

Coalition Update: 3-9 May

May 5 Election Campaigns and Results

Lib Dems face terrible backlash as voters opt for SNP (*Guardian*, 3 May)

Scottish Lib Dem voters angry at the Westminster coalition appear to be shifting their support to the SNP. Labour appear not to be benefiting from the disaffection.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/may/02/scottish-elections-liberal-democrats-snp>

Greens eye Liberal Democrat defectors (*Financial Times*, 3 May) **££**

Green campaigners in Sheffield and elsewhere see themselves as the natural party for anti-coalition Lib Dems.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/08ff7fba-750c-11e0-a4b7-00144feabdc0.html#axzz1Llxql78a>

The Story of the AV Campaign (*ConservativeHome*, 5 May)

Tim Montgomerie's excellent report on the No Campaign

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/avstory/2011/05/the-story-of-the-av-campaign.html>

Lib Dem collapse in local elections is good news for David Cameron (*Guardian*, 6 May)

Tony Travers claims that the Lib Dems have been electorally damaged by their role in the coalition, with the Conservatives set to take advantage in certain parts of the country.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/may/06/lib-dem-collapse-david-cameron>

Nick Clegg facing calls to quit from defeated Lib Dems (*Telegraph*, 7 May)

Nick Clegg faces calls to resign after poor local election results throughout the UK.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/local-elections/8499499/Local-elections-2011-Nick-Clegg-facing-calls-to-quit-from-defeated-Lib-Dems.html>

Welsh Labour's options as AMs' work begins (*BBC*, 9 May)

Labour's Carwyn Jones is considering a coalition following his failure to secure a majority in the Welsh Assembly. The Lib Dems would likely have to disavow the Westminster coalition, whilst previous partner Plaid is also a candidate.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-13327807>

Chris Huhne's "Leadership Campaign"

Heated row erupts in cabinet over AV campaign 'smears' (*Guardian*, 4 May)

Chris Huhne confronted David Cameron and George Osborne in Cabinet, attacking the No campaign and calling for them to defend its tactics. Osborne claimed that Cabinet was not the place for such discussions.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/may/03/av-referendum-huhne-confronts-cameron>

The Latest Stage of Huhne's Leadership Bid Involves Clash With Osborne In Cabinet (*Conservativehome*, 3 May)

Tim Montgomerie discusses Huhne's Cabinet attack on the No campaign. Montgomerie sees it as a precursor to resignation and a challenge to Nick Clegg's leadership.

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/thetorydiary/2011/05/the-latest-stage-of-huhnes-leadership-bid-involves-clash-with-osborne-in-cabinet.html>

No challenge to Clegg, and certainly not from Huhne (*Independent*, 9 May)

Analysis of the potential successors to Nick Clegg, all of whom are assessed to be politically vulnerable or otherwise unlikely to stand.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/no-challenge-to-clegg-and-certainly-not-from-huhne-2281146.html>

The Changing Nature of the Conservative-Lib Dem relationship

Now Cameron turns attack on Lib Dem plans for elected House of Lords (*Independent*, 7 May)

The May 5 election results mean David Cameron will no longer support Nick Clegg's plan to reform the House of Lords, despite the terms of the coalition agreement.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/av/now-cameron-turns-attack-on-lib-dem-plans-for-elected-house-of-lords-2280328.html>

The rose garden romance is well and truly over (*Spectator*, 7 May)

David Cameron could keep Nick Clegg on as DPM even if he loses the Lib Dem leadership, according to James Forsyth, in an article about the breakdown in coalition relations.

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/politics/all/6916603/politics-the-rose-garden-romance-is-well-and-truly-over.thtml>

The smug and the mugged (*Independent*, 8 May)

Nick Clegg has admitted his "bro-mance" with David Cameron went too far. Tories are opposed to post-referendum concessions, whilst Lib Dems claim they have "taken the bullets" for the coalition and should be rewarded.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/the-smug-and-the-mugged-what-happens-to-the-coalition-now-2280805.html>

Cleggites don't want Cameron to look like Lib Dem leader's protector (*Times*, 8 May) ££

David Cameron may defend Nick Clegg less in an attempt to save the latter's leadership.

<http://www.timesplus.co.uk/sto/?login=false&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.thesundaytimes.co.uk%2Fsto%2Fnews%2FPolitics%2Farticle621187.ece>

Lib Dems tell PM: You must rein in Osborne (*Independent*, 8 May)

Senior Lib Dems have accused George Osborne of attempting to disrupt the relationship between David Cameron and Nick Clegg. A source claims Osborne is less comfortable with coalition than Cameron.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/av/exclusive-lib-dems-tell-pm-you-must-rein-in-osborne-2280967.html>

Cameron would be wrong to jettison his co-pilot (*Telegraph*, 8 May)

Matthew D'Ancona claims Vince Cable is wrong to express disgust about the Tories when he continues to work with them in a government where Lib Dems have disproportionate influence. This contrasts with Nick Clegg's consensual approach.

