



# Autumn Conference 2024

16<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Salutation Hotel, Perth

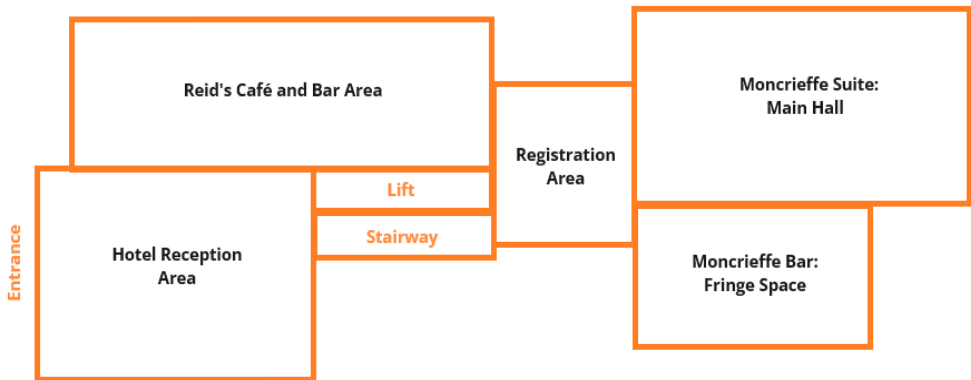


## Conference Agenda

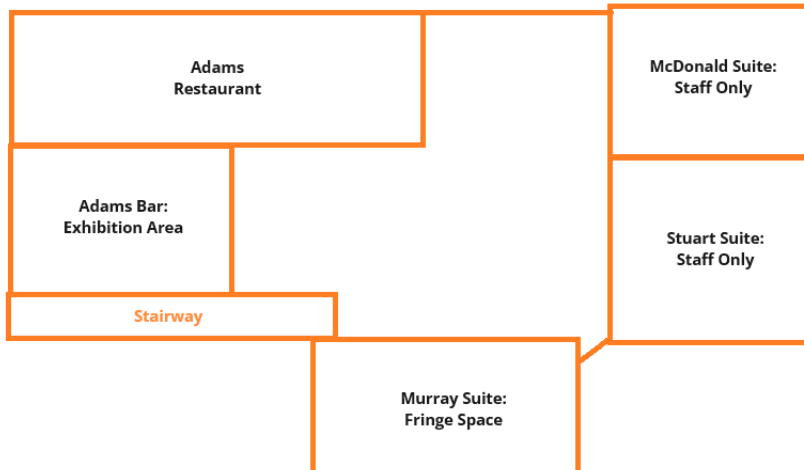


# Venue Floor Plan

Floor 1



Floor 2





# Contents

Conference Statement

What's going on? Morning Session

What's going on? Afternoon Session

Fringes

Exhibitions

Lunchtime event - Ticketed Event

SC1: Winter Fuel Payments

SC2: Reducing the harm caused by  
smoking

SC3: Addressing the shortfall of ASN  
Teachers and PSAs

SC4: Gender Balance in our Candidate  
Selections for the Scottish Parliament  
Elections

Standing Orders

Notes



## Welcome! Paul McGarry - Conference Convenor

Hi everyone,

It's wonderful to be back in Perth for another conference, especially in this fantastic venue that truly represents the heart of Scotland. Returning to Perth always feels like coming home, and I'm sure this year's conference will be one to remember. We're meeting in the Salutation Hotel, a historic building that goes back centuries. But I uncovered a few interesting facts. Did you know that David Bowie once played in the very ballroom we're meeting in today? And that the Beatles themselves stayed here during one of their tours?

This conference nearly didn't even happen a year ago, many were certain we'd be heading into a general election, and yet here we are, we have had an election. I'm thrilled to welcome not one, but two new MPs into our ranks, and I hope you'll take the chance to meet them throughout the day.

