



Women's Equality Party Conference

26 November 2022

Amendment title: **Including Scottish and Welsh Representatives on the Reformed Policy Committee**

Proposed by: **Kirstein Rummery**, former Scottish Policy Spokesperson

Seconded by: Hannah Andersen, Wales Branch Leader

Signatories:

David Renton

Charlotte Gilbert

Maddy Millar

Ruth Wilkinson

Type of amendment: **Amendment to policy motion**

Title of motion you wish to amend: **Reforming Policy Committee**

Motion text you wish to amend:

Lines 17-23.

"17 7.6.1 There will be six policy representatives responsible for developing party policy, serving two 18 year terms beginning at Conference:

19 i) Four elected by a simple majority vote at Conference;

20 ii) One by rolling appointment* from branches that meet all requirements subject to article 7.8 21 below, in discussion with the Steering Committee;

22 iii) One by rolling appointment from official party caucuses, in discussion with the Steering 23 Committee."

(N.B. Text in lilac and underlined is new text. ~~Dark blue and struck through~~ text has been deleted.)

Wording of amendment:

- 1 7.6.1 There will be six eight policy representatives responsible for developing party policy, serving
 - 2 two year terms beginning at Conference:
 - 3 i) Four elected by a simple majority vote at Conference;
 - 4 ii) One by rolling appointment* from branches that meet all requirements subject to article 7.8 below,
 - 5 in discussion with the Steering Committee;
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- 6 iii) One by rolling appointment from official party caucuses, in discussion with the
7 Steering Committee
8 [iv\) One appointed by WE Branches in Scotland, in discussion with the Steering Committee.](#)
9 [v\) One appointed by WE Branches in Wales, in discussion with the Steering Committee.](#)
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Amendment rationale

10 The very first Business Motion passed at the first WEP conference stated that all WEP policies should
11 take account of the different legislative context of Scotland and be ‘Scotland proof’¹. This has always
12 been enacted through 2 Scottish Policy Representatives on the Policy Committee. In 2020 two elected
13 Welsh Representatives were added to the Policy Committee², in recognition of WEP’s commitment to
14 cover all UK jurisdictions, and to engage in policy learning across different nations in the UK to
15 improve women’s equality.

16 The Scottish and Welsh Parliaments have significant devolved powers to pass legislation in health,
17 social care, education, housing, policing and the courts, and other areas which have an impact on
18 women’s equality. They also elect members by proportional representation, which means that smaller
19 parties like WEP have a much better chance of being elected there than to the Westminster
20 Parliament (which uses First Past The Post, shutting out smaller parties).

21 We welcome the reformation of the Policy Committee, and believe that including Scottish and Welsh
22 representation will enhance WEP’s reputation as a party relevant for the whole of the UK. This
23 would enable valuable policy development opportunities from Scotland and Wales where there are
24 examples of politics being done differently. It will also engage members across the devolved nations
25 and give them a voice in the WEP policy making process.

¹ [WE Constitution](#) Sections 2.2.3; 7.4.3; 7.6.2(ii).

² [WE Constitution](#) Subsections 7.6.1(iii); (iv); (v); (vi)