exams.
- 35 3: that the educational attainment of looked after children and care leavers and the
36 negative outcomes they may subsequently experience remain a national disgrace and
37 as such, support for this group should represent a frontline in the preventative
38 spending agenda
- 39 4: that without a duty on local authorities to provide a basic level of support to care
40 leavers, Government commitments to increase the age at which care leavers can ask
41 for such support will prove meaningless

42 Conference resolves:

- 43 1: to seek within legislation, the introduction of a duty on Scottish Local Authorities to
44 provide care, up to the age of 18, to every looked after child that wishes it
- 45 2: to seek within legislation, to prohibit the use of Bed and Breakfast establishments and
46 homeless hostels as accommodation for care leavers;
- 47 3: to seek within legislation, the introduction of a duty on Local Authorities to provide a
48 meaningful level of after-care support to any care leaver that requests it up to the age
49 of 25.
- 50 4: to campaign for meaningful statutory investment in the provision of semi-independent
51 living units for care leavers in all local authority areas

Cards:

Move - Mike Crockart MP, Edinburgh West - called

Cllr Eileen McCartin, Paisley - called

Sum-up - Alex Cole-Hamilton, Edinburgh West - called

Euan Robson, Ettrick, Roxburgh & Berwickshire - called
Kris Chapman, Aberdeen Central, South & North Kincardineshire - called

Votes:

Motion – carried nem con

1 **SC4: Packaging of cigarettes**
Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey local party
Mover: Trevor Escott Summator: John Melling

2 Packaging of cigarettes

3 Conference notes that the UK Government's consultation on standardised packaging for
4 tobacco products closed on 10th August 2012;

5 Conference recognises that, uniquely, tobacco products, when used as directed, kill half
6 of the people who use them prematurely, and are estimated to be responsible for the
7 deaths of around 13,000 Scots each year;

8 Conference believes that tobacco packaging represents the last bastion of advertising
9 for these lethal products, and that the tobacco industry actively uses pack design to
10 encourage people to smoke, especially young people;

11 Conference is aware that the tobacco industry and its subsidiaries has mounted a high
12 profile and well resourced campaign designed to oppose the introduction of
13 standardised packaging for its tobacco products in the UK;

14 Conference congratulates the Australian Government for introducing legislation that
15 mandates standardised packaging for these products, in the face of a similarly
16 vociferous campaign;

17 Conference urges Scottish Liberal Democrat MPs to actively promote the introduction of
18 legislation in the UK to introduce standardised packaging at Westminster at the earliest
19 opportunity, and support any such legislation in its passage through Parliament, which,
20 it believes, will once again place the UK at the forefront of international tobacco control;

21 Conference also calls for the Scottish Liberal Democrat MEP to ensure the EU Tobacco
22 Products Directive enables large front of pack picture health warnings to reinforce the
23 message that smoking is extremely hazardous to health.

Cards:

Move - Trevor Escott, INB&S - called

Sum-Up - John Melling, Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey - called

Jennifer Lang, Edinburgh N&L - called

Kavya Kaushik, Aberdeen NO CARD - called

Daniel O'Malley, Aberdeen Central, South & North Kincardine - called

Sanjay Samani, Angus & Mearns - called

Stephen McFarland, Edinburgh North & Leith & Northern Ireland NO CARD

Trevor Nicholson, Edinburgh South – not called (card late in)

Votes:

Separate Vote rqst on Line 8 (encourage people to smoke, especially young people) Not Taken

Motion - carried

1 **Speech by Nick Clegg MP, Deputy Prime Minister**

2 EM1: Emergency/Topical Motion

Conference Notes that:

There has been an agreement between the Insurance Industry and the Scottish Government (and other UK governments), known as the Statement of Principles, that expires in July 2013 which has brought some relief to those insurance policyholders affected by flooding. The UK Government initially planned to announce a replacement to the Statement of Principles in spring 2012 and with the July 2013 deadline fast approaching there has still been no announcement on when an agreement on a replacement for the Statement of Principles will be reached.

Following the December 2012 floods in Stonehaven and other parts of the country a public meeting was held in the Stonehaven on 20th January where amongst other concerns the issue of flood insurance was raised, On that same evening representatives of the insurance industry met with MPs at Westminster to discuss the importance of ensuring the availability of affordable flood insurance even in high-risk flood areas. The areas of disagreement that remain between the ABI and the Government are preventing such an agreement being reached.

The Insurance Industry is an integral part of the UK economy and as such must take action to retain its overall profitability.

There is an increase in the incidence of flooding throughout the country (from whatever cause), and the flooding of houses leaves those affected with overwhelming losses, both in financial and emotional terms, which require support from the whole community and across the nation.

Conference believes that:

The principled purpose of insurance is to spread the reasonable risks that individuals face, whatever their circumstances, across as wide a population as possible;

Whilst it is the duty of everyone to take whatever precautions are reasonable to protect the assets insured, there are circumstances when some of the reduction of risk is outwith the policyholder's control;

It is in no-one's interests to see house values fall, houses remain empty or unsaleable and businesses close as a result of punitive insurance premiums or conditions;

The new version of the 2008 agreement between the ABI and the Scottish Government must strengthen the protections for individuals, reward positive reduction of risk, and encourage and motivate all members of the community to contribute in a fair way to such costs as do arise;

All agencies have a role in putting a high priority on the task of coping with the significant increase in flooding, and in working together in the regard.

Conference calls for:

Active, meaningful and urgent negotiation between the Treasury and the ABI to ensure that householders currently in areas vulnerable to flooding are treated fairly by including, in a new Statement of Principles, actions and company policies that

- Are fair and transparent;

- Spread the risk and the costs across the whole nation;
- Lead to a greater coverage by insurance of all the risks (to both private and public assets).

