



YOUNG LIBERALS CONFERENCE SHEFFIELD



AGENDA

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Agenda

Arriving early? Join our
Action Day for YL candidate
Jordan Barry - see page 11
for details!

FRIDAY 9TH FEBRUARY

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Welcome to Conference!

"I can't wait to meet lots of new faces this conference! The Young Liberals are a force to be reckoned with in the party and we have a real opportunity to make a positive impact between now and the general election. We have an exciting year ahead!"

Janey Little, YL Chair



I'm so excited to be back at YL Conference, and in Sheffield Hallam - a future Lib Dem gain! We've really invested in the technology that powers our events, and I'm looking forward to seeing us deliver our best ever experience for online attendees, as well as a few special surprises for those joining us in person. It's fantastic to see so many new members joining us, and I can't wait to welcome you to future YL events!

Lucas North, Events Officer



Conference is back, and thanks to the great Young Liberals membership and an equally great Policy Committee, we've got a jam-packed lineup of policy debates for you all! Be sure to stop me for a chat across the weekend if you have any questions, be they about the conference or wider Liberal Democrat policy making. See you all soon!

Ulysse Abbate, Policy Officer



Venues

Conference Venue

The main venue for Winter Conference will be the Owen Building, at Sheffield Hallam University - Hallam Square, S1 2LX.

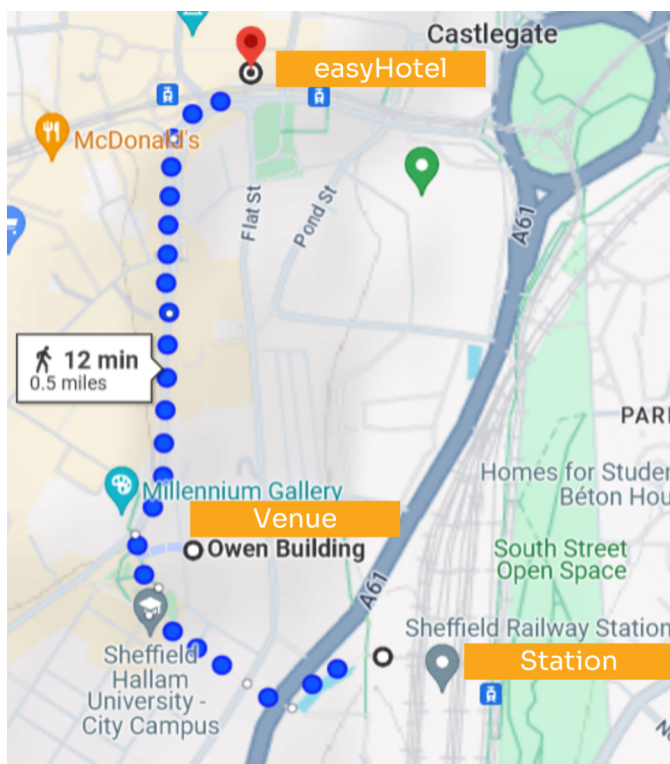
This is around a 5 minute walk from Sheffield train station.

When you arrive for the first time, please collect your pass from the Events Team, and wear this around the venue at all times.

Please do not congregate around the Welcome area, Tech Desk or Events Room to keep emergency exit routes clear and ensure we can support members with any queries.

Please note that the Conference venue will close at 9pm on Friday and Saturday, and 5pm on Sunday.

Please ensure you have all of your belongings before leaving Sheffield on Sunday evening.



Accommodation

If you have booked an accommodation ticket, your room is at **easyHotel Sheffield - 71 High Street, Sheffield, S1 2GD.**

This is around a 5-7 minute walk from the venue.

If you encounter any issues with the booking, please contact Lucas at events@youngliberals.uk

Safeguarding

Young Liberals take your safety and security very seriously. We have a team of trained and professional and discreet volunteers and staff who will be happy to answer any questions.

If you are concerned about your welfare, or the welfare of any other member at Conference, please speak to our Safeguarding team in confidence.

You can contact them via email at **safeguarding@youngliberals.uk**.

If you need urgent help, you can call **0333 33 55 420** during conference.

In an emergency, **always call 999.**



Callum Clark
Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Lucas North
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Alex Hartley
YL Staff
Member



Emily Baker
Accessibility, Diversity
& Standards Officer

First time at Conference? Not sure who to talk to? Come and say hello to one of our **Friendly Faces!**



Harvey (he/him) is YL's Comms Officer. He is a Parliamentary Assistant for one of our MPs, having studied German and Medieval History at university. He'd would love to chat about The Simpsons, F1, trains and video games!

Kathy (they/them) is YL's Secretary. They're about to complete a PhD in archaeology, focusing on autism in the Stone Age. They love Doctor Who, beer and ale, musical theatre and penguins!



Rebecca (she/her) is YL's Non-Portfolio Officer. As well as studying for a degree in Politics and Teaching, she works at a cinema in London. She loves film, trains, video games, computers and elections!

Chang (he/him) is YL's Racial Equity, Diversity and Liberation Officer. He is currently a medical student, and would love to talk Modern Family and find out your favourite TV show!



Will (he/him) is YL's Membership Development Officer. He works in Marketing alongside studying Politics & Philosophy. He'd love to talk football, animation, technology and hear about your pets!

At a glance...

TRAINING

Getting Involved with your local party

Saturday 1:30pm

Become a champion of youth representation as we explore how to get involved with your local party. Find out how you can add and get value while pushing YL values at every level of the party structure, including: **Diversity of thought, How to add value to your local party, How to benefit from your local party, Pushing for youth officers on your exec.**

Elections 101

Saturday 2:30pm

Gear up for a winning campaign at Elections 101! From mastering nomination forms to navigating the campaign landscape, learn the essential strategies, including the role of an agent and effective literature plans, to make your mark in a big year of elections, including: **Nomination forms, The role of an agent, the Shuttleworth, Literature plans, Organising a delivery network and Online vs In Person campaigning.**

What happens on Election Day

Sunday 1:30pm

From postal vote polling to the exhilarating Election Day Join us to unravel what really happens on election day and how it's the not so secret weapon of political success, including: **Postal vote polling day, Polling day tasks, Get out the vote, and what happens at a count.**

For more information about training, speak to our Membership Development Officer, Will!

(Will.Tennison@youngliberals.uk)



At a glance...

We're delighted to welcome two fantastic speakers to Young Liberals Conference - who both know what it takes to win!

Cllr Shaffq Mohammed MBE

Saturday 4:30pm

Shaffaq is Leader of the Liberal Democrats on Sheffield City Council, and a former MEP for Yorkshire and Humber.

He was awarded an MBE for political service in 2015, having been a councillor from 2004-2014, and since 2016.

In 2023, Shaffaq was selected to be our candidate for Sheffield Hallam at the next election, where we're just a few hundred votes behind Labour!