This conference is packed with some of the most engaging debates we've seen in a long time. We'll be discussing issues that will challenge us as a party and help shape the direction we take moving forward. I'm especially proud of the record turnout and the interest from external organisations. Be sure to visit the fringe events and exhibitions – there's something for everyone, and this is your chance to connect with like-minded individuals and explore new ideas. We are trying some new ideas again this conference with the introduction of our spokespeople announcements.

If you have any questions or need any assistance, don't hesitate to approach me or any member of the conference team.

Many thanks,

Paul





# What's going on? - Morning Session

**Start: 09:30**

**Welcome**

**S1: Spokesperson Questions & Votes**

**SC1: Winter Fuel Payments**

**S2: Announcement by Claire McClaren**

Spokesperson for Agriculture, Remote & Rural Communities

**MM1: Justice and Policing**

**S3: Announcement by Paul McGarry**

Spokesperson for Housing and Homelessness

**Introducing our new MPS:**

**Susan Murray MP and Angus MacDonald MP  
Hosted by Christine Jardine MP**

**LUNCH: 12:00-13:00**

**FRINGES: 13:00-14:00**



# What's going on - Afternoon Session

**Start: 14:00**

**SC2: Reducing the harm caused by smoking**

**SC3: Addressing the shortfall of ASN Teachers and PSAs**

**LEADERS SPEECH:**

**Alex Cole Hamilton MSP**

**EM1: Emergency Motion: See Bulletin**

**SC4: Gender Balance in our Candidate Selections for the Scottish Parliament Elections**



# Fringe Events: 13:00-14:00

Scottish Environment LINK

RSPB

Location: Murray Suite

Panellists:

Deborah Long, Chief Officer of Scottish Environment LINK

Douglas Peedle, RSPB Head of Nature Positive Economy

Charles Dundas, Chair, Scottish Environment LINK

Jonny Wyatt, RSPB Scotland Programme Manager – Biodiversity Enhancement



The nature and climate crises are inextricably linked, with almost half of Scots having noticed declines in nature and two-thirds noticing warmer winters or increasingly extreme weather in their lifetime. We will discuss why we need a nature positive economy and how governments and the private sector can support bolder and more effective action for nature, climate and people.



# Fringe Events: 13:00-14:00

Royal Society of Edinburgh

**Public good for public money? reforming financial support for tree planting and forestry.**

Location: Moncrieff Suite



Afforestation is seen as a key measure in the fight against climate change, with the capacity to deliver additional benefits for biodiversity and people. The RSE undertook an independent inquiry into public financial support for tree planting and forestry and concluded the current funding regime needs reform in order to maximise collective benefit, particularly at a time of exceptionally constrained public finances. This panel will examine the report's main recommendations and consider how Scotland can support truly multi-functional forests.





# Fringe Events: 13:00-14:00

National Deaf Children's Society Scotland

Location: Moncrieffe Bar



## **Why we need specialist teachers to make education inclusive**

Join Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP, the National Deaf Children's Society and Scottish Autism to hear about the difference specialist provision makes to children with additional support needs (ASN), including deaf and autistic children, and why Scotland needs more specialist ASN teachers.



# Exhibitions

## WASPI Scotland

WASPI Scotland was formed 2017 to highlight the injustices suffered by 50's born women as a result of State Pension Acts 1995 & 2011, enforcing State Pension age delays of up to 6 years, with little or no notice, affecting 345,000 in Scotland.



## THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SCOTLAND

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



The Educational  
Institute of Scotland



# Exhibitions

## Scottish Young Liberals

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



## ALDC



We're a membership organisation that provides advice, resources and training for Liberal Democrat councillors and campaigners.



# Exhibitions

## The Scottish Rewilding Alliance



Despite growing praise for its rewilding progress, Scotland is one of the most nature-depleted countries on Earth. But it's not too late and there is hope – Scotland can lead the way as a Rewilding Nation, tackling the nature and climate crises, and creating a cascade of benefits for people. The Scottish Rewilding Alliance has spent 2024 reaching out to people across Scotland to ask: what does a Rewilding Nation mean to you? Hear from some of the thousands of people who have signed the Rewilding Nation Charter and pledge your support for rewilding - for nature, climate and people.

