



Federal Executive Meeting

Saturday 28th June 2025

11:00 - Liberal Democrat HQ

Google Meets Link: <https://meet.google.com/xju-sqnm-bhy>

Attendance

HTB - Harvey Thomas-Benton

HJ - Harvey Jones

AO - Akachukwu Ogazi

TH - Tom Hughes

WT - Will Tennison

SA - Sarah Anderson

UA - Ulysse Abbate

CL - Chang Liu

JLM - Josh Lucas Mitte

AG - Alex Gallagher

LD - Leo Dempster

AW - Arthur Wu

TF - Tara Foster

Apologies

Rebecca Jones

Bex Foulsham

Lucas North

Tom Jordan

Rowan Fitton

Tristan Paul

Absent

Elin Kingston
Sam Wilson

Minutes

Welcome, Apologies, Exec Member of Month (HJ).

HJ: The exec member of the month is Elin, recognising how she has got stuck into her new role on the exec since her co-option.

Minutes of last meeting and matters arising (HJ/HTB)

HJ: Freshers was communicated in slack, will be put to an email vote.

Winter conf communications have been made. Whatsapp code of conduct has been development.

AG: In the process of doing reimbursements.

- Freshers, cooperation with HQ, and plans
- Winter Conference changes, communication with members and reaching out to venues
- Elections committee to reimburse local parties for Future Forward
- WhatsApp Code of Conduct

Whatsapp Code of Conduct (WT/HTB)

HTB: Outlines why we are developing a code of conduct, that it is not vastly different from the forum one, however, empowers admins to make decisions to delete posts, communicate with offending members. Makes clear a record should be kept of any actions taken, and why. The code of conduct creates a smaller admin team, than the whole exec.

WT: Explains how a smaller admin team makes better accountability, and clearer understanding of what to do.

HJ (on behalf of lucas): When it was created the full exec were moderators, this is because 24 hours and fast paced nature of whatsapp. Has concerns about ordinary members being admins, and going rogue.

UA: 24/7 points might be hard for a smaller team, but a smaller team has greater accountability.

WT: Moderators would be specific for certain channels, but would have full admin powers for that channel.

LD: Not fussed about smaller team, but maybe wait to see if the guidelines work. Uncomfortable with member moderator.

TF: Terms of action for admin team, clearer understanding of when to act, especially when using censorship. Questions about why we use whatsapp, and suggests getting rid of whatsapp, in replacement with slack. Further suggests to use discord.

HJ: YL previously had a discord - created similar problems back then to whatsapp now. We put the cart before the horse with whatsapp.

WT: You pay for slack on a user basis - not financially viable. Agrees that whatsapp is not quite designed for that.

JLM: Forum is slowly moderated, slow moving. Whatsapp is very fast moving, puts a lot of pressure and expectation on certain people.

SA: A disclaimer about how we are volunteers, we will not catch everything straight away, but we will try to

HJ: Asks about closed chat and making sure we do not shrink the admin team, by expanding it on the closed one.

HTB: Agreed - also outlined these smaller chats are broadly not the issue.

UA: Make a distinction that it is an official channel for the party. Clearly wording on how the admins function, and how to contact the admins.

SA: Making it clear that if we made it the women's rep is an admin on the women's and minority genders chat.

LD: A review in six months times would be wise.

Indicative vote: keep the whole exec as admin

Action Point: address concerns and hold exec vote by email

Branch Accreditation (CL)

Exec votes to accredit annex 1

Exec votes to de-accredit annex 2

Freshers Branding (CL/TH)

HJ: Jon cannot sign off on a policy posters/content which goes against federal party policy. YL can make supplementary posters on our own policy, but federal branded stuff needs to be either federal policy or broad strokes, values content.

TH: HQ are interested in values and standard, general recruitment.

SA: Does not agree with stuff alongside it. A waste of time on YL policy, and likely to not aligned in design / might confuse matters for students.

CL: Wants space for stuff which federal party would not be interested in. Mentions about Teo making content for CL.

HJ: No content from HQ yet. If we want to do stuff with HQ, it needs to look LibDem.

LD: We can limit the LibDem focus, where we are less popular.

JLM: Branches talk about libdems, not YL.

HTB: Asks about what policy we are going to use which is not already federal policy, the distinction does not matter that too much.