Cllr Stephen Robinson

Sunday 2pm

Stephen has been Leader of Chelmsford City Council since 2019.

He's stood for the Liberal Democrats in his constituency several times, and has overseen some fantastic work in Chelmsford since taking office.

Stephen gave a barnstorming speech at our last Autumn Conference, leading to YL successfully keeping our party's national housing target.



At a glance...

Friday Action Day! – Friday 10am onwards

In case you're able to get to Sheffield early on Friday, some of us will be going out campaigning for YL council candidate Jordan Barry, who is running in Crookes & Crosspool for Sheffield City Council. If he wins, he'll be the youngest Lib Dem in the council group!

If you'd like to come along, the meeting point is 4 Manchester Road, S10 5DF. A few of us will be meeting at the station at 10am to head over together, so do feel free to pop me a message letting us know and meet us there!

If you've never been campaigning before, this is a great opportunity to give it a go and you'll have lots of people there to support you.

Welcome Reception – Friday 6pm

A chance to meet old friends and new over a drink – meet YLers from across the country and get to know our Executive – and maybe even some special guests!

Conference Awards – Saturday 6:30pm

Join our Events Officer, Lucas and the YL Executive to celebrate the work and achievements of YL members!

Board Games – Saturday 7pm

Bring your games and get ready for an evening of healthy competition with our board games social evening!

Friday 9th February

17:00 E1 – English Young Liberals AGM

The General Meeting of the English Young Liberals. Open to all YL members in England. The agenda and motions will be confirmed and circulated ahead of the meeting, and will be available on Confera, the YL Conference App.

18:00 F1 – Networking Social

A chance to meet old friends and new over a drink – meet YLers from across the country and get to know our Executive – and maybe even some special guests! (Please note that the conference venue will close at 21:00)

Saturday 10th February

09:00 F2 – Opening of Conference

Lucas North (they/them), Events Officer and Janey Little (she/her), Chair of Young Liberals, open Winter Conference 2024.

09:15 F3 – First Timers' Training

If you're new to Conference, Lucas will be running through how everything works, including a demo policy debate, vote and run-through of YL's Conference app, Confera.

09:45 F4 – Policy Session

09:45 M1 – For a Fully Regulated Drugs Market

Chair: Ulysse Abbate (he/him); Aide: Bex Scott (they/them)

Proposer: Brandon Masih; Summator: TBC

Conference believes:

1. The continued height of drug use deaths within England and Wales, standing at 4,907 deaths in 2022, according to the Office for National Statistics.
2. In a 2020 interview by PsychedelicsToday with neuropsychopharmacologist Dr Carl Hart, that preferential

status given to both cannabis and psychedelics detracts from the universality to all substances of arguments for drug legalisation and regulation.

3. Over the past decade, Transform has released guides for legalised, regulated markets for the following drugs/drug classes, concerning:
 - a. Cannabis, through its “How to Regulate Cannabis: A practical guide” first released 2013, discussing approaches in how to regulate differential preparations, including setting standards for the liquids and vaporisers; use of THC standard unit for taxation on production; standardised packaging and potential for home growing and government regulated centres..
 - b. Stimulants, through its “How to Regulate Stimulants: A Practical Guide” released in 2020, suggests a purchase licensing model for dexamphetamine, MDMA and powder cocaine; a commercial retail model for lower potency stimulants like cocoa leaves; and a tighter harm reduction approach of access to paraphernalia for crack cocaine, injected amphetamine and smoked/injected methamphetamine.
 - c. Psychedelics, through its “How to Regulate Psychedelics: A Practical Guide” released in 2023, suggesting both a membership based not-for profit association model for plant-based psychedelics, and a more open market/retail licensing model for plant-based psychedelics (and LSD) with its principles still applicable to other psychedelics.
4. In 2023, Bern’s Legislature endorsed plans for pilots for sale of small amounts of cocaine for recreational use.
5. The recent scheduling of Nitrous Oxide as a Class C controlled substance by the UK Government, dismissing the advice of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs in its 2023 updated harms assessment.
6. The plans by the Government to enact smoke-free generation legislation, banning the sale of any tobacco product for anyone born after January 1st 2009.
7. Criticism from Transform in October 2023 for a smoke-free generation policy was that non-combustible tobacco products can provide harm reduction and act as an avenue towards quitting smoking tobacco.
8. The Advisory Council for the Misuse of Drugs called for

consideration of intranasal (IN) naloxone to be over-the-counter (OTC) through its 2016 report “Reducing Opioid-Related Deaths in the UK”, as a wider public health approach to tackling fatal opioid overdoses.

9. That Canada changed the law in 2016 to allow for intramuscular (IM) (and later in 2018 for IN) prepared forms of naloxone sold OTC.

Conference Reaffirms That:

a. Young Liberals commitment to Cannabis legalisation, most recently stated in the Summer 2021 motion “Legalisation of Cannabis” and the Liberal Democrats’ long standing commitment most recently expressed in the 2019 General Election manifesto.

b. Young Liberals commitment, via the Summer 2021 motion, for the decriminalisation of LSD and MDMA.

Conference further believes:

A. As Liberals, it would be irresponsible to only prioritise certain psychoactive substances for regulation on equality grounds given potential to leave behind some drug users, when the arguments for regulation are consistent across all substances.

B. The scheduling of nitrous oxide will not lead to a wide reduction in use or a reduction of harm of nitrous oxide, as previously seen in response to the psychoactive substances act where recreational use shifted away from whippets to larger cylinders.

C. That the pursuit of a smoke-free generation style policy on all tobacco is inconsistent with a well regulated drugs market policy, and will not credibly lead to the aims of low tobacco usage without other policies such as denicotinisation.

Conference Calls for:

I. The Liberal Democrats to support a regulated market for as many psychoactive substances as possible, with regulations tailored towards their harms, repealing both the Misuse of Drugs Act and Psychoactive Substances Act in their entirety, as an extension to current policy on Cannabis legalisation.

II. The Liberal Democrats to back the principles towards regulation of different drugs based on their classes and evidence of their harms presented within Transform’s drug regulation guides.

III. The Liberal Democrats to work cross-sector, with drug policy reformers, public health experts and economists, to develop a comprehensive proposal for a platform concerning drug regulation.

IV. The Liberal Democrats to continue to oppose the piecemeal approach to making psychoactive substances illegal through the Misuse of Drugs Act, and the Government to reverse the recent scheduling of Nitrous Oxide, instead having its volume per canister sold to consumers regulated accompanied with a deposit return scheme.

V. The Liberal Democrats, in line with having a regulated market for all psychoactive substances, to oppose proposals for the smokefree generation policy proposed by the U.K. government, but failing that, the Government to implement the policy only for combustible tobacco products.