The Insurance Industry to outlaw

- a) Punitive rises in insurance premiums or excesses to existing policyholders unless significant inaction can be attributed to the policyholder, and in their Statement of Principles put an absolute figure on the maximum acceptable percentage rise;
- b) Household and business insurance policies that arbitrarily exclude flooding risk;

Whilst positively seeking to act cooperatively in dealing with multiple claims in one area so that economies of scale are achieved, evenness of treatment is encouraged and robust resilience arrangement implemented.

All local and central government agencies to move quickly to reduce the total cost of potential flooding risks by:

- a) Building community resilience through all appropriate community organizations;
- b) Funding protection products in a manner which allows all property occupiers to protect themselves;
- c) Introducing fast and specific warning systems to allow occupiers to take evasive actions in time;

Whilst in the longer term, constructing adequate flood defences.

Voluntary groups should be encouraged and funded by local and national government to:

- a) Identify local needs
- b) Be active in advising both occupiers and local agencies on appropriate measures;
- c) Set up their own procedures so that their group knows what to do to help in the event of flood warnings

Cards:

Move – David Fleming, Angus & Mearns - called
 Sum Up - Peter Bellarby, Angus & Mearns - called
 Robert Smith MP, Kincardineshire - called
 Alison Barrett, Galloway – called
 Hugh Waterfield, Glasgow North - called

Votes:

Motion – carried nem con

3 **SC5: Tackling Scotland’s rising mental health challenge**

Policy committee

Mover: Jim Hume MSP

Summator: Caron Lindsay

4 Tackling Scotland’s Rising Mental Health Challenge

5 Conference notes that one in four adults will experience mental ill health in their lifetime
 6 and recognises the enormous personal, social and economic costs of mental health
 7 problems, estimated at £10.7 billion per year in Scotland.

8 Conference recognises that mental ill health is now the dominant health problem for
 9 people of working age, with estimates suggesting that mental health problems among
 10 individuals in work cost Scottish employers over £2 billion a year. Meanwhile mental ill

11 health accounts for around 45% of all people not working due to ill health.

12 Conference also recognises that more needs to be done to help vulnerable children and
13 young people, particularly in light of recent figures showing that ChildLine Scotland
14 experienced a 68% increase, within a year, in the number of young people seeking help
15 about self-harm.

16 Conference is concerned that antidepressant prescribing continues to rise, with 1 in 7
17 Scots now taking antidepressants, yet there are no formal processes for an individual's
18 treatment to be reviewed to ensure that antidepressant use is still the best way to help
19 them recover.

20 Conference notes the Coalition Government's investment of £400 million over the
21 spending review period, to improve access to psychological therapies in England, which
22 it's estimated will result in over £700 million of savings to the public purse in healthcare,
23 tax and welfare gains. Conference understands that this strategy aims to expand
24 provision of psychological therapies to children and young people, older people, people
25 with long-term health problems, those with medically unexplained symptoms and those
26 with serious mental illness.

27 Conference believes that:
28 Mental health is not just an NHS issue; it's at the core of Scotland's wellbeing. Without
29 action to improve mental health, action on education, employment, criminal justice and
30 poverty will fail.
31 While evidence-based drug therapies are, in many cases, effective for the treatment of
32 mental illness, it is important that doctors are also able to explore local treatment
33 alternatives, including evidence-based 'talking therapies' such as Cognitive Behavioural
34 Therapy (CBT).
35 Extending access to talking therapies, to all those who need it, will help more individuals
36 get their lives back on track and achieve their potential and will also result in significant
37 savings for the economy.

38 Conference welcomes:
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- 40 • New HEAT targets, due for delivery this year and next, to deliver faster access to
41 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and psychological
42 therapies for all ages, and recognises that waiting times data is in the process of
43 being developed to assess these.
- 44 • The new Mental Health Strategy for Scotland 2012-2015 which includes a
45 commitment to commission a review into the state of mental health services in
46 Scotland in 2013, due to report and make recommendations for improvement in
47 2014.
- 48 • A pilot with positive results in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde where GPs
49 carried out reviews with patients who had been taking the same antidepressant
50 for over 2 years. Review resulted in a change in antidepressant therapy for 28%
51 of patients, and the whole pilot resulted in a statistically significant 9.5% reduction
52 in prescribed daily doses of antidepressants and observed an 8.1% reduction in
53 prescribing costs. 6.3% of patients were referred onwards to other NHS mental
54 health services.

54 Local initiatives using a range of responses to common mental health problems
55 such as depression and anxiety – for example the use of art therapy to help
56 women suffering from postnatal depression or therapeutic gardening to help
57 individuals get active and improve their mental wellbeing.

58 Conference calls for:

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- Scottish Ministers to consider a similar scale of investment in improving access to talking therapies, as has been undertaken in England, in order to achieve similar scales of benefit; estimated at a public sector saving of £1.75 for every £1 spent, on top of the personal and social benefits to individuals and families.
 - The Scottish Government to work with NHS boards to introduce a process for supporting GPs to review patients who have been prescribed long-term antidepressants, along the lines of the Glasgow pilot.
 - A continued focus on reducing stigma; building on progress to date by extending the anti-stigma agenda to tackle discrimination and exclusion.
 - A stigma-busting approach to self-harm, with more support and information for children, parents and teachers and more joined up working between schools and health professionals - in addition to improved access to talking therapies for children and young people.
 - Alternative approaches to promoting social inclusion, health improvement and recovery within a mental health context, such as art therapy, to be recognised and developed.

