

Liberal Democrat Party Conference 2009

A British Bill of Rights: thinking through the issues

A joint fringe meeting of **JUSTICE** and the **Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association**

Date: Tuesday 22 September 2009

Time: 1.00pm – 2.00pm

Venue: **Connaught One, Connaught Hotel**
(All are welcome - no passes required)

West Hill Road, West Cliff, Bournemouth, BH2 5PH

Chair: **Baroness Sarah Ludford MEP**

Speakers: **David Howarth MP** Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for
Justice and Shadow Solicitor General

Roger Smith OBE Director of JUSTICE

Alistair Webster QC Chairman of the Liberal Democrat Lawyers Association

Refreshments provided

Speakers at this meeting will consider proposals to supplement the Human Rights Act 1998 with a bill of rights. This will include dealing with the following questions:

- Will devolution impede any attempt to get a UK-wide bill of rights?
- What would be the content of a bill of rights and how would this be decided?
- How would a bill of rights be enforceable? Would some provisions be entrenched so that Parliament could not breach them and, if so, which and how?
- What would be the effect of such a bill on the European Convention on Human Rights?
- Would some conflicting rights, such as the balance between privacy and press freedom, need detailed consideration and how might this be incorporated in the drafting process?



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