VI. The support IN prepared form of naloxone to be made OTC and to support a review on whether IM prepared form access could be further widened.

10:15 M2 - Medicinal Cannabis - No More Waiting

Chair: Leo Dempster (he/him); Aide: Rebecca Jones (she/her)

Proposer: Tom Sutton; Summator: TBC

Conference believes that:

1. Despite medical cannabis being legalised in 2018, few patients can access this vital medicine.
2. Only a few people have been handed a prescription for medical cannabis on the NHS, with most people having to obtain it through private practice - but this is only accessible to those that can afford it.
3. Illegal supply of cannabis is a route also used due to lack of NHS provision. Illicit supply is rife with issues, not least that the product sold has no control over strength and quality.
4. A YouGov poll commissioned by Sapphire Medical Clinics in October 2022 found that there were approximately 1.8 million medical cannabis users in the UK that used the illicit market.

5. There are thought to be only 20,000 medical cannabis users, accessing it from the private sector, as of 2023.
6. Many of those believed the product difficult to obtain, too expensive to buy, and a quarter not even aware that a legal, licensed product is available.
7. Parents of children who use the medicine have reported that epilepsy or other conditions have reduced hundreds or even thousands of seizures per month to zero.
8. Chronic pain, mental health issues and other medical issues can also be treated or majorly reduced via medical cannabis.
9. Not all patients would benefit from medical cannabis, but this is the same with all medicines – the principle is to ensure as many treatments are available to as wide a range of people as possible. Locking people out, for example, on a cost basis to improve their health is deeply illiberal and makes little sense in terms of public health.
10. Only specialist doctors can currently prescribe medical cannabis, locking GPs out of this treatment approach.
11. There isn't uniform awareness in the Police of the legalisation of medical cannabis, causing issues when people are drug tested (such as drivers)
12. The Drug Science "T21" project, amongst others, provides resources and information on the effectiveness of medical cannabis.

Conference reaffirms:

A. That existing party policy continues to call for the legalised, regulated market of cannabis to reduce crime, reduce harm to people, communities, and the environment, and take the power out of the hands of organised criminal gangs.

B. That medical cannabis must be accessible, should be available on the NHS or failing that, available at a lower cost via private sector clinics.

Conference calls upon the government to:

- I. Licence GPs to be able to offer medical cannabis as treatment.
- II. Ensure the Police are fully aware of the legally allowed medicines containing THC.
- III. Fund subsidies to improve access to medical cannabis accessed from the private sector, in order to reduce costs and improve accessibility for patients, in the event the NHS will not provide access. Subsidies could be funded by taxes already imposed on exports of medical cannabis, given the United Kingdom is the world's largest producer and exporter of medical cannabis.
- IV. Inform cannabis users, who use it for medical purposes, of schemes which reduce criminal liability (some already exist, as licensed by the Home Office) and of legal routes of access, such as private clinics.
- V. Remove unnecessary, arbitrary restrictions on which devices patients can use to consume their medication.
- VI. Consider the regulated right for patients to grow their own medical cannabis to allow patients agency in their own care, subject to consultation.

10:40 M3 - A Legal Standard for Politicians

Chair: Aaminah Saleem (she/her); Aide: Tom Jordan (he/him)

Proposer: Bryn Jenkins; Summator: TBC

Conference believes:

- A. The current ministerial code is enforced at the discretion of the Prime Minister which leads many ministers to escape accountability for their actions.
- B. The ministerial code is written by the Prime Minister of the day to suit their political ends, weakening the power of parliament to hold the government accountable and reducing the public's respect for ministers.
- C. That politicians can freely lie to the public, to the press and to parliament without legal consequence.
- D. That the speaker lacks the power to hold ministers and MPs

accountable for gross inaccuracies and misleading information both during the event and after even when a point of order on the issue has been raised.

Conference further believes:

- I. That the current conventions and principles which govern the behaviour of politicians are no longer fit for purpose.
- II. That ministers should be consistently held to account for their actions.
- III. That MPs should be held to the same standards as ministers.
- IV. That these standards to which politicians are held to account should not be left to the discretion of the Prime Minister.
- V. That the speakers of both houses should have greater power to enforce appropriate behaviour.
- VI. That a formalisation of constitutional conventions would serve to greatly improve the quality of political discourse in the UK.

Conference calls for:

1. For 'Politicians' to be defined as all individuals who hold elected public office, are members of the house of lords or are co-opted into public office.
2. A formal code of conduct for politicians to be written into law by an Act of Parliament.
3. This code of conduct to include the requirement of MPs and Peers to correct the record should they make an inaccurate or misleading claim in parliament within 30 days or 15 days should another MP or Peer raise a point of order in relation to the incident, whichever is a shorter time frame.
4. This code of conduct to include, in the event of misleading the media, the need for politicians to provide a press release to the relevant media outlet correcting the misleading or inaccurate statement made and that this measure be enforceable through the same measures above and in proposal 6.

5. This code of conduct to be enforced through the creation of extensive new powers for both the Speakers of the House of Commons and the House of Lords as well as the Parliamentary standards committee to ensure ministers, Peers and MPs are held properly accountable for their actions both inside and outside parliament.
6. These powers to include an automatic suspension of Peers and MPs who breach this code of 30 days which is to be enforced by the speaker of each house.
7. Judicial review to be the final enforcer of these rules either when they are incorrectly enforced or fail to be enforced.

11:00 Break

11:15 F5 - Policy Session

11:15 M4 - Reforming Citizenship Education

Chair: Tom Jordan (he/him); Aide: Emily Baker (she/her)

Proposer: Johan Prinsloo; Summator: TBC

Conference believes:

1. According to the report released by the Electoral commission in 2023, only 60% of 18-19 year olds are registered to vote, while over 90% of people aged over 40 are registered to vote.
2. There is currently a compulsory section of the education system known as Citizenship education which is supposed to teach young people about necessary life skills including Government and Democracy.
3. A GCSE subject known as Citizenship studies exists and teaches lots of necessary life skills including the importance of voting.
4. Only 22,410 people were in the provisional entries for Citizenship Studies for the most recent, Summer 2023 set of GCSE exams, according to government reports.
5. PSHE has to be taught in all schools and doesn't have a set framework.
6. Reports from the House of Lords have been conducted as recently as September 2023.

Conference further believes:

- I. The aforementioned report from the electoral commission demonstrates the amount of apathy young people have towards voting.
- II. Citizenship education isn't taught or enforced to a standard that the importance of the subjects merit.
- III. Citizenship studies contain many of the topics that should ideally be understood by an educated population to create an ideal nation.
- IV. Citizenship studies isn't offered in many schools which limits the knowledge of the topics.
- V. Citizenship studies should be treated to the same standards as other humanities.
- VI. The lack of structure to PSHE leads to the subject being sidelined by many schools and fails to teach students useful life skills.
- VII. The reports from the House of Lords haven't been seriously considered in debate and have often been brushed aside with the excuse of 'mixing up Wellbeing and PSHE' without tackling the concerns.