Cards:

Move - Jim Hume MSP, Mid Scotland & Fife - called
Sum-up - Caron Lindsay, Dunfermline & West Fife - called
Christine Jardine, Caithness, Sutherland & Easter Ross - called
Alexandra White, Galloway - called
Sophy Bridger, Glasgow North - called
Callum Leslie, Mid Scotland & Fife - called
Kavya Kaushik, Aberdeen - called
Lin Macmillan, East Lothian - called
Ewan Hoyle, Glasgow South - called
Fred Mackintosh, Edinburgh South - called

Votes:

Motion – carried nem con

Speech by Vince Cable MP, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills
Chair:

Close of session 17.00

Saturday 16th March

The morning session runs from 10.00 to 12.00.

SC6: Giving children equal protection from assault
Edinburgh West local party

Mover: Mike Crockart MP ————— Summator: Alex Cole-Hamilton

Giving children equal protection from assault

Conference notes:

- 1: that the 19th century legal defense of ‘reasonable chastisement’ is still admissible as justification for the common law assault of children in Scottish courts, but that such a defense is not applicable to cases of assault against adults.
- 2: that the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has recommended that the UK and devolved administrations extend equal protection from assault to children through the repeal of all legal defenses on 3 occasions: in 1995, 2002 and 2008, stating (in 2008) that each administration should “prohibit, as a matter of priority all corporal punishment in the family”
- 3: that of the 47 member states of the council of Europe, the UK is among only 5 who have failed to legislate for equal protection of children from assault and that as of July 2012, 33 states around the world had prohibited the corporal punishment of children entirely including Germany, Spain and South Sudan.
- 4: that senior Scottish police officers have called for equal legal protection for children from assault, citing the link between violence in the home and violent crime in later life.
- 5: that the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003 prohibited the administration of blows to a child’s head, the shaking of a child and the use of an implement in the chastisement of a child but rejected amendments to prohibit the corporal punishment of the under 3s.

Conference believes

- 1: that ‘reasonable chastisement’ is as unsafe a legal defense in cases of assault against children as it is in cases of assault against adults
- 2: that if Scotland is truly to be regarded as ‘the best place in the world for children to grow up’ then we have an obligation to meet our outstanding commitments to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- 3: that the legally sanctioned use of violence in the home, legitimises the use of violence as a tool of retribution and discipline in the minds of children from an early age

Conference resolves

- 1: to build on our record in this area as part of the Scottish Government in 2003, by seeking within legislation, the abolition of ‘reasonable chastisement’ as a legal defense in Scots law and to fight the 2016 Scottish Elections with a manifesto commitment to equal protection for children.
- 2: to build public awareness of and support for the case for equal protection

Cards:

Move - Mike Crockart MP, Edinburgh West – called 1
Sum-Up - Alex Cole-Hamilton, Edinburgh West – called 10
Derek Young, Edinburgh NE&L – called 2

Caron Lindsay, Dunfermline & West Fife – called 6
Sanjay Samani, Angus & Mearns – called 4
Cathy McInnes, East Dunbartonshire – called 9
Paul McGarry, Glasgow North – NOT CALLED
Fred Mackintosh, Edinburgh South – called 8
Jill Cole-Hamilton, Edinburgh N&L – called 3
Dr Iliyan Stefanov, Dundee – called 5
Etty Spencer, East Lothian - called 7
Trevor Nicholson, Edinburgh West – withdrawn because Fred said exactly what he wanted to say

Cards:

Motion – count - pro 52, Against 51 – motion defeated

SC7: End the cruelty of snaring ***Liberal Youth Scotland***

Mover: David Green

Summator: Ross Stalker

End the Cruelty of Snaring

Conference notes:

1. That data from the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) shows that 70% of snaring incidents involved non-target animals between 31st March 2011 and 25th April 2012.
2. That non-target species involved in snaring incidents include pets and European Protected Species, and that no regulation can possibly make snares target-specific.
3. That public support for a ban on snaring has been consistently high.
4. That non-compliance with legal requirements to check snares daily has long been widespread.

Conference believes:

1. That snaring is cruel, indiscriminate and unnecessary.
2. That animal welfare organisations such as the SSPCA, RSPCA and OneKind have a solid, evidence-based case for continuing to call for a total ban on snaring in Scotland, even when the new regulations passed in the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 are taken into account.
3. That contrary to claims of the pro-snaring lobby, predator culling is not a necessary aspect of conservation, and evidence shows snaring to have a net negative effect on biodiversity. RSPB Scotland, Forestry Commission Scotland, The Woodland Trust and Plantlife Scotland do not make use of snaring, and utilise habitat manipulation as a highly successful, humane and cost effective means of predator control. Scottish Natural Heritage and The John Muir Trust use no form of predator control at all.
4. That even when checked regularly, snares with a safety catch can still inflict suffering and fatal harm on non-target species.
5. That previous efforts to ban snaring have been thwarted by a vocal minority of pro-snaring lobbyists, in spite of public support for a ban and compelling evidence from animal welfare organisations.

Conference therefore calls on the Scottish Government to:

1. Bring forward legislation to implement a total ban on the manufacture, sale and use of snares in Scotland.
2. Increase public awareness of current regulations, so that incidents of abandoned and less safe snares are more widely reported.

3. If such legislation is not passed, to ensure a prominent role of animal welfare organisations and a proper evidence-based approach when current regulations are reviewed in 2016.

