



February 2019

Dear Colleagues

CALL FOR MOTIONS

I look forward to seeing you at LDC Conference in June. Preparations for Birmingham 2019 are well under way.

Time at Conference is limited, and it is therefore important that we all work collaboratively in the preparation to get the most out of the event. These are my suggestions as Chair of Conference regarding the submission and presentation of motions. The formatting of the motions in your conference papers will be very slightly different this year.

A well written motion must be specific, concise and unique. It must also be comprehensible and logical, and can, for our purposes, be defined as, "A statement proposing a change that will give policy steer to GDPC". The motions can relate to local as well as national issues.

This year, we will trial a slightly different version of presentation in the agenda papers, of the motions for LDC Conference. We would like **the motion** in its lean form (which will be printed **bold** in the agenda papers), this is what delegates will vote on. Under each motion, there will be the option for a *narrative* (to be printed in *italics*) where the submitting LDC can expand on the problem and why their motion may present a solution. The narrative will be limited to a maximum of 200 words. Your LDC representative can speak to your motion to elaborate further, but we do not want speakers simply repeating the narrative verbatim! One of the reasons for this trial reworking is that in recent years, some of the motions have been long winded essays where the spirit of the motion is somewhat buried, let's sort out the wheat from the chaff at this early stage. Also, where a large number of motions have been submitted, it has been impossible to allow LDCs to speak to all the motions, thus losing the ability to expand further. Thirdly, LDCs do not like the agenda committee requesting alterations to motions and hope this new format will, similarly, reduce the need for this.

So, for this year, I will be trialling this format: LDCs to submit

1. The Motion (concise)
2. A narrative beneath each motion where LDCs can elaborate, if they wish to (i.e. optional)

Example:

Motion

Conference demands that NHS England provide free flu vaccinations to all members of the dental team.

Narrative

We all know how seriously flu can affect vulnerable members of society. Even fit and healthy individuals can become bedridden for days as a result of acquiring the flu virus. Having staff members off work through ill health impacts on productivity of our teams and ultimately on patient care.

All members of the dental team are exposed to airborne pathogens due to aerosols created in the surgery and also by the very nature of close contact with so many different patients on a daily basis. It is therefore important that all members of the dental team are offered flu vaccinations, funded by the DHSC. All front-line staff members in the NHS are entitled to these, as are managers working in offices, closeted away from patients, so why are dental teams working in primary care excluded?

This can be viewed as another example of how NHS dentistry is perceived by the DHSC as a side-line irritation of low value. This is an unacceptable state of affairs and needs addressing immediately.

(170 words)

One of the roles of the Agenda Committee is to batch the motions together and subject to numbers submitted, we will be able to group into the various categories and determine which ones (if not all) can be spoken to, and voted on. Over the past few years, there have been different protocols adopted, it is my hope that we will get as many LDCs as possible speak to their motions, though this will ultimately depend on numbers of motions submitted. As explained above, giving LDCs an option to include the narrative in the agenda papers with their motions enables elaboration of the motions and this will be of benefit where LDCs are not able to speak to their proposals.

The batched topics have in the past, included: workforce/ recruitment, contract reform, public health issues, regulation, commissioning/ contractual, government policy, workforce support issues, information, management & technology, LDC/ GDPC business and indemnity.

Top Tips for penning motions:

- There is nothing wrong with a controversial motion, anything that stimulates healthy debate is good.
- Be realistic: we would all like more money but have to accept the situation as it is and simply demanding, 'More money,' could be seen as a wasted motion.
- Anticipate questions and objections, this can make a good motion.
- Remember, keep it concise, accurate and comprehensible.
- Please refer to the framework of GDPC policies (2003-2017) and the 2018 update both available on the website as this information should help guide you, there is no point in demanding something that is already GDPC policy.

We do not want to be prescriptive, that will stifle LDCs. This is guidance alone on how to present your motion, not the content.

In summary, is your proposed motion concise, accurate, logical, comprehensible, unique, thought provoking, opinion or fact, realistic? Try and get as many of these in and you'll have formulate a great motion.

Submission deadline

So that the agenda committee can group motions in good time, please submit motions by **Tuesday 2 April 2019**. Motions submitted after this date may not be considered for debate.

Yours faithfully



Vijay Sudra
Chair, LDC Conference 2019