

## Coalition Update: 5-11 April

### Clegg's Leadership

[I'm not a punch bag, I have feelings](#) (*New Statesman*, 7 April)

Jemima Khan interviews Nick Clegg, who discusses his time as Deputy Prime Minister in a coalition government that demands compromise.

[Nick Clegg: From hero to hate figure](#) (*Observer*, 10 April)

Toby Helms discusses how Nick Clegg went from immensely popular to a hate figure, and what he has to show for it.

[How should we judge Nick Clegg's eventful year?](#) (*Observer*, 10 April)

A positive editorial on the Lib Dems as a "force" in government and the authors of a shift in British politics.

[Cry-baby Clegg will have the last laugh](#) (*Times*, 10 April)

Martin Ivens argues that Nick Clegg was right to sign up to the coalition and suffer short-term insults in return for proving that the Lib Dems can govern responsibly.

[Hero to zero: The dizzy rise and dramatic fall of Nick Clegg](#) (*Independent*, 10 April)

Matt Chorley and John Rentoul debate whether Nick Clegg has led his party well during the coalition. Chorley claims Clegg has proved coalition can work, whilst Rentoul asserts that Lib Dem policy gains are "illusory".

### Governing a coalition

[David Cameron isn't a winner, and that's where his problems begin](#) (*Telegraph*, 6 April)

Benedict Brogan discusses David Cameron's position as Prime Minister, claiming that he has governed fully aware that his position is institutionally limited by his failure to win an election, which has led to "institutionalised government by consensus".

[Cameron should stop worrying about Clegg and start governing](#) (*Conservativehome*, 6 April)

Tim Montgomerie claims that David Cameron should force Nick Clegg to toe the Conservative line, claiming that the latter has no bargaining power, since triggering an election is not in his interests.

[What academics think about the coalition](#) (*Conservativehome*, 6 April)

Academic and former Tory candidate John Bradley examines academic attempts to analyse and discuss the functioning and politics of the coalition.

[German FDP leader's decision to stay in government but resign as party boss may be a model for Nick Clegg](#) (*Conservativehome*, 5 April)

Tim Montgomerie compares the position of FDP leader Guido Westerwelle to that of Nick Clegg. The former is a junior coalition partner who has resigned as party leader (but not from government) following poor election results.

## **NHS reform**

[Nick Clegg aide Norman Lamb threatens to quit over NHS reforms](#) (*Telegraph*, 10 April)

Nick Clegg's senior policy adviser, Norman Lamb, has reportedly threatened to resign unless Lib Dem proposals to amend the government's NHS reforms are implemented. Danny Alexander also mentioned "issues" with GP commissioning in a BBC interview.

[If we get these reforms wrong, patients are going to suffer](#) (*Independent*, 11 April)

Norman Lamb writes in *The Independent* to state his actual position on NHS reform.

[Andrew Lansley and Norman Lamb in fight to the death over NHS reforms](#) (*