## LGBT Lib Dems and Scottish LibDem Women



Scottish Lib Dem Women and LGBT + Lib Dems are the officially recognised Lib Dem organisations campaigning for women's and LGBT people's rights.



# Exhibitions

## WWF Scotland



WWF Scotland is dedicated to finding solutions to a broad range of environmental problems. Climate change, threats to natural resources and rising energy use impacts on people and wildlife around the world. We work on these issues by providing solutions, influencing policy and gaining public support.

# DROP IN SESSION

## Post General Election Review Drop In Session

09:30-10:15

Murray Suite

Come and raise your opinions about the way the General Election 2024 was ran and any ideas about improvements to be made.



# Lunchtime Event: A Thank you to our Activists

Location: Adams Restaurant

Time: 12:00-13:00

Join us as we celebrate the success of the 2024 General Election Campaign which wouldn't have been possible without you, our loyal activists.

Enjoy a two-course meal from the Salutation Hotel and celebrate with your fellow activists as well as your new parliamentarians, Susan Murray MP and Angus MacDonald MP.

**THIS IS A TICKETED EVENT - NO WALK INS  
AVAILABLE**

Sponsored by: **INVICTA**<sup>®</sup>  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS



## SC1: Winter Fuel Payments

**Mover: Christine Murdoch**

**Summator: Caron Lindsay**

1 Conference notes:

2 1. The SNP Government had been preparing to replace the Winter Fuel  
3 Payment with Pension Age Winter Heating Payment but has now proposed  
4 replicating the changes recently announced by the UK Government and  
5 delay the introducing of the Winter Heating Payment until 2025-26.

6 2. That the cut to Winter Fuel Payment was announced without prior notice  
7 or consultation with affected groups.

8 3. While some, fortunately, can afford to lose these payments many cannot.  
9 Around 900,000 pensioners will be £300 worse off this winter and average  
10 bills are set to rise by £149.

11 4. Winters in Scotland are colder and often longer than in the rest of the UK,  
12 with many people in rural Scotland having no access to mains gas, meaning  
13 higher fuel costs than in non-rural areas.

14 5. Liberal Democrat MPs have led the fight against the cut in Winter Fuel  
15 Payment in Westminster, standing up for pensioners who will be impacted  
16 by these changes this winter.

17 Conference believes:

18 1. Restricting the benefit to those who receive Pension Credits (PC) or other  
19 social security benefits, will see some pensioners who just fail to qualify for  
20 PC worse off than those who do.



- 21 2. The UK Government has made a grave mistake in its decision to cut Winter  
22 Fuel Payment
- 23 3. That while the Scottish Government may not be able to bring in its  
24 proposed Winter Heating Payment, it has other levers and powers at its  
25 disposal to help pensioners this winter, such as the possibility of a social  
26 tariff for gas and electricity.

27 Conference calls:

- 28 1. On the UK Government to reverse their decisions to cut Winter Fuel  
29 Payment for 2024-25 and to consult with organisations supporting older  
30 people before announcing changes for any future years.
- 31 2. On the UK Government to carry out work to ensure that everyone who is  
32 eligible for Pension Credit receives it.
- 33 3. On the Scottish Government to explore other options it has at its disposal  
34 to help pensioners through this winter.





