

Conference Arrangements Committee

CONTEMPORARY MOTIONS

What are Contemporary Motions and what are they for?

Labour Party policy is made via the National Policy Forum. It represents all sections of the Party and is responsible for developing policy for the next manifesto.

Policy Commissions consider submissions from party members and affiliated bodies and use them to inform policy papers. Following consultation with the wider Party, papers are agreed by the National Policy Forum (NPF) before going to Annual Conference for final agreement. Through this method the Party's Policy Programme is developed. Those wishing to participate in this process can do so by making submissions via our dedicated website: <https://www.policyforum.labour.org.uk/>

Contemporary motions allow constituencies and affiliated organisations to address issues which could not otherwise have been raised through this year's process. Contemporary Motions must not be used to bypass the Party's agreed policy making process.

How do I know if my organisation's motion is "contemporary"?

Only issues of substance which can be shown to have newly arisen since the publication of the National Policy Forum's Annual Report on 3 August 2017 will be considered as valid Contemporary Motions. This process is followed in order to ensure the integrity of the policy making process and the NPF Annual Report which will go forward to Annual Conference for decision.

The NPF Annual Report 2017 can be viewed and downloaded here:
<https://members.labour.org.uk/national-policy-forum>

The Conference Arrangements Committee (CAC) therefore encourages all bodies considering submitting a Contemporary Motion to familiarise themselves with the issues contained in the NPF Annual Report.

Criteria for determining if a motion is contemporary

The decision on whether a motion is contemporary is taken by the Conference Arrangements Committee. In reaching a decision, it will consider the following points:

- Has the issue been dealt with by the NPF and Policy Commissions in their work during the year? This work is set out in their reports to Conference.
- Could the issue have been sent to the NPF, Policy Commissions or the NEC for consideration before they published their annual reports?
- Is the issue already addressed in the Conference agenda?

A motion will be deemed to be contemporary if:

- a. It is no more than 250 words, addresses one issue and does not propose a rule change.
- b. It deals with a topic which arose after the publication of the reports and Policy Papers of the National Policy Forum (NPF), Policy Commissions or National Executive Committee on the 3 August 2017 or has not been substantively addressed in those reports.
- c. The issue could not otherwise have been raised through the NPF policy making process.
- d. It does not seek to by-pass either the National Policy Forum policy-making or National Executive Committee decision-making processes or to overturn or revisit the Party Policy Programme, including issues defeated at the NPF which failed to achieve the status of an alternative position.

The National Policy Forum's Annual Report is available on Membersnet at:

<https://members.labour.org.uk/national-policy-forum>

Paper copies of the annual reports of the National Executive Committee and the National Policy Forum will be sent to delegates in early September.

Further detail on the policy making process is available at: www.policyforum.labour.org.uk