Conference therefore calls for:

- A. A new national commission should be set up with relevant individuals to organise a comprehensive syllabus for Citizenship education which:
 - a. Takes inspiration from Citizenship studies
 - b. Ensures that Citizenship studies still holds further educational value as a subject.
 - c. Is to be reiterated as a compulsory section of the curriculum and for dedicated lessons in schools to teach this, with Ofsted reiterating this education in their reports.
- B. Encourage schools to offer Citizenship studies as a GCSE subject and for it to be treated nationally as a humanity similar to the credibility subjects like History and Geography receive.

Chair: Adam Belcher (he/him); Aide: Kai Pischke (he/him)

Proposer: George Sykes; Summator: TBC

Amendment submitted – this follows the text of the motion.

Conference believes:

1. Poverty proofing is “The assessment of policies and programmes at design and review stages in relation to the likely impact they will have or have had on poverty and on inequalities likely to lead to poverty with a view to poverty reduction” [1].
2. In the context of schools, it is the principle that “No activity or planned activity in schools should identify, exclude, treat differently or make assumptions about those children whose household income or resources are lower than others” [2].
3. Day-to-day school activities can incur a financial burden on families who are already struggling, some of these activities are fundraising events for charities supporting those same families [3].
4. The School Uniform Act 2021 [4] introduced a requirement for the government to produce statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms and the subsequent guidance produced as a result [5].
5. In 2023 parents spend on average £422 and £287 a year on secondary and primary school uniforms respectively [6].

Conference further believes:

- A. No child should be excluded from school activities due to poverty.
- B. Families should not be burdened with unnecessary costs due to school uniform policies.

Conference calls for:

- I. For Ofsted (or any future replacement inspectorate) to provide guidance on poverty proofing in schools, which will eventually form part of their inspections. This guidance should

be developed in conjunction with teachers, charities and relevant experts.

II. Schools to carry out poverty-proofing audits to identify where they can reduce the impact of poverty on children's experience at school.

III. Statutory guidance on school uniforms to be updated to:

A. Limit the number of branded items to a maximum of two.

B. Ensure all non-branded items can be purchased from local high street retailers.

IV. Ofsted, The Department for Education and teaching unions, to work together with national retailers to ensure they can provide stock to local schools of the relevant school uniforms.

[1] S. O'Connor, Review of the poverty proofing process. Dublin: National Economic and Social Council, 2001.

[2] L. Bramhall and Children North East, 'Poverty Proofing', [Online]. Available: <https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/FW9%20Luke%20Bramhall%20Poverty%20Proofing%20Co-ordinator%20Children%20North%20East.pdf>

[3] Child Poverty Action Group and Children North East, 'The Cost of Having Fun at school', Mar. 2022. Accessed: Nov. 14, 2023. [Online]. Available: [https://cpag.org.uk/sites/default/files/files/policypost/The Cost of Having Fun at School.pdf](https://cpag.org.uk/sites/default/files/files/policypost/The%20Cost%20of%20Having%20Fun%20at%20School.pdf)

[4] Mike Amesbury and Baroness Lister of Burtersett, Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021. King's Printer of Acts of Parliament, 2021. Accessed: Nov. 14, 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/20/contents/enacted>

[5] Department For Education, 'Statutory Guidance on the Cost of school uniforms'. HM Government, Nov. 19, 2021. Accessed: Nov. 14, 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cost-of-school-uniforms/cost-of-school-uniforms>

[6] R. Long, 'School uniform costs in England', Nov. 2023, Accessed: Nov. 14, 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-8414/>

AMENDMENT 1: Harvey Thomas-Benton

After Conference Believes 5, add:

6. A third of all school-age children in poverty are currently ineligible for free school meals.

After Conference Calls IV, add:

V. The Government should increase child benefit by £20 per week per child and remove the two child cap on child benefit

VI. The Government should expand Free School Meals to all children whose families are in receipt of universal credit

12:00 Lunch

13:00 F6 – Policy Session

13:00 M6 – Restore Liberty and Democracy in Hong Kong

Chair: Adam Belcher (he/him); Aide: Kai Pischke (he/him)

Proposer: Arthur Wu; Summator: TBC

Conference believes that:

1. Hong Kong is now facing a democratic backslide given the proposal of reducing the amount of directly elected seats in the municipal-level organisation to about 20 percent from approximately the current 90 percent.
2. Hong Kong is a Special Administrative Region of China under the “one country, two systems”-framework and is supposed to be autonomous from Beijing. Hong Kong’s autonomy is currently being stripped more and more by each passing day, with the CCP centralising more power from Hong Kong to Beijing. John Lee, the Chief Executive of Hong Kong has counterfactually stated that “[the] pure counting [of] election votes mean democracy”.
3. The Hong Kong Government abused the newly legislated National Security Law to persecute their political opponents. As of April 2023, 250 Hong Kong citizens have been arrested under Beijing-imposed legislation since its implementation in 2020.
4. The Hong Kong police have put arrest bounties on political activists who are living in exile abroad, including two in the UK.
5. The British government has not sanctioned any Hong Kong and Beijing officials since the crackdowns on democracy and political dissenters.

Conference further believes that:

- A. The legislation of the National Security Law violates the rights of the citizens of Hong Kong. Political dissenters who expressed their disapprovals with the Government faced harsh imprisonment.
- B. The electoral reform proposed by Beijing, as an addition to other crackdowns, is not only a clear violation of the “one country, two systems” framework, but also a undemocratic progress to weaken Hong Kong citizens’ rights.
- C. Universal suffrage is a human right. Hong Kong citizens deserve the right to participate in government, and to elect the Chief Executive, the head of the regional government.
- D. The will of the people shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections, which shall be by universal and equal suffrage.
- E. Putting arrest bounties on overseas political dissenters is a form of transnational repression.
- F. We, the Liberals, have the moral responsibility to fight against all sorts of transnational repression imposed by any authoritarian regimes, including the Hong Kong and Beijing governments.

Conference calls for:

- I. The condemnation of the newly imposed National Security Legislation, and ex post facto usage of the Law against political opponents and ordinary democratically inspired citizens.
- II. The condemnation of the recent parliamentary reforms as put forward by Beijing and Hong Kong governments.
- III. The Hong Kong government to reverse the new undemocratic changes that they made since 30 June, 2022, and to drop the politically motivated charges and release all the elected legislators and activists detained under the National Security Law.
- IV. Unwavering support for Hong Kong democracy movements, and their rights of self-determination
- V. Liberal democratic countries to acknowledge and commit to addressing the transnational repressions imposed by the Hong Kong and Beijing governments.