HJ: Agrees, and says we do not want a massive policy focus, which is so specific.

SA: Notes that comms committee has been left out of the loop. Notes only wanting five posters, and does not be specific. We should be working with HQ. Simple is what matters in the freshers campaign.

UA: Risk of being overreliant, making sure we have a backup plan, for whenever there might be a problem.

TH: HQ is here to help with capacity, and standard of quality. It would always involve YL input, and lead. It is support, rather than integration.

Does not think this will be a major issue in relationships falling apart.

TF: Should not be afraid to disagree with HQ, and highlight where we are a bit more radical. Focus on cost of living, financial situation. This matters to students

LD: HQ is more than leadership and MPs. We do not need to worry about people coming in and things changing. Policy passed at conference will be the focus. Asks about state parties.

TH: Just wants suggestions from state parties.

WT: Does not make sense to do different things, and working with HQ.

CL: In a previous meeting, we agreed on themes. Outsourced on fresher fair because did not get the support wanted in the start of the term.

Liberalism is more attractive than the Liberal Democrats - we cannot just depend on LibDem branding.

HJ: The HQ stuff can hit those values point. This how we can make liberals into liberal democrats.

TF: Mentions palestine, it matters to students, and it is something we should signal.

HJ: Core script would be helpful.

TH: Spoke to Jon about Gaza and Palestine - and how we communicate it.

SA: Mentions how good the green posters - they are punchy, simple, snapshot for what they stand for.

WT: What will be in the freshers packs? More than posters and leaflets. A draw

HJ: Badges/stickers, freebie (like pen), decoration, core script, whiteboard thing about policy areas that matter with stickers.

TH: Wants the issue boards to be standardised, and the data to be collected, so we know what people like going forward.

Action Point: Formal vote on co-branding with HQ

Action Point: Comms/MenDev/BrandDev meet to further discuss freshers

Action Point: Book an afternoon in July at HQ for packing

Action Point: LD and TH to discuss freshers

Training Update (WT)

WT: We have been part of HQ's regular training session. We now have seven sessions online - working with young liberals, winning young voters, using social media, etc list (ask will). Looking for guest trainers. At bournemouth, we have six training sessions, we have the same as the head of training at HQ.

UA: Thanks to Will, and previous mendeves.

Officers Reports: Questions (HJ)

JLM: Asks about YL conf and how we can encourage people who are interested in policy, how to attract them.

HJ: There should be something on the website, and an email is going out soon, which could reflect this.

JLM: Asks about regional parties, and local parties - if they can help with email comms.

SA: asks about engaging with Cambridge party.

LD: Lib Dem friend of armed forces is keen to speak at conference.

UA: plugs conference.

AOB

TF: Has EHRC consultation and if YL has been submitted?

UA: Knows that RJ has done the libdem women, and worked on YL one

TF: Mass lobby of MPs on trans rights, are we engaging with those MPs and emailing them thanks?

HJ: Happy to work on that

TF: Asks about relationship with HQ comms, and how we are talking about pride month.

UA: Media and comms is quite isolated from AOs.

HJ: Did internal comms previously, there is a defined process, and done in advance. Strict criteria for emails and social media. Happy to send a message to HQ comms about this, and this pride month.

TF: Wants us to be less safe on these issues and stronger comms on trans rights.

UA: Reassures that this is a comms issues, rather than HQ slipping on supporting trans rights.

TF: Notes that this is external and about people outside of the party.

TH: Cheatsheet on party lines on trans rights have been developed by ADIs, and SA has designed it.

Action Point: HJ will follow up on this

Action Point: HJ will engage with ADIs on contacting and thanking MPs

Action Point: Will discuss with HQ comms and diversity dates/month

SA: We have brand guidelines and use it. Send things through SA and comms for approval / a lookover.

End of Meeting

Information:

Officers Reports for this month can be found [here](#)

Dates of future meetings:

- Saturday 26th July, online
- Saturday 30th August, online
- Saturday 27th September, online
- Saturday 25th October, LDHQ

Annex 1: Accreditation

Liverpool John Moores University Liberal Democrats Society
Brent Young Liberals

Annex 2: De-Accreditation

Wycombe YL
Manchester Young Liberals

