



APPLICATION FORM

Your application details:

What is your name?	Matthew Palmer
Which role are you applying for?	Representative to the Federal Conference Committee

Please tell us more about yourself:

Why did you join the Liberal Democrats?	I grow up in an area with Lib Dem MP and councillors, so from an early age I was aware of the hard work and approach the Party has. When I moved to University, I was lucky to be welcomed into the party by Mark Willaims when he was MP for Ceredigion and it was in Aberystwyth where I joined the party. Seeing hard working Lib Dems was part of the reason why I joined the party, the other reason was finding myself agreeing at key moments with the party. Something that a family member called the 'Question Time test'. When listening to debates on the radio or TV, it was people like Paddy Ashdown, Charles Kennedy and Nick Clegg who I found myself agreeing with. For those two reasons when I was asked in Aberystwyth, if I would like to join, I jumped at the chance to get involved.
Why are you interested in running the Welsh Liberal Democrats?	I have done a wide number of roles in the Welsh Lib Dems, including time spent as a member of staff. I want to be able to find a role that allows me to play a part. When we talk about the Party, there are times when our focus is very much on the Welsh Lib Dems but there are other times when we need to make our voice heard on the Federal/UK level. That is challenge of all the Federal Reps and it is a challenge I find interesting and want to make work. The party is based on checks and balances, with the key

	event of Federal Conference being at the heart of the party with one member one vote. It is an honour to be a small part of making this key aspect of the party function. The voices of the Membership is what makes this party and therefore having a role that directly allows people voice heard is something I am keen on doing.
Why do you think you are suitable for this role?	Since I first joined the party back in 2013, I have been a regular conference attendee and for the past few years been the Welsh Party Rep on FCC. Over the years I have made connections around the wider party and have played an active role in the committee. At the most recent conference I chaired my first debate, tilted: Never Again: Justice for Contaminated Blood Victims. I have always had a deep interest in the organisations of the party and have found this very useful in the role. There are two reasons of why an interest in party operation and organisations I feel is useful. The first is the knowledge of the procedures of conference. in our party conference is the decision-making body, all members have a say in how the party is run via the conference. It is important that conference runs smoothly and as many different voices are heard. That is why I feel that because I have more than just a passing interest in the way conference is run has enabled me to play a full part in my role. The second reason is around the selection of motions. Each and every Federal Conference has more motions than time allows. The conference needs to balance between a range of factors. As Welsh Party rep, I am on the eye out for motions that are not devolution friendly and at the end of the scale motions we as a Welsh Party would want to see on the agenda as they would be well placed for an amendment or speech from Wales. I feel that I can work well in a committee structure working with others but when needed leading the call for an action that would stop something that can be negative to the Welsh Party or on the other hand push hard for something that would benefit us in Wales.

What do you aim to achieve if elected to this role?	I have two main aims that I would like to achieve in the role over the next term. The first aim would be to make sure the Welsh Lib Dem voice is heard by the Federal Conference Committee. Conference is for membership, that includes every single member in Wales. The members have the right to feedback on conference, they have the right for issues that affect Wales to be highlighted in debates and the Welsh Party need a stage to show to the wider party and the general public what we are doing in Wales. The FCC as a committee has less of a role in other parts of conference outside the main hall and even in the main hall events like the rally is arranged by LDHQ. However, I will want to be active in looking at making the Welsh Lib Dem voice heard across all of conference. This could be by running events or partnering up with others. The second aim I would work on is making sure Federal Conference is an open and friendly place for Welsh Members. Federal Conference is a great networking event and many members who attend form friendship across the party. I have been there however, as a new conference attendee and I benefited from having Welsh Lib Dems around. I want all Welsh Lib Dem members to feel welcome and that via the FCC rep they have an approachable and friendly face to turn to. The FCC as a committee has less of a role in other parts of conference outside the main hall such as the fringe programmes but to make conference a more welcome place, I am happy to work with those with ideas or connections, and support those who want to bring Wales into the wider conference programme.
What's your biggest achievement that's relevant to this role?	I have attended many Federal Lib Dem conferences since 2013, at each one I have benefited from the social network of the Welsh Lib Dems. When I stepped into the FCC Welsh role, I was keen on connecting members up at conference,

	that is why I asked the Welsh Party to create a WhatsApp group for members attending the event. It is one achievement of making Federal Conference more open and welcoming to Welsh members, but I am keen on looking at other ways we can include as many Welsh Members as possible. My other achievement has been in the meetings of FCC before conference. It is a big learning curve, but I feel like I have been active in the debates. I have built links with other committee members quickly and I feel proud of how I have rolled my selves up and worked well across the committee.
--	--

If party members have questions about your application, how can they contact you?

Email Address:	Matt.palmer09@btinetnet.com
-----------------------	-----------------------------