13:30 F7 - Training Session: Elections 101

Chair: Will Tennison (he/him)

Become a champion of youth representation as we explore how to get involved with your local party. Find out how you can add and get value while pushing YL values at every level of the party structure, including:

- Diversity of thought,
- How to add value to your local party,
- How to benefit from your local party,
- Pushing for youth officers on your exec.

14:15 Break

14:30 F8 - Training Session: Elections 101

Chair: Will Tennison (he/him)

Gear up for a winning campaign at Elections 101! From mastering nomination forms to navigating the campaign landscape, learn the essential strategies, including the role of an agent and effective literature plans, to make your mark in a big year of elections.

- Nomination forms
- The role of an agent
- Shuttleworth
- Literature plans
- Organising a delivery network
- Online vs In Person campaigning

15:15 F9 - Policy Session

15:15 M7: Fostering Renewable Energy and Sustainable Business

Chair: Emily Baker (she/her); Aide: Samantha Coupe (she/her)

Proposer: Johan Prinsloo; Summator: TBC

Conference believes:

1. The climate emergency is a crisis that needs to be solved

as soon as possible, and can have long lasting effects if not handled correctly. Such information has been acknowledged by experts globally and is a scientifically proven fact.

2. Negative reinforcement, most commonly presented in the form of laws, require regulatory bodies to be able and ready to ensure the laws are applied and enforced.

3. The Government, as declared in a speech on the 20th of September 2023, has revised their dates for their green policies which harms both companies and people, with companies having to restructure their plans from promised climate goals and climate change experts warning that it will have drastic effects on the environment.

4. In 2010 the Danish Government adopted a new taxation policy to increase tax breaks on renewable energy companies; this yielded them a 13% increase of renewable energy the next year.

5. The Canadian government in 2007 launched the ecoENERGY for Renewable Power program in 2007. According to a report by GE financial services, this could carry a net present value benefit to Canada's government of \$287 million.

Conference further believes:

I. Sustainability is a factor that should be prioritised and fostered within UK and international businesses.

II. The UK should move to be a global leader to fighting climate change and transitioning to more renewable and sustainable solutions.

III. Tax breaks and grants are an effective financial incentive and should be used by governments to incentivise change within industries.

IV. Global examples should be referred to for innovative solutions and that a global effort should be made to tackle climate change.

V. There is a distinct lack of positive reinforcement by the government for a business to operate sustainably.

VI. Negative reinforcement, including new legislation and regulations, costs money and resources to enforce and is insufficient and ineffective at the task of reducing climate

change.

Conference Reiterates:

VII. The Young Liberals Policy 'The Climate Emergency' passed in Summer 2019

VII. The Young Liberals Policy 'The Climate Crisis' passed in Summer 2021

Conference Calls For:

A. The government to develop a scheme to support innovative businesses who have a neutral or negative carbon footprint, to be given in the form of grants or tax-breaks with reference to foreign examples and their benefits.

B. The vetting of current organisations observing UK businesses and their carbon footprints, ensuring they abide by and enforce the government's laws and regulations, as well as international law.

C. The restoration of the previous climate dates outlined before the 20th of September 2023, with the potential for revisions of the dates and the specifics of these goals in the near future.

D. Government officials to reject lobbying attempts from oil companies, encouraging the enforcement of existing anti-corruption legislation.

E. The government to publicly denounce and condemn any non-environmentally friendly business practices that are already in effect and that get discovered.

15:30 CA1: The Emily Price Award

Chair: Rebecca Jones (she/her); Aide: Brandon Masih (he/him)

Proposer: Harvey Jones (he/him); Summator: TBC

In the Conference Standing Orders:

Add new section 10:

10. The Emily Price Award for Extraordinary Service

10.1. The Emily Price Award for Extraordinary Service was created in 2018 to commemorate Emily's work and is to be awarded at one conference per year.

10.2. Any member may nominate another member for consideration of the award.

10.2.1. Any nomination period must be at least 14 days in duration and close no later than 14 days prior to the opening of conference.

10.2.2. The method of nominations is to be decided by the Events Officer.

10.2.3. Members shall be given the opportunity to submit a written statement in support of their nomination for the panel's consideration.

10.3. The recipient of the Award shall be selected by a panel consisting of:

10.3.1. The Honorary Officers of the Young Liberals, to include the Honorary President as Chair of the panel who shall inform the Events Officer of the panel's choice.

10.3.2. Three members of the Young Liberals Executive to be chosen by the Honorary Officers, excluding any nominee and any member who has submitted a nomination.

10.3.3. The quorum of the panel shall be 5.

10.4. The panel shall select a winner for the award based on their 'extraordinary service', including but not limited to, service to Young Liberals or the Liberal Democrats at a local or national level, local or national politics, work in their community, volunteering organisations, or any other commitments which the panel feel appropriate." and renumber accordingly.

In 2.1.6, delete:

"and any other business which the Committee thinks appropriate"

In 2.1, add new sections:

2.1.7. at one conference per calendar year, the presentation of the Emily Price Award for Extraordinary Service

2.1.8. any other business which the Committee thinks appropriate.

In 2.4. add new line:

Candidates for the Emily Price Award for Extraordinary Service

14 days prior to the opening of Conference (if awarded at that Conference)

Explanatory note:

An amendment to codify the Emily Price Award for Extraordinary Service (10.1.), nomination criteria (10.4.), the nomination (10.2. and 2.4.) and awarding (10.3.) processes and to create time for the award at one conference per year (2.1.)

15:50 CA2: Finance and Resources Committee

Chair: Lucas North (they/them); Aide: Bex Foulsham (they/them)

Proposer: Harvey Jones (he/him); Summator: TBC

In Committee Regulations, Section 2.i.b. add at end:

“where that State Organisation falls under the Young Liberals accounting unit for the purposes of compliance with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000”

16:10 CA3: The International Officer and the International Committee

Chair: Joe Norris (he/him); Aide: Sam Cumber (he/him)

Proposer: Rowan Fitton; Summator: TBC

In the Executive Regulations, Section 4, Clause 4, delete sub-clause k. and replace with the following wording:

a. International Officer:

i. Manage relations with the Young Liberals’ international affiliates and the youth wings of liberal political parties across the world.

ii. Manage relations with groups within the Liberal Democrats

with an international agenda;

iii. Advise the Executive and/or the wider membership on international issues as and when required;

iv. Coordinate international trips for members, including to events run by international affiliates; and

v. Coordinate and support the International Committee in carrying out its duties.

