



NORTHERN IRELAND LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

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Response to Consultation Document Donations and Loans to Northern Ireland Political Parties: The Confidentiality Arrangements

1. A fair, free and open society

“The Liberal Democrats exist to build and safeguard a fair, free and open society, in which we seek to balance the fundamental values of liberty, equality, and community and in which no one shall be enslaved, by poverty, ignorance or conformity.”¹

2. Openness and transparency

The Northern Ireland Liberal Democrats fully support the openness and transparency that would be brought about by the full implementation of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 in Northern Ireland.

3. Recommendation

Therefore, we support the implementation of Option 1², *id est* Allow the prescribed period to expire and make the full register of donations available to the public.

¹ Preamble to the Federal Constitution of the Liberal Democrats

² Northern Ireland Office, *Consultation Paper on Donations and Loans to Northern Ireland Political Parties: The Confidentiality Arrangements*, (London: 2010), p. 15