## SC2: Reducing the harm caused by smoking

**Mover: Adam Harley**

**Summator: Jenny Marr**

1 Conference notes:

- 2 1. The harm caused by tobacco, with over 8,000 smoking-related deaths  
3 every year in Scotland, meaning it is the most preventable cause of ill  
4 health and premature death.
- 5 2. The annual cost to NHS Scotland of treating smoking-related diseases is  
6 estimated to be between £300m and £500m each year.
- 7 3. The Scottish Government's target is for smoking prevalence among the  
8 adult population to be 5% or lower by 2034, and that Public Health  
9 Scotland reports that 15% of adults were cigarette smokers in 2022.
- 10 4. The new UK Government will legislate to gradually increase the age of sale  
11 for cigarettes, meaning it will be an offence to sell tobacco products to  
12 anyone born on or after 1 January 2009.
- 13 5. Agreement has been reached with devolved governments, meaning that a  
14 four nations approach will be taken subject to the Scottish Parliament  
15 giving its consent.
- 16 6. Reports suggest that the Prime Minister is also considering separate  
17 tougher rules on outdoor smoking in England.

18 Conference believes:

- 19 1. In John Stuart Mill's harm principle that says individuals should be free to  
20 act as they wish unless their actions cause harm to another.



- 21           2. State interventions to reduce smoking should be evidence-based.
- 22 Conference calls for:
- 23           1. The Scottish Liberal Democrat party to A) support OR B) oppose the
- 24           introduction of an escalating age limit on the purchase of tobacco
- 25           products.
- 26           2. The Scottish Liberal Democrat party to A) support OR B) oppose further
- 27           restrictions on outdoor smoking rules.
- 28           3. The new UK Government to introduce a levy on tobacco company profits
- 29           to help fund healthcare and smoking cessation.



## SC3: Addressing the Shortfall of ANS teachers and PSAs

**Mover: Amanda Clark**

**Summator: Charlotte Olcay**

1 Conference notes that:

2 1. The Scottish Government's pupil census shows the number of pupils  
3 identified with additional support needs (ASN) has doubled over the last  
4 decade, rising from 132,000 in 2013 to 259,000 in 2023.

5 2. The teacher census shows the number of ASN teachers has decreased  
6 by 12% (392 teachers) since 2013, falling to 2,898.

7 3. The Scottish Parliament's Education, Children and Young People  
8 Committee undertook an inquiry into additional support for learning. It's  
9 report, published on 14 May 2024, stated that "there was strong evidence  
10 to suggest that the majority of ASN pupils are not having their needs met".

11 4. There have been devastating cuts to education budgets made by some  
12 councils, following derisory settlements from the Scottish Government,  
13 which are expected to lead to job losses for ASN staffing with harmful long-  
14 term impacts upon pupils. Glasgow City Council is cutting 450 classroom  
15 teachers over 3 years, with NASUWT and Scotland's Children and Young  
16 People's Commissioner among those warning that this will be felt acutely  
17 by pupils with disabilities and additional needs.

18 5. The attainment gap in the pass rate between disabled and non-disabled  
19 learners widened at both National 5 and Higher level this year.

20 6. The National Deaf Children's Society in Scotland report that there has



21            been a steep decline in qualified Teachers of Deaf Children and Young  
22            People (QToDs), and evidence from Edinburgh University indicates that  
23            there has been a significant decrease in the numbers of Qualified Teachers  
24            of the Visually Impaired (QTVI) trained in Scotland.

25 Conference believes that:

- 26            1.    Every child has a right to a good education, the right to achieve their  
27            potential and be supported to have a positive school experience.
- 28            2.    The statutory requirement to identify and make provision for the extra  
29            support and resources some pupils need to achieve their potential must be  
30            respected.
- 31            3.    Cuts to teacher numbers will not only affect ASN pupils but have a wider  
32            impact on all pupils. Teaching staff are already over-stretched and violence  
33            in schools is increasing. Teachers have minimal non-class contact time and  
34            are expected to cater for large classes with wide-ranging needs often  
35            without pupil support assistants.
- 36            4.    The presumption of mainstreaming cannot be delivered without the  
37            resources also being in place to support teachers, pupils and families.
- 38            5.    The distinct needs of children with a sensory impairment (blind, deaf and  
39            deafblind children) can only be met by being able to access support from a  
40            teacher with additional specialist qualifications.