In the Committee Regulations, Section 6, Clause 1, delete sub-clause b. and replace with:

b. Four directly elected voting members; and

In the Committee Regulations, Section 6, insert the following after Clause 1:

a. At the first meeting following the election of the International Committee:

i. The International Officer may nominate, from the four directly elected voting members, Responsible Members for the following areas:

1. LYMEC (Europe)

2. IFLRY (Rest of the World)

ii. All nominations must be confirmed by a majority vote of the International Committee. Nominees must accept their nomination as a Responsible Member prior to the vote.

b. Work related to each Responsible Member's area of responsibility shall be delegated at the discretion of the International Officer. The International Officer shall maintain oversight and responsibility for all work done by Responsible Members.

c. A Responsible Member's term lasts as long as they are a directly elected voting member of the International Committee or until they resign as a Responsible Member.

In the Committee Regulations, Section 6, delete Clause 2 and replace with the following wording:

a. The role of the International Committee will be to:

- i. Assist the International Officer in managing the international relations and international activities of Young Liberals;
- ii. Co-opt delegations to represent the Young Liberals at international events and international affiliate's congresses, in line with the Elections and Co-Options regulations;
- iii. Coordinate domestic activities which support the international work of the Young Liberals;
- iv. Promote the international activities of the Young Liberals; and
- v. Make recommendations to the Executive, to be taken to conference, regarding affiliations with international organisations and partners.

In the Committee Regulations, Section 6, insert the following after Clause 2:

The International Officer may invite other members of the Young Liberals Executive to attend meetings of the International Committee on an ad hoc basis.

Renumber Section 6 of the Committee Regulations accordingly.

16:30 F10 – Speech: Cllr Shaffaq Mohammad MBE

Chair: TBC; Aide: TBC

Shaffaq is Leader of the Liberal Democrats on Sheffield City Council, and a former MEP for Yorkshire and Humber region. He was selected to be our candidate for Sheffield Hallam at the next election in 2023.



17:00 Break

Please note the Conference Floor will be CLOSED from 17:00 until around 18:25.

18:30 F11 – Conference Awards

Join our Events Officer, Lucas and the YL Executive to celebrate the work and achievements of YL members!

19:00 F12 – Board Games

Bring your games and get ready for an evening of healthy competition with our board games social evening!

(Please note that the conference venue will close at 21:00)

Sunday 11th February

09:00 F13 – Policy Session

09:00 M8: Tackling Antisemitism and Reaffirming the IHRA definition

Chair: Callum Clark (he/him); Aide: Joe Norris (he/him)

Proposer: James Bliss; Summator: TBC

Conference believes:

A. The English Young Liberals passed interim policy titled “Recommitting to the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism” in December 2023.

B. that there has been a significant increase in the levels of antisemitism, both online and in material violence and abuse, since the start of the Israel-Hamas War on 7 October.

a. With the Community Security Trust recording the highest 28-day total since it started counting in 1984 following 7 October with 1,019 antisemitic hate incidents including 47 assaults and incidents involving the targeting of children and schools

b. Furthermore the Metropolitan Police, covering London, showed that 218 antisemitic offences were recorded from 1 October to 18 October 2023, compared with 15 in the same period in 2022.

C. the words of Layla Moran MP, Spokesperson for International Affairs in October 2023 that “Liberal Democrats stand in solidarity with the Jewish community – in the UK, in Israel and around the world – who feel fear and grief. We utterly condemn the antisemitic incidents in the UK which have tragically already increased following this awful violence. Israel has, without question, a right in international law to defend its

territory and its citizens. We fully support that right.”

Conference believes that while people are within their rights to critique the actions of the IDF and the Israeli Government in their response to Hamas’ attacks this must not be used to excuse behaviour, words and actions that are antisemitic, and that antisemitism and antisemites have no place in the Liberal Democrats.

Conference recommits the Young Liberals to adopting, upholding and enforcing the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism and all of its working examples and stands in solidarity with Jewish members of the Young Liberals and the wider Liberal Democrats in the face of increased antisemitism.

Conference calls on:

1. All levels of the Liberal Democrats to continue to adopt, uphold and enforce the IHRA Working Definition and all of its examples
 - a. In particular that in the current climate ensure that it is made clear to both party members and non party members that the party continues to adopt and uphold the definition and takes a unequivocal zero tolerance stance against antisemitism.
2. the Young Liberals Federal Executive to operate a zero tolerance stance on antisemitism and breaches of the IHRA Working Definition and use all necessary sanctions and measures at their disposal.
3. all members of the Young Liberals and the Liberal Democrats to ensure they are at all times adhering to the IHRA Working Definition and its examples
 - a. in particular when discussing the aftermath of the Hamas terrorist attacks on Israel and subsequent military response from Israel against Hamas, including but not limited to not
 - i. Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
 - ii. Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.
 - iii. Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy

to that of the Nazis.

iv. Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.

v. Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour.

vi. Applying double standards by requiring of it a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.

vii. Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.

09:40 EM1 – Emergency Motion: Let’s Get Conscripting: Self-Sufficient Self-Defence for Modern Threats

Chair: Lucas North (they/them); Aide: Rebecca Jones (she/her)

Proposer: Joe Norris; Summator TBC.

Conference believes that:

1. As warned by General Sir Patrick Sanders, the UK Government would have to introduce conscription to the armed forces in the event of armed conflict with Russia due to low numbers of voluntary military personnel.

2. According to a report published by the House of Commons Defence Committee, the UK armed forces are losing personnel faster than it is able to recruit, with the UK’s warfighting readiness in doubt.

3. The UK has a responsibility to its allies, including by spending 2% of its GDP on defence, as per its 2014 NATO commitment.

4. There have been significant escalating tensions between NATO and its allies across the world, such as Russia’s illegal invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and China’s assertion of its disputed sovereignty over the island of Taiwan.

5. A metric, through which societal attitudes towards women

can in part be tracked, is the evolving role of women in the armed forces; it was only in 2018 that women were finally permitted to take up all combat roles within the Army.

6. There exist many non-combat roles within the armed forces across a range of disciplines, including the healthcare and technical trades, that are compatible with a wide range of faiths, beliefs and world views.

Conference further believes that:

A. The UK, just like every other sovereign nation, has the right to defend itself, and it should seek to have the capacity to do so against any threat it may face.

B. It is the UK's duty as part of its commitments under the North Atlantic Treaty to be ready and able to defend its allies, and as such it must ensure that it has the capabilities to do so.

C. As Russia's rhetoric becomes increasingly confrontational and aggressive towards NATO, and China's towards Taiwan, the UK should proportionally ensure the readiness of its armed Forces for domestic and expeditionary defence.

D. Women should be treated equally within the armed forces, and should not be exempt from any future programme of conscription.

E. Conscription can provide many benefits to conscripts, including but not limited to the teaching of technical trades and self-discipline, and the improvement in physical fitness and confidence.

Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrat commitment to:

1. Cancel the Conservative Government's cut to the Army.

2. Maintain the UK's support for NATO, and accordingly meet our NATO defence spending commitments each year.

3. Support democracies around the world, including Ukraine and Taiwan, and stand up to states like Russia and China who wish to undermine our democratic values to their own end.

Conference calls upon:

I. The UK Government to pursue a policy of conscription for adults on a gender-neutral basis, wherein any such conscription

policy should be accommodating of those with religious, moral or ethical objections seeking non-combatant roles.

II. The Ministry of Defence to review the UK's readiness for armed conflict between any of its allies and Russia, and for armed conflict arising from Chinese territorial aggression.

III. The Ministry of Defence to further review how it can better recruit and retain armed forces personnel.

IV. The Liberal Democrats to reaffirm the principle of liberal interventionism in defence of democracies against authoritarian aggressors.

10:00 F14 – Executive Scrutiny

Chair: William Tench (he/they); Aide: Samantha Coupe (she/her)

Reports from the Executive Members, Q&A from members and votes on motions of commendation, censure or no-confidence.

Reports from Executive members will be circulated via email, including instructions on how to submit questions and motions.

12:00 Lunch Break

13:00 F15 – Policy Session

13:00 M9 – Abolishing the UK Youth Parliament and Democratic Tokenism

Chair: Bex Foulsham (they/them); Aide: Matt Craven (he/him)

Proposer: Joe Norris; Summator: TBC.

Amendment submitted – this follows the text of the motion.

Conference believes:

1. The UK Youth Parliament is a programme run by the British Youth Council and commissioned by the UK Government.

2. As described by itself, the UK Youth Parliament is “a programme that provides opportunities for 11-18 year olds to use their elected voice to bring about social change through meaningful representation and campaigning”.

3. A 2006 study titled “Youth Participation in the UK: Bureaucratic Disaster or Triumph of Child Rights?” and published in the journal *Children, Youth and Environments* found that youth participation organisations in the UK, including the UK Youth Parliament, needed to “tackle the unintentional practice of tokenism”.

Conference further believes:

A. The UK Youth Parliament fails to provide meaningful opportunities to young people to bring about social change, as is its stated objective.

B. The UK Youth Parliament tokenises young people’s voices, and serves to undermine their voices within our political system.

C. Young people are better served by getting involved with political parties and their respective youth wings than by engaging with the UK Youth Parliament.

D. Youth participation should be encouraged at every level of government, and not separated into a symbolic parallel system.

Conference reaffirms the Liberal Democrats’ commitment to give 16- and 17-year-olds the right to vote as the best way for young people to engage with the democratic process.

Conference calls for:

I. The British Youth Council to abolish the UK Youth Parliament programme.

II. The UK Government to ensure direct youth participation in the democratic process.

III. The Liberal Democrats to develop a suite of policy aimed at increasing youth participation at every level of government.

AMENDMENT 1: Johan Prinsloo

Replace Conference Calls for (I):

“The British Youth Council to reform the UK Youth Parliament Programme to give specific Members of the UK Youth Parliament, to be determined by the British Youth Council in collaboration with relevant organisations and groups such as but not limited to the UK government, many of the responsibilities of

an MP, such as but not limited to the power to submit resolutions, make speeches in front of the House of Commons and a vote on sitting resolutions.”

13:30 F16 - Training Session: What happens on election day?

Chair: Will Tennison (he/him)

What happens on election day? From postal vote polling to the exhilarating Election Day Join us to unravel what really happens on election day and how it's the not so secret weapon of political success.

- Postal vote polling day
- Polling day
- Get out the vote
- What happens at a count

13:00 F17 - Policy Session

13:00 M10 - Towards a Liberal Approach to Surveillance Technology

Chair: Janey Little (she/her); Aide: Rebecca Jones (she/her)

Proposer: George Sykes; Summator: TBC.

Conference believes:

1. In 2021, the UK was one of the most surveilled countries in the world, with London being the 2nd most surveilled city when measured in cameras per square mile [\[1\]](#).
2. The number of CCTV cameras operated by London borough councils has increased by 238.16% since 2012 [\[2\]](#) however the crime rate between 2010 and 2022 only decreased by 5.6% [\[3\]](#), [\[4\]](#).
3. The repeated attempts by the home office to restrict the scope of the surveillance camera commissioners' work [\[5\]](#) with the role now having been abolished.
4. Police forces frequently fail to conduct sufficient security auditing of their systems including surveillance systems [\[6\]](#).
5. The failure of many current police forces to adequately assess the ethical implications of deploying UAVs with several

forces having no external scrutiny mechanism [7].

6. Increasing prevalence of surveillance camera technology that is wholly or partially developed by companies with substantial links to China and its state surveillance practices [8].

7. The projected 26% increase in the security and access control equipment market between 2021 and 2025 [9].

8. Surveillance cameras reduce crime in an area but do not eliminate it and are most effective when used in combination with complementary measures [10].

9. The Surveillance Camera Code of Practice which provides compulsory guidance for government bodies on their use and advisory guidance for private CCTV operators.

Conference further believes:

A. Individuals have a right to live their lives without being monitored or recorded in their day-to-day activities.

B. The most effective way to reduce crime is to tackle the root causes and prevent re-offending.

C. Surveillance technology can be used to reduce crime in the short term, however, this should be done in conjunction with other measures enabling the surveillance technology to be phased out.

D. The proliferation of increasingly advanced surveillance cameras owned by individuals and businesses is a threat to the liberty of individuals.

Conference calls for:

I. The creation of a classification system for surveillance cameras based on; the quality of footage acquired, duration of storage, internet access and other features based on a survey of options present in the market.

II. For the classification system to be regularly updated in line with new developments to ensure it remains relevant.

III. The government to update the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice and make it legally enforceable for all operators of CCTV above a level of capability to specified post consultation.

IV. Require internet-connected surveillance technology sold in the UK to have undergone security auditing at a level to be set by the National Cyber Security Center.

V. Local police forces to be given sufficient guidance on how they should provide ethical oversight to the use of surveillance technology.

[1] F. Sampson, 'How Many Commissioners Does it Take?', Surveillance Camera Commissioner's Office, Nov. 30, 2021. <https://videosurveillance.blog.gov.uk/2021/11/30/how-many-commissioners-does-it-take/> (accessed Sep. 09, 2023).

[2] R. Barker, 'How Many CCTV Cameras in London? UK CCTV Numbers (Updated 2022)', Clarion Security Systems. <https://clarionuk.com/resources/how-many-cctv-cameras-are-in-london/> (accessed Sep. 09, 2023).