Cards:

Move – David Green, LYS – called 1

Sum-up – Ross Stalker, Renfrewshire – called 5

Karen Utting, Edinburgh EN&L – called 2

Daniel O'Malley, Aberdeen Central, South & N Kincardine – called 3

Hugh Waterfield, Glasgow North – called 4

Votes:

Motion - carried

Speech by Danny Alexander MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury

SC8: Shetland and Orkney – the constitutional debate

Orkney local party

Mover: Tavish Scott MSP

Summator: Liam McArthur MSP

Shetland and Orkney - the constitutional debate

Conference notes:

- A. The strong feelings in Shetland and Orkney against the recent centralisation of public services towards the central belt, for example on policing, fire services, colleges, economic development, public sector construction contracts and civil engineering;
- B. The distinct needs of the islands on many matters, not least the seafood industries, the Scottish Government's cuts to the Air Discount Scheme and the failure to prioritise ferry services;
- C. The recent conference motion passed in support of the report of the Home Rule and Community Rule Commission which recommended radical action to reverse centralisation and empower communities;
- D. The belief amongst many in the northern isles that the legal, constitutional positions of Shetland and Orkney are not clear and that the impact of the 1707 Act of Union is open to interpretation.

Conference resolves:

1. That Shetland and Orkney should develop a preferred position on their future relationship with the United Kingdom and Scotland;
2. That the world-leading exploitations of oil and gas and renewable energy in the waters around the islands gives Shetland and Orkney strength in any negotiations they may wish to have;
3. That the Scottish Government should accept that Shetland and Orkney should have a separate right to self-determination, to secure the best future for themselves, whatever the constitutional future of Scotland.

Cards:

Move – Tavish Scott MSP, Shetland – NO CARD – called 1

Sum-up - Liam McArthur MSP, Orkney

Christine Jardine, Caithness, Sutherland & Easter Ross – called 2
Willis Pickard, Edinburgh South – not called
George Lyon MEP, Argyll & Bute – not called
Denis Mollison, East Lothian (request for separate vote on 2. above) – called 3
Alistair Carmichael MP, Orkney & Shetland – called 5
Jeremy Purvis, TE&L – called 4

Votes:

Separate Vote on 2. – point retained
Motion – carried nem con

12.00-14.30	Lunch
12.10-13.10	Fringe meetings
13.30-14.30	Fringe meetings

The afternoon session runs from 14.40 to 17.10.

EM2: Housing Benefit and the Under-occupation Charge

Conference is greatly concerned that, from 1st April 2013, council and Housing Association tenants under 61 in receipt of housing benefit who are deemed to be under occupying their house will lose housing benefit of 14% for 1 room and 25% for 2 or more rooms (around £8/week and £14.50/week respectively);

Conference notes the growing evidence that the under occupancy will cause huge financial, domestic and housing problems for many of the most vulnerable people in Britain, and inhibit housing investment and Council funding of temporary accommodation, particularly –

- a. The joint letter published on 1st March by Shelter Scotland, the Chartered Institute of Housing and the Association of Local Authority Chief Housing Officers as to the effect on council-owned temporary accommodation, and
- b. Detailed reports on the implications in local areas to Councils such as that by Rutherglen Local Housing Forum on 5th March

Conference welcomes the additional exemptions announced this week by the Government relating to foster carers and the armed forces, and notes the additional guidance issued relating to other priority groups –

- a. For many people illness, disability or a growing family requires an additional room
- b. For most people underoccupying by one room, downsizing is not a practical option if there are very few properties of a suitable size available.
- c. In any event, it is reasonable and sensible for many people to have a spare bedroom to allow for caring responsibilities of many kinds.

Conference calls on the Coalition government:

- a. To reconsider the under occupancy rules in light of these concerns, and
- b. Meantime to defer its introduction to allow an independent examination of its likely implications

Cards:

Move – Cllr Robert Brown, Rutherglen – called 1
Paul Edie, Edinburgh West – called 8
Alison Barrett, Galloway – NOT CALLED
Peter Hayman, East Lothian – called 4
Mike Rumbles, Aberdeenshire West – called 6
Cllr Eileen McCartin, Paisley & Renfrewshire – called 5
Cathy McInnes, East Dunbartonshire – NOT CALLED
Ashay Ghai, E Dunbartonshire – called 2
Karen Clark, Aberdeenshire West – called 7

Ann Bell, Banffshire & Buchan Coast – called 3

Votes:

Motion - carried

Speech by Willie Rennie MSP, Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats

Q&A with George Lyon MEP and Graham Watson MEP

Cards:

Isobel Davidson, Aberdeenshire East - called

Dominic Younger, Dundee - called

Galen Milne, Stirling & Clackmannanshire - called

Eileen McCartin, Paisley - called

Derek Barrie, NE Fife - called

Kevin Lang, Edin N&L - called

Hugh Galbraith, Aberdeen Donside - called

SC9: Rationalisation of train fare structure *NE and Central Fife local party*

Mover: Jane Ann Liston

Summator: Tim Brett

Rationalisation of train fare structure

Conference reaffirms its support for public transport and for steps to encourage its increased use;

Conference notes the rises in train fares in Scotland;

Conference recalls the 2010 motion on “Fairer Fares” which called a review of rail ticket pricing; better advertising, flexibility and transparency of cheap fares; and greater provision of through-ticketing;

Conference is concerned at anomalies present in the current structure of Scotrail fares whereby it is possible for two tickets to cost less than a single one along the same route, and for a shorter route avoiding the main cities to be more expensive than the longer one via the central belt.

Conference believes that these discrepancies discourage the use of the railways, therefore inconveniencing the public and forcing would-be rail passengers to revert to cars, to the detriment of the environment.