41 Conference calls for:

- 42            1.    The Scottish Government, Education Scotland and COSLA to jointly  
43            develop a national strategy to enhance the training, recruitment and  
44            retention of ASN teachers and PSAs. This should:



- 45 a. include consideration of career progression for trained specialist  
46 teachers.
- 47 b. focus on the needs of each individual pupil by establishing a  
48 guaranteed minimum level of support staff.
- 49 c. include a national workforce plan for specialist teachers for  
50 children with a sensory impairment, with clear pathways for teachers  
51 who want to specialise, and bursaries for funded places for teachers  
52 studying to obtain the mandatory qualifications.
- 53 2. The Scottish Government to provide job security for educational staff by  
54 ensuring proper, stable working conditions and putting an end to the  
55 culture of short-term and zero hours contracts.
- 56 3. Local authorities to use the direct funding coming from the Scottish  
57 Government for additional teachers and classroom support assistants to  
58 enhance ASN provision and reverse the steep decline in qualified teachers  
59 of deaf children and young people and qualified teachers of the visually  
60 impaired.



## SC4: Gender Balance in our Candidate Selections for the next Scottish Parliament Elections

**Mover: Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP**

**Summator: Christine Jardine MP**

1 Conference notes:

2 1. That of the 31 Liberal Democrat MSPs elected to the Scottish Parliament  
3 since its inception, only four of them have been women.

4 2. All of the Lib Dem MSPs elected in the Scottish Parliament elections of  
5 2016 were men, while of those elected in 2021, only one of the four  
6 elected is a woman.

7 3. Successive opinion polling and the results of the 2024 General Election  
8 suggest the party could dramatically increase its representation at the  
9 next Scottish Parliamentary elections.

10 4. The efforts being undertaken by the party leadership and key  
11 stakeholders to encourage more women to stand for the Scottish Liberal  
12 Democrats at all levels

13 5. The party has successfully improved the representation of women among  
14 our elected members in the past through gender balance mechanisms in  
15 both Westminster and the European Parliament.

16 6. That conference previously agreed to use a system of gender balanced  
17 lists for the 2021 Scottish Parliament election which would have seen an  
18 additional four women MSPs elected had our vote share increased  
19 marginally.

20 7. Those mechanisms employed by the party for the selection of Holyrood



- 21 candidates have now timed out and the party has no current mechanisms  
22 to achieve a more balanced representation of women in our next Scottish  
23 Parliamentary group.
- 24 8. Section 104 of the Equality Act 2010 allows the party to introduce gender  
25 balance mechanisms in the selection arrangements for candidates in  
26 certain circumstances. The circumstances are:-
- 27 (a) that the arrangements apply to a relevant election. Relevant elections  
28 include Scottish Parliamentary elections.
- 29 (b) the purpose of the arrangements is to reduce inequality in the party's  
30 representation in the body concerned. Inequality in the context of  
31 gender balance means between the current number of male and  
32 female MSPs.
- 33 (c) the arrangements are a proportionate means of achieving that  
34 purpose.

35 Conference believes:

- 36 1. That given the possibility of a significant increase in our MSP group, it is  
37 imperative to do all we can to improve the gender balance of that group  
38 through encouragement, training and the introduction of a gender  
39 balance mechanism for the next Scottish Parliament Election.
- 40 2. As there is currently a 3:1 male to female ratio, the Party can put in place  
41 selection arrangements intended to reduce that inequality as afforded  
42 under the terms of the Equality Act 2010.



43 3. That selection arrangements are an appropriate and necessary means of  
44 reducing gender inequality among Liberal Democrat MSPs.