[3] Office for National Statistics, 'London crime rate 2023'. Jul. 2023. Accessed: Sep. 09, 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice>

[4] 'London's crime stats analysed: which borough has cut offending by the biggest margin?', the Guardian, Apr. 12, 2012. Accessed: Sep. 09, 2023. [Online]. Available: <http://www.theguardian.com/uk/datablog/2012/apr/12/ukcrime>

[5] F. Sampson, 'Surveillance Camera Commisioner Annual Report January 2020 - March 2021', Surveillance Camera Commisioner, Mar. 2021. Accessed: Sep. 09, 2023. [Online]. Available: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1037227/E02682343_SCC_ARA_2020-21_v02_Elay.pdf

[6] F. Sampson, 'The use of overt surveillance camera systems in public places by police forces in England and Wales: An assessment of compliance with the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 and the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice (accessible)'. Accessed: Sep. 09, 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-survey-2022-responses-and-key-findings/the-use-of-overt-surveillance-camera-systems-in-public-places-by-police-forces-in-england-and-wales-an-assessment-of-compliance-with-the-protection-o>

[7] F. Sampson, '2023 survey of law enforcement use of uncrewed aerial vehicles', Biometrics and Surveillance Camera

Commissioner. Accessed: Sep. 09, 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/law-enforcement-use-of-uncrewed-aerial-vehicles-2023-survey/2023-survey-of-law-enforcement-use-of-uncrewed-aerial-vehicles>

[8] C. Silkie and J. Hurfurt, 'Who's watching you. The dominance of Chinese-state owned CCTV in the UK', Big Brother Watch. Accessed: Sep. 09, 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://bigbrotherwatch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Whos-Watching-You-The-dominance-of-Chinese-state-owned-CCTV-in-the-UK.pdf>

[9] F. Salau, 'UK Security Equipment, Access Control and CCTV 2021', 2021. Accessed: Sep. 10, 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://store.mintel.com/report/uk-security-equipment-access-control-and-cctv-market-report>

[10] College of Policing, 'Closed-circuit television (CCTV)', College of Policing, Feb. 19, 2015. <https://www.college.police.uk/research/crime-reduction-toolkit/cctv> (accessed Sep. 10, 2023).

14:30 F18 – Speech: Cllr Stephen Robinson

Chair: TBC; Aide: TBC

Stephen has been Leader of Chelmsford City Council since 2019. He's stood for the Liberal Democrats in his constituency several times, and gave a barnstorming speech at our last Autumn Conference, leading to YL successfully keeping our party's national housing target.



15:00 F19 – Policy Session

15:00 M11 – Elections Here, There and Everywhere

Chair: Brendan Roberts (he/him); Aide: Adam Belcher (he/him)

Proposer: George Sykes; Summator: TBC.

Conference believes:

1. Many organisations in the UK run elections under a variety of systems for the selection of their governance.

2. All elections being run outside of the jurisdiction of the Electoral Commission will be referred to as 'non-government elections', this term covers elections of any size and of any purpose, including ballots for strike action.
3. The widespread use of online voting systems in non-government elections.
4. There are no official standards, certification or external monitoring of non-government elections in the UK.
5. The threat of elections both government and non-government being tampered with by both state and non-state actors.
6. The prevalence of a 'quick vote' option in many non-government elections, which selects the options chosen by the election organiser for the elector with only one click instead of having to vote on each issue individually.
7. Since the last general election, two prime ministers have been 'elected' in elections that had minimal oversight from the electoral commission.

Conference further believes:

- A. That power should be distributed as widely as possible throughout society, including within non-government organisations.
- B. Organisations should be able to choose the level of security for their elections; a Parent Staff Association should be able to choose to have a lower level of security for their elections than a major bank or a political party.
- C. Electors in any election have a right to know what measures are being taken to ensure it is running fairly.

Conference calls for:

- I. The electoral commission's remit to be expanded to provide advice and best practice on guidance on any election carried out in the United Kingdom.
- II. A set of standards on how to run elections at varying levels of integrity; from a very low level suitable for small community groups to elections requiring high integrity such as those used by political parties to determine their leader.

III. These standards to clearly define at what level of integrity, tools such as online voting and quick vote should be allowed to be used.

IV. Certification badges to be awarded to organisations who can demonstrate that their elections meet the requirements of different levels of the standard.

15:20 M12 – Commitment to NATO and Security

Chair: Kai Pischke (he/him); Aide: Janey Little (she/her)

Proposer: Sam Cumber; Summator: TBC.

Amendment submitted – this follows the text of the motion.

Conference believes:

A. NATO was formed in 1949 to maintain peace and security following the Second World War.

B. The UK's contribution to NATO in 2020/21 was 2.1% of GDP.

C. The newest member of NATO, Finland, joined on 4 April 2023 with Sweden in the process of accession as a result of the full scale Russian invasion of Ukraine.

D. NATO's Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF) was created after Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014 and deployed for the first time for the collective defence of the Alliance after Russia's full-fledged invasion of Ukraine in 2022 as reported by the government in 2023.

E. European countries bolstering their armies since 2022 such as Poland and Germany with the former raising its target defence spending from 2.4% of gross domestic product to 5% as reported by Politico.

F. Some European countries, like Poland, are turning to South Korea for hardware instead of the US due to it being cheaper.

G. Protectionist and non-interventionist undertones echoed during the Trump presidency in the US with some of these sentiments subdued during the Biden presidency.

Conference reaffirms:

a. The Liberal Democrat commitment to halt plans to reduce the size of the regular Army from 82,000 personnel to 72,500 by

2025 as passed at Spring Federal Conference 2023 in The UK's Nuclear Deterrent.

Conference further believes:

- I. NATO's commitment to peace in Europe is a force of good for geopolitical stability on the continent.
- II. The expansion of NATO eastwards since the end of the Cold War has guaranteed security in that part of Europe.

Conference calls for:

1. The UK government to increase spending to NATO in the wake of the full-scale Russian invasion.
2. The UK government to support the immediate accession of Sweden to NATO.
3. Continued support for Ukraine for as long as necessary until Ukraine is victorious against Russia as outlined in A Sovereign Ukraine. Support includes lethal aid and air defences against Russian attacks.

AMENDMENT 1: William Tench

Amend Conference calls for (1), to

The UK government to maintain spending to NATO in the wake of the full-scale Russian invasion.

15:45 F20 – Any Other Business and Close of Conference

Events Officer Lucas will round off our weekend in Sheffield!

Thank you for attending Young Liberals Winter Conference in Sheffield! We really appreciate hearing what you think about our events – a feedback form will follow via email.

Keep your eyes peeled for an announcement about our next conference this Summer!

Scan the QR code to read the Conference Standing Orders, or head to youngliberals.uk/documents!



Young Liberals Conference 2024
Designed by Harvey Jones

Organised by Lucas North,
with Joe Norris and Guy Hotchin.

Policy organised by Ulysse Abbate,
with Cormac Evans, Rebecca Jones,
Harvey Thomas-Benton,
James Bliss, Leo Dempster and Josh Rutty.