Conference calls on Scotrail and the Scottish Government to take steps to end the anomalies and introduce a more straightforward and rationalised fare structure that encourages increased use of Scotland’s railways.

Cards:

Move – Jane Ann Liston, NE & Central Fife – called 1

Sum-up - Cllr Tim Brett, NE Fife – called 8

John Melling, Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey – called 7

Andrew Nisbet, Dumbarton – called 2

Hannah Bettsworth, Aberdeen Donside – called 4

Stephen McFarland, EN&L – NOT CALLED

Emma Sykes, Edinburgh N&L – NOT CALLED
Peter Bellarby, Angus & Mearns – called 3
Alan Reid MP, Argyll & Bute – called 5 (did I see the card?)
Jade Holden, ? - called 6 (did I see the card?)

Votes:
Motion - carried

Party Business

BM1: Strengthening the organizational structure of the party throughout the regions

Scottish Women's Liberal Democrats

Mover: Elspeth Attwooll

Summator: Katy Gordon

SWLD representation on Policy Committee

The reasoning for the change is that SWLD believes it was an oversight in the last constitutional review and that it was never intended to exclude Policy Committee from the national committees that SWLD would have formal representation on.

Add in Section G, after clause 2k, a new clause 2l, to read "one member to be appointed by the Scottish Women Liberal Democrats". The conjunction "and" would be moved from the end of 2j and placed instead at the end of 2k.

Vote:
Motion – carried

Question from:

Galen Milne – regional structure

John Melling – membership – what are the numbers

Willie Wilson – accounts (fees)

Hamish Sweet(?) – membership – want specific report. Craig agreed to look to produce a Membership Report to all future AGMs.

David Fleming - membership

Hugh Waterfield – membership – expect membership stand at future conferences

Liz ? –

Derek Barry – want executive to look at distributing AGM material prior to AGM

Decisions:

- Office Bearers agreed to produce a Membership Report to all future AGMs. What has happened through the year, any available break-downs, costs to administer, etc
- Executive to consider alternative means to ensure members get AGM material prior to AGM.
- Accounts – approved
- Reports - approved

Close of session 17.10

Sunday 17th March

The morning session runs from 09.30 to 13.00

Speech and Q&A by Michael Moore MP, Secretary of State for Scotland

SC10: The Coalition Commission Policy Committee

Mover: Nigel Lindsay

Summator: Cllr Robert Brown

Commission on the coalition

This Conference of the Scottish Liberal Democrats:

1. Notes the significant achievements of Liberal Democrats in government in Westminster, including –
 - a. Progress towards reducing the huge deficit inherited from the previous government
 - b. The accelerated raising of the income tax threshold from £6,475 to £9,205 (and the agreed increase to £10,000 by 2015)
 - c. The triple lock guarantee of steady, real terms increases in the state pension, together with the groundbreaking reforms for new pensioners retiring after 2017
 - d. The successful delivery of greater power and responsibility to the Scottish Parliament, and the 'Edinburgh Agreement' on the referendum;
2. Notes also the high price paid by the Party in terms of electoral trust and support from its participation in the Coalition government;
3. welcomes the Report of the Scottish Party's Commission on the Coalition and endorses its recommendations and
4. calls on the Party its leadership and Ministerial team to take action on/ the Commission's recommendations in order to best prepare the Party for the electoral challenges ahead.

In particular, Conference endorses the Commission's calls –

- A. to give increased priority to effective capital investment in infrastructure to support sustainable economic growth and build a 'stronger economy in a fairer society'
- B. to press for key changes in the welfare reform programme, including a moratorium on further budget cuts, and major changes in the under occupancy rule on housing benefit and in the Work Capability Assessment
- C. to ensure that long term structural changes are made in the banking industry to eliminate the obscene bonus culture and hold to account those who have recklessly or criminally caused so much damage to the economy and to the livelihoods of ordinary people
- D. to reaffirm Liberal Democrat opposition to secret courts, and our commitment to the rule of law, open justice, the holding of government to account, the right to a fair trial and the protection of civil liberties
- E. to establish a UK constitutional convention to deliver the Party's proposals for home rule within a federal UK
- F. to continue to oppose like-for-like replacement of Trident
- G. to ensure that issues of principle likely to be of fundamental concern to Liberal Democrats are only signed off in government after full consultation with the Party
- H. to further progress the policy of 'differentiation', clarifying what our positions will be at the next General Election in cases where Liberal Democrats have made

compromises for the sake of effective government

- I. for the full engagement of the Scottish Party in the preparation of the manifesto's themes, mood music and policy priorities, and
- J. to build on the Party's radical traditions of freedom, fairness, opportunity and social justice, and its opposition to excesses of monopoly power and wealth to build its position as the radical, social conscience of the Government.

Cards:

Move - Nigel Lindsay, East Lothian - called
Sum-up – Robert Brown, Rutherglen - called
Karen Utting, Edinburgh NE&L - called
Judy Hayman, East Lothian – called
Katy Gordon, Glasgow South - called
Galen Milne, Stirling & Clackmannanshire – called
Steven Glenn - called
Jo Swinson MP, East Dunbartonshire – called
Alan Reid MP, Argyll & Bute – NOT CALLED (very late submission)

Votes:

Motion – carried nem con

Q & A (Baroness Sal Brinton)

Male, pale and stale': is this an acceptable image for the Liberal Democrats?

Q&A on increasing the diversity of our members, candidates, elected politicians.