45 Conference resolves:

46 1. To alter the arrangements for the selection of candidates for the regional  
47 lists so that the four regions closest to returning a Liberal Democrat MSP  
48 based on the 2021 election results see the highest placed woman in that  
49 contest ranked at number 1 on that list. This would apply to the following  
50 four regional lists:

- 51 • North East Scotland
- 52 • Highlands and Islands
- 53 • Mid Scotland and Fife
- 54 • Lothian

55 2. The remaining four lists would be selected under normal arrangements  
56 with no changes.

57 3. This arrangement would be disappplied following the conclusion of the  
58 next Scottish Parliament election.

59 4. Constituency selections will proceed based on current arrangements.





# Standing Orders for a Conference

## 1. The Conference Committee

1.1. The Conference Committee shall be constituted as specified in Section E10 of the Constitution. The annual election of members by the conference shall be by Single Transferable Vote in a ballot of all members of the Party registered to attend Conference ('Conference Representatives').

1.2. The Conference Convener shall be the Chair of the Conference Committee. At its first meeting after a new election under Section E10 of the Constitution, the Conference Committee may elect one or more Vice-Conveners.

## 2. The Timetable and Agenda

2.1 The Conference Committee may choose to hold a conference as either a digital or in person conference. The conference committee will as far as practicable make accommodations for a 'hybrid' conference when an 'in-person' conference is held.

2.1. The Agenda for a hybrid meeting of Conference shall include time for one or more of the following items:

Motions;

Emergency motions;

Topical motions;

A business session or sessions; and any other business deemed appropriate by the Conference Committee. The time to be allocated to each type of business and the order of business shall be decided by the Conference Committee.

2.2. The Conference Committee shall, before each meeting of the Conference, prepare a timetable which includes:

2.2.1. The closing date for the receipt of motions (other than Emergency or Topical motions), which shall not normally be less than six weeks before the start of the meeting;



2.2.2. The due date for the publication of the Agenda, which shall not normally be less than four weeks before the start of the meeting;

2.2.3. The closing date for the receipt of Topical Motions, which shall not normally be less than two working days before the start of the meeting; and

2.2.4. The closing date for receipt of amendments which shall not normally be less than two working days before the start of the meeting.

2.2.5. The Conference Committee may, in special circumstances, specify dates later than the normal dates under this Standing Order. It shall report to the Conference its reasons for doing so.

2.3. Submitting organisations shall detail at the time of submission the name and contact details of a person authorised to agree any redrafting of a motion or amendment and the name of the mover and summator of the motion or amendment, should it be selected for debate at Conference.

2.4. The Conference Committee shall decide which of the motions duly submitted shall be included within the Agenda. The proposers of the motions selected for debate shall be informed of the Conference Committee's decision. The Agenda shall be circulated to Local Parties and other bodies entitled to submit motions and amendments under the provisions of Section E19 of the Constitution so that amendments can be tabled to these motions by such bodies. Copies of motions not selected for inclusion in the Agenda shall be available for inspection.

2.5. The Conference Committee shall meet within one week of the deadline for submission of amendments to motions on the Agenda and shall decide which amendments should be accepted and those rejected. The proposers of the amendments selected for debate shall be informed of the Conference Committee's decision.

2.6. The Conference Committee shall also meet as soon as practicable after the closing date for the receipt of topical motions and shall decide which of the topical motions duly submitted shall be debated, and the proposers of topical motions selected shall be informed of the Conference Committee's decision. The text of any topical motions



Representatives, Local Parties and bodies authorised to submit motions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **3. Submission of Motions and Amendments**

3.1. The Conference Committee may refuse to select a motion for the amendment of the Constitution or Standing Orders if, in the opinion of the Committee, it is similar in effect to another motion which has been selected for debate at the same meeting of Conference. All



other motions in these categories shall be circulated with the Agenda.

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

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

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

3.5. No Topical Motion may be selected for debate at Conference unless the Conference Committee is satisfied that the content of the motion is such that it could not have been submitted in time for the deadline as set out in Section 2.2 for ordinary motions. No Topical Motion can be a holding motion from a Party Committee.

