

Topical Motions for Spring Conference 2012

1. Submitted by East Lothian Liberal Democrats

Proposer: Nigel Lindsay

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1 Home Rule and the Independence Referendum

2 Conference notes:

- 3 1. The party's long-standing commitment to Home Rule and a federal UK, and that it is the
- 4 only major party in Scotland with such commitments;
- 5 2. That Home Rule is broadly supported by a large proportion of the Scottish population;
- 6 3. Devolution is a process in which consideration of Home Rule should logically come
- 7 before any further step such as independence;
- 8 4. That it is possible to have a clear and fair referendum including Home Rule as well as
- 9 Independence, for example by following the precedent of the 1997 referendum and
- 10 asking a first question on support for the powers required for Home Rule, followed by a
- 11 second question on support for going further than Home Rule to Independence.
- 12 5. The party's commitment to reduce the voting age to 16.

13 Conference therefore supports the current Home Rule Commission, and calls on it to engage
14 with other supporters of increased powers for the Scottish Parliament to produce a well-defined
15 option commanding wide public support.

16 Conference calls on the party leadership:

- 17 1. To engage with the Scottish Government so as to get the option of Home Rule included
- 18 in the Referendum in a fair way as outlined above;
- 19 2. To run a positive campaign in favour of Home Rule, in partnership with other supporters
- 20 of this option among the wider population;
- 21 3. To support the Scottish Government in seeking a way of allowing 16 and 17 year olds to
- 22 vote in the referendum, provided that this is done on the basis of extending the vote
- 23 similarly for other elections in Scotland, particularly to the Scottish Parliament.