Moyra Forrest, Edinburgh NE&L - called
Andrew Nisbet, Dumbarton - called
Jennifer Jamieson Ball, Ed NE&L - called
Sanjay Samani, Angus & Mearns - called
Ewan Hoyle, Glasgow South - called
Helen Watt, East Dunbartonshire - called
Cathy McInnes, East Dunbartonshire - called
Hugh Waterfield, Glasgow North – called
Sophy Bridge, Edinburgh NE&L

Speech by Malcolm Bruce MP, Party President

Party Awards

Russell Johnston Trophy (conference speech) – Kavya Kaushik, Aberdeen
SWLD award (diversity) – Katy Gordon re SWLD
Robin McSkimming Award (community) – Bill Mitchell
Rae Michie Trophy (recruitment) – David Green re H&I

Close of session 13.00

Scottish Liberal Democrats - Standing Orders

- 1 1. The Conference Committee
- 2 1.1. The Conference Committee shall be constituted as specified in Section E10 of
- 3 the Constitution. The annual election of members by the conference shall be by Single
- 4 Transferable Vote in a ballot of all members of the Party registered to attend
- 5 Conference ('Conference Representatives').
- 6 1.2. The Conference Convener shall be the Chair of the Conference Committee. At its
- 7 first meeting after a new election under Section E10 of the Constitution, the Conference
- 8 Committee may elect one or more Vice-Conveners.
- 9 2. The Timetable and Agenda - Normal Meetings
- 10 2.1. The Agenda for each ordinary meeting of Conference shall include time for:
- 11 2.1.1. Motions;
- 12 2.1.2. Emergency motions;
- 13 2.1.3. Topical issues;
- 14 2.1.4. A business session or sessions; and
- 15 2.1.5. any other business deemed appropriate by the Conference Committee. The time
- 16 to be allocated to each type of business and the order of business shall be decided by
- 17 the Conference Committee.
- 18 2.2. The Conference Committee shall, before each meeting of the Conference,
- 19 prepare a timetable which includes:
- 20 2.2.1. The closing date for the receipt of motions (other than Emergency or Topical
- 21 motions), which shall not normally be less than eight weeks before the start of the
- 22 meeting;
- 23 2.2.2. The due date for the publication of the Agenda, which shall not normally be less
- 24 than six weeks before the start of the meeting;
- 25 2.2.3. The closing date for the receipt of topical issues, which shall not normally be less
- 26 than two weeks before the start of the meeting; and
- 27 2.2.4. The closing date for receipt of amendments, which shall not normally be less
- 28 than two working days before the start of the meeting.
- 29 2.2.5. The Conference Committee may, in special circumstances, specify dates later
- 30 than the normal dates under this Standing Order. It shall report to the Conference its
- 31 reasons for doing so.
- 32 2.3. Submitting organisations shall detail at the time of submission the name and
- 33 contact details of a person authorised to agree any redrafting of a motion or amendment
- 34 and the name of the mover and summator of the motion or amendment, should it be
- 35 selected for debate at Conference.
- 36 2.4. The Conference Committee shall decide which of the motions duly submitted
- 37 shall be included within the Agenda. The proposers of the motions selected for debate
- 38 shall be informed of the Conference Committee's decision. The Agenda shall be
- 39 circulated to Local Parties and other bodies entitled to submit motions and amendments
- 40 under the provisions of Section E19 of the Constitution so that amendments can be
- 41 tabled to these motions by such bodies. Copies of motions not selected for inclusion in
- 42 the Agenda shall be available for inspection.
- 43 2.5. The Conference Committee shall meet the day after the deadline for submission
- 44 of amendments to motions on the Agenda and shall decide which amendments should
- 45 be accepted and those rejected. The proposers of the amendments selected for debate
- 46 shall be informed of the Conference Committee's decision.
- 47 2.6. The Conference Committee shall also meet as soon as practicable after the
- 48 closing date for the receipt of topical motions and shall decide which of the topical
- 49 motions duly submitted shall be debated, and the proposers of topical motions selected

50 shall be informed of the Conference Committee's decision. The text of any topical
51 motions selected for debate shall be circulated to Conference Representatives, Local
52 Parties and bodies authorised to submit motions.

53 2.7. The Conference Committee shall also prepare an agenda for the business
54 session of each meeting of Conference. The Committee shall circulate this, with the text
55 of proposed amendments to the Constitution in accordance with Section L of the
56 Constitution, amendments to Standing Orders, and other party business motions, with
57 the Agenda as per Section 2.4

58 2.8. The Party's Principal Committees may submit holding motions, which shall
59 identify the issues to be dealt with within the motion but which may be amended and
60 expanded upon later. Standing Orders 2 and 3 shall apply to holding motions as they
61 would apply to ordinary motions, except that:

62 2.8.1. the final version of the motion shall be submitted not less than two weeks before
63 the start of the meeting of Conference;

64 2.8.2. The text of the final version shall be circulated to Conference Representatives,
65 Local Parties and other bodies authorised to submit motions under the provisions of
66 Section E19 of the Constitution, who may submit amendments no later than two working
67 days before the start of the meeting of Conference; and

68 2.8.3. The Committee shall make available to Conference Representatives the text of
69 the final version and any amendments chosen for debate, either by their publication in
70 the Conference Daily Bulletin or by any other means the Committee considers most
71 appropriate

72 2.9. The Conference Committee may, if the circumstances require, propose to
73 Conference a variation in the order of business as set out in the Agenda. Such variation
74 shall be put to the vote and shall take effect if approved by a majority of those voting.

75 3. Submission of Motions and Amendments

76 3.1. The Conference Committee may refuse to select a motion for the amendment of
77 the Constitution or Standing Orders if, in the opinion of the Committee, it is similar in
78 effect to another motion which has been selected for debate at the same meeting of
79 Conference. All other motions in these categories shall be circulated with the Agenda.