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/matthewd_ancona/8500149/David-Cameron-would-be-wrong-to-jettison-his-co-pilot.html

Realities of power force coalition rethink (*FT*, 9 May) ££

George Parker discusses the "new phase" of the coalition, claiming the Clegg-Cameron relationship (on which the coalition is founded) will become "more transactional".

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/8f1aaf32-7a5e-11e0-af64-00144feabdc0.html#axzz1LzHMIIUf>

The Role of the Coalition Agreement

AV battle to drag the coalition to the edge of the precipice (*Guardian*, 6 May)

Danny Alexander and Oliver Letwin are pushing for a new coalition agreement. Lib Dems are resisting their efforts.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/may/05/av-dragged-coalition-to-edge>

Sticking to the Coalition Agreement (*Conservativehome*, 9 May)

Andrew Lillico examines the consequences of sticking rigidly to the coalition agreement, as senior Lib Dems have suggested. He claims such a plan is impracticable and undesirable for both parties.

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/platform/2011/05/sticking-to-the-coalition-agreement.html>

The Struggle for Identity in a Coalition Government

Clegg sees silver lining in referendum (*Politics.co.uk*, 3 May)

Nick Clegg has claimed that the AV referendum has been good for his party, highlighting the differences between it and the Conservatives. David Cameron denied the coalition's ability to function would be affected.

[http://www.politics.co.uk/news/legal-and-constitutional/clegg-sees-silver-lining-in-referendum-campaign-\\$21388617.htm](http://www.politics.co.uk/news/legal-and-constitutional/clegg-sees-silver-lining-in-referendum-campaign-$21388617.htm)

Overlapping narratives (*Conservativehome*, 3 May)

Graeme Archer claims that the coalition's oratorical dissonance is damaging its ability to communicate and angering many Conservatives to such an extent that an early general election is a distinct possibility.

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/platform/2011/05/overlapping-narratives.html>

AV referendum: Pre-mortem starts on voting reform (*Guardian*, 4 May)

Nick Clegg has warned his party he cannot act as if he won a landslide election in 2010. This means his party must "make painful, uncomfortable compromises".

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/may/04/av-referendum-pre-mortem-voting-reform>

What the Liberal Democrats should do next (*New Statesman*, 6 May)

David Allen Greene calls on the Lib Dems to adapt better as a party of government and ensure it does not lose its own identity, with the coalition ending in the same way as Animal Farm.

<http://www.newstatesman.com/blogs/david-allen-green/2011/05/liberal-democrats-party>

There are many ties that bind the coalition (*Telegraph*, 9 May)

Tory minister David Willetts claims there is little point identifying a policy as belonging to a particular party, adding it is bad government for ministers to distance themselves from specific policies.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/8501928/There-are-many-ties-that-bind-the-Coalition.html>

The Coalition and the Civil Service

DPM's Cliffhanger In Whitehall (*Financial Times*, 4 May) ££

Sue Cameron discusses Nick Clegg's expressed concern that the Civil Service is yet to adapt to his near-unique constitutional position. Ms. Cameron finds this strange because the civil service "loves coalitions".

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/ca765e34-75d4-11e0-82c6-00144feabdc0.html#axzz1M7znCDgh>

NHS Reforms

Nick Clegg and David Cameron agree key changes on NHS plans (*Guardian*, 9 May)

David Cameron and Nick Clegg have agreed changes to the government's NHS reforms, with Clegg dubbing the original plans a "disruptive revolution". Tory sources indicated the Cameron-Clegg negotiations leave Andrew Lansley an isolated figure.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2011/may/09/clegg-cameron-changes-nhs-plans>

When Nick Clegg was in favour of the NHS reforms (*New Statesman*, 9 May)

The New Statesman analyses Nick Clegg's reversal of his decision to support Andrew Lansley's original plans for the NHS, which he once claimed were in the Lib Dem manifesto.

<http://www.newstatesman.com/blogs/the-staggers/2011/05/lib-dem-leader-clegg-reforms>

Police Commissioners

No delay on police commissioners, says May (*Epolitix*, 9 May)

Theresa May will not heed Lib Dem calls for a piloting of plans for elected police commissioners. Her shadow, Yvette Cooper, called on Lib Dems to oppose May, claiming they were "shouting" but the government was not listening.

http://www.epolitix.com/latestnews/article-detail/newsarticle/no-delay-on-police-commissioners-says-may/?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter

Public Service Reform

Forget AV - Nick Clegg is winning the big battle (*Telegraph*, 4 May)

Benedict Brogan claims Lib Dems are more influential than they are given credit for: Nick Clegg and Danny Alexander have "filleted" planned public sector reforms advocated by Francis Maude and Downing Street adviser Steve Hilton.

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/benedictbrogan/100086461/forget-av-%E2%80%93-nick-clegg-is-winning-the-big-battle/>