#### **4. The Agenda – Special Conferences**

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

4.2. The Conference Committee shall draw up an Agenda and circulate in line with Section 2.4. If the Committee deems it necessary the Agenda can be circulated with amendments to be submitted as Emergency Amendments.

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



## 5. Emergency Motions

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

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

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

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

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

5.6. Amendments shall not normally be taken to the text of an Emergency Motion. However Conference Committee may consider amendments duly signed by 5 Conference Representatives or by any body authorised to submit motions under the provisions of Section E9 of the Constitution. These amendments must be brief, suitable for debate and of a similar emergency nature. The deadline for submitting amendments to an Emergency Motion will be listed in the Conference Daily Bulletin alongside the text of the Emergency



Motion. The movers of the Emergency Motion must be given the opportunity to agree that the text of the amendment be accepted without debate or vote, and the text must be circulated to voting representatives before the start of the debate.

## 6. Conduct of Debate

### 6.1. Length of Speeches

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

6.1.2. Movers of motions shall normally be allocated not more than 12 minutes to move and summate on a motion. Movers of amendments shall normally be allocated not more than 8 minutes to move and summate on a motion. Movers of emergency and topical motions shall normally be allocated 5 minutes to move the motion. Speakers from the floor shall normally be allocated 3 minutes but this may be varied at the discretion of the chair of the debate.

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

### 6.2. Order of Debate

6.2.1. The Conference Committee shall direct the order of debate. Generally, however, a motion will be moved and immediately thereafter the amendments will be moved in the order directed by the Committee. There will then be a general debate. The movers of amendments (or their nominees) shall have the right to summate in the same order, after which the mover of the motion (or their nominee) shall have the right to summate.

6.2.2. Votes will be taken on amendments in the order in which they have been moved and finally, a vote shall be taken on the substantive motion.



6.3. The Conference Committee may direct that parts of any motion or amendment or group of amendments may be the subject of a separate debate the Conference Committee may also direct that a debate may comprise of more than one substantive motion. In this case it shall be up to the discretion of the Chair as to the allotment of speakers, save that the rights of movers of motions or amendments shall not be infringed.

6.4. The Committee may authorise members of other State or Regional Parties to speak. The Committee may also, invite any necessary to satisfy them the result is certain.

7.3. In the event of a tied vote, the Chair will ask for the vote to be run a second time. If this still results in a tied vote, the debate will be decided on the casting vote of the Chair of the debate.

## 8. Points of Order and Procedural Motions

8.1. Any member eligible to vote in the debate may raise a point of order electronically with the Chair (details of how to do this will be shared with members at the start of the virtual conference). A point of order shall be taken immediately, except that, during a vote no point of order shall be taken that does not refer to the vote itself. The decision of the Chair of the session on all points of order shall be final.

### 8.2. References Back

8.2.1. A voting member may, at any time before the end of speeches in reply to the debate, submit electronically a motion to refer back the motion under debate. Such a submission shall state to whom the motion is to be referred (e.g. Scottish Policy Committee; Scottish Executive) and shall include a short statement of the reasons.

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



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

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

### 8.3. Suspension of Standing Orders

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

8.3.2. No motion to suspend Standing Orders may suspend any requirement of the Constitution, nor Standing Orders 2 and 3.

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

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





8.3.5. A motion to suspend Standing Orders shall only be carried if supported by at least two thirds of voting members taking part in the vote. If the procedural motion is carried all Standing Orders shall remain in force except only for the purposes set out in the motion.

#### 8.4. Separate Votes

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

8.4.2. At the direction of the Conference Committee; or

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

8.5. These Standing Orders may be amended by a two-thirds majority of Conference Representatives present and voting on a motion duly submitted under the terms of Standing Order 3. Subject to any amendment they shall remain in force from Conference to Conference.



# Notes



# Notes



# Notes



# Notes