80 3.2. No amendment shall be selected if, in the opinion of the Conference Committee,
81 it is insubstantial, outside the legitimate scope of the motion or tantamount to a direct
82 negative of the motion.

83 3.3. The movers of any motion or amendment that has not been selected shall be
84 notified as soon as is practicable and may appeal to the Conference Committee in
85 accordance with directions given by the Committee. If an appeal is allowed, the motion
86 or amendment shall be treated as an emergency motion or amendment notwithstanding
87 that it does not comply with Standing Order 5.

88 3.4. This Standing Order and Standing Order 2 do not apply to procedural motions
89 under Standing Order 8.

90 No topical issue may be selected for debate at Conference unless the Conference
91 Committee is satisfied that the content of the motion is such that it could not have been
92 submitted in time for the deadline as set out in Section 2.2 for ordinary motions. No
93 topical issue can be a holding motion from a Party Committee. Selection of topical
94 issues for debate will be made at the same time as consideration of emergency motions
95 for debate. However, Conference Committee reserves the right to consider topical
96 issues earlier if required

97 4. The Agenda - Special Conferences

98 4.1. Special Conferences shall deal only with the business stated in the notice of
99 requisition, save that the Conference Committee may allow time for emergency motions
100 and for business which is formal or, in the opinion of the Committee, uncontentious.

101 4.2. The Conference Committee shall draw up an Agenda and circulate in line with

102 Section 2.4. If the Committee deems it necessary the Agenda can be circulated with
103 amendments to be submitted as Emergency Amendments.

104 4.3. The provisions of Standing Orders 2 and 3 shall, so far as they are not
105 inconsistent with Standing Orders 4.1 and 4.2, apply to special meetings of the
106 Conference.

107 5. Emergency Motions

108 5.1. An emergency motion or amendment must relate to significant developments
109 which have occurred since the relevant closing date or so shortly before that date as to
110 make it impracticable to submit a motion, topical issue or amendment in due time. It
111 must be brief and specific.

112 5.2. An emergency motion or amendment may be submitted by five Conference
113 Representatives or by any persons or bodies authorised to submit motions under the
114 provisions of Section E9 of the Constitution.

115 5.3. The Conference Committee may, for each day of the meeting of Conference, set
116 aside time convenient for the debate of Emergency Motions. In such an event, proposed
117 Emergency Motions must be submitted to the Conference Committee, duly signed, by
118 5pm the day before they are to be debated. Emergency Amendments to motions
119 already on the Agenda for that meeting of Conference must be submitted by 5pm the
120 day before the motion is to be debated.

121 5.4. The Conference Committee may refuse to select an emergency motion or
122 amendment if, in the opinion of the Committee, it is similar in effect to another motion
123 which has been selected for debate at the relevant meeting of Conference.

124 5.5. The Conference Committee will choose the emergency motions or amendments
125 which, in the opinion of the Committee, are most relevant to the concerns of the
126 Conference and can be debated within the time available. The Committee shall make
127 available the text of all emergency motions and amendments chosen for debate either
128 by publication in the Conference Daily Bulletin or any other means the Committee finds
129 most appropriate.

130 5.6. Amendments shall not normally be taken to the text of an Emergency Motion.
131 However Conference Committee may consider amendments duly signed by 5
132 Conference Representatives or by any body authorised to submit motions under the
133 provisions of Section E9 of the Constitution. These amendments must be brief, suitable
134 for debate and of a similar emergency nature. The deadline for submitting amendments
135 to an Emergency Motion will be listed in the Conference Daily Bulletin alongside the text
136 of the Emergency Motion. The movers of the Emergency Motion must be given the
137 opportunity to agree that the text of the amendment be accepted without debate or vote,
138 and the text must be circulated to voting representatives before the start of the debate.

139 6. Conduct of Debate

140 6.1. Length of Speeches

141 6.1.1. The Conference Committee shall decide the time to be allocated for each debate.
142 The Conference Committee shall determine the times allocated to speakers in debates.

143 6.1.2. Movers of motions shall normally be allocated not more than 12 minutes to move
144 and summate on a motion. Movers of amendments shall normally be allocated not more
145 than 8 minutes to move and summate on a motion. Movers of emergency motions and
146 topical issues shall normally be allocated 5 minutes to move the motion. Speakers from
147 the floor shall normally be allocated 4 minutes but this may be varied at the discretion of
148 the chair of the debate.

149 6.1.3. The allocation of the time between moving and summing shall be at the
150 discretion of the mover subject only to notification of the Chair of the debate before the
151 start of the debate. In the absence of such notification the Chair shall be entitled to limit
152 speeches to three quarters of the time allocation for moving and one quarter for
153 summation.

154 6.2. Order of Debate
155 6.2.1. The Conference Committee shall direct the order of debate. Generally, however,
156 a motion will be moved and immediately thereafter the amendments will be moved in
157 the order directed by the Committee. There will then be a general debate. The movers
158 of amendments (or their nominees) shall have the right to summate in the same order,
159 after which the mover of the motion (or their nominee) shall have the right to summate.
160 6.2.2. Votes will be taken on amendments in the order in which they have been moved
161 and finally, a vote shall be taken on the substantive motion.
162 6.3. The Conference Committee may direct that parts of any motion or amendment or
163 group of amendments may be the subject of a separate debate the Conference
164 Committee may also direct that a debate may comprise of more than one substantive
165 motion. In this case it shall be up to the discretion of the Chair as to the allotment of
166 speakers, save that the rights of movers of motions or amendments shall not be
167 infringed.
168 6.4. The Committee may authorise members of other State or Regional Parties to
169 speak. The Committee may also, with the approval of conference, invite any person to
170 address a Conference as a guest.
171 6.5. On any topical issue, policy motion or emergency motion not moved on behalf of
172 the Policy Committee, the Policy Committee shall have the right to nominate one of its
173 members to report to the Conference its views on the motions and/or amendments
174 under debate. Such persons shall be called to speak at any time up to the conclusion
175 of the debate and before any replies and shall be entitled to speak for the same length
176 of time as the mover of the motion. The Executive Committee shall have similar rights
177 on business motions or motions to amend the constitution and the Conference
178 Committee shall have similar rights in relation to motions to amend Standing Orders or
179 motions otherwise relating to the proceedings of the Conference.
180 6.6. Save as provided in Standing Orders, no person may speak more than once in
181 any debate.
182 6.7. All members wishing to speak in any debate, including the movers and
183 summators of motions and amendments, must submit a speaker's card and indicate
184 whether they wish to speak in favour or against a motion or amendment. The Chair of
185 the session shall be responsible for providing a balanced debate between the different
186 viewpoints in the Conference. In circumstances where there is a preponderance of
187 members wishing to speak on the same side in any debate, the Chair may announce a
188 departure from this rule.
189 7. Voting
190 7.1. Voting cards shall be issued to all Conference Representatives and shall be
191 shown in respect of all votes taken. A count of voting cards will be taken when either:
192 7.1.1. This is felt necessary by the Chair of the session to resolve uncertainty as to the
193 outcome, or
194 7.1.2. A request for a count has been made by 12 Conference Representatives
195 standing in their places and showing their voting cards.
196 7.2. In the event of a count of voting cards being required, the Chair of the session
197 shall appoint tellers for the purpose. A recount will be held only if the Chair of the
198 session is not satisfied that the first count was accurate.
199 8. Points of Order and Procedural Motions
200 8.1. Any voting member may rise on a point of order. A point of order shall be taken
201 immediately, except that, during a vote no point of order shall be taken that does not
202 refer to the vote itself. The decision of the Chair of the session on all points of order
203 shall be final.
204 8.2. References Back
205 8.2.1. A voting member may, at any time before the end of speeches in reply to the

206 debate, submit in writing a motion to refer back the motion under debate. Such a
207 submission shall state to whom the motion is to be referred and shall include a short
208 statement of the reasons of no more than 100 words.

209 8.2.2. The Chair may decide either to take the motion to refer back immediately or defer
210 it until the end of debate. If more than one request for a reference back is received, the
211 Chair shall have the discretion as to which to take but shall give consideration to the
212 appropriateness of the bodies to which the motion is being referred, the degree to which
213 the stated reasons for reference back reflect views expressed in the debate and the
214 order in which the requests were submitted, before exercising the rights of discretion.
215 No more than one reference back shall be taken to any motion.

216 8.2.3. The Chair shall, upon taking the motion to refer back, read it and the statement of
217 reasons and ask conference whether it wishes to debate the motion. If the conference
218 decides not to debate the reference back, the reference back automatically falls. If the
219 conference decides, by a majority of those voting to debate the reference back the
220 mover of that motion may speak and the mover of the substantive motion or their
221 nominee may reply. The Chair shall have discretion whether to allow other speakers on
222 the motion.

223 8.2.4. The reference back shall require a simple majority of those voting to be passed.
224 If the substantive motion is referred to the Executive, Policy Committee or Conference
225 Committee that body shall report to the next meeting of conference stating the action it
226 has taken on the reference back.

227 8.3. Suspension of Standing Orders

228 8.3.1. A voting member may, during any session of a conference, move for the
229 suspension of Standing Orders. The mover shall submit the motion together with a
230 written statement of its purpose, not exceeding 100 words, to the Chair who shall read
231 them to the Conference.

232 8.3.2. No motion to suspend Standing Orders may suspend any requirement of the
233 Constitution, not Standing Orders 2 and 3.

234 8.3.3. No motion to suspend Standing Orders to introduce a motion or amendment onto
235 the Agenda can be taken unless the motion or amendment has been submitted to the
236 Conference Committee in accordance with the published timetable and any right of
237 appeal has been exercised.

238 8.3.4. The Chair shall read the statement of purpose and if the suspension is allowable,
239 ask Conference whether it wishes to debate the request to suspend Standing Orders. If
240 the Conference decides not to debate the request, it falls. If the Conference decides to
241 hear the request the mover may speak and a representative of the Conference may
242 reply. The Chair has the discretion to call other speakers and all speeches will be
243 limited to two minutes.

244 8.3.5. A motion to suspend Standing Orders shall only be carried if supported by at
245 least two thirds of voting Representatives present and voting. If the procedural motion is
246 carried all Standing Orders shall remain in force except only for the purposes set out in
247 the motion.

248 8.4. Separate Votes

249 8.4.1. A Separate Vote shall be taken on a part of a motion or amendment.

250 8.4.2. At the direction of the Conference Committee; or

251 8.4.3. At the discretion of the Chair, when requested to do so by a voting
252 representative. Any voting representative may submit a request for a separate vote to
253 the Chair of a debate. Such a request must be in writing and received before the
254 commencement of the speeches in reply to the debate. The Chair has complete
255 discretion in such a case on whether to take a separate vote.

256 8.5. These Standing Orders may be amended by a two-thirds majority of Conference
257 Representatives present and voting on a motion duly submitted under the terms of

258 Standing Order 3. Subject to any amendment they shall remain in force from
259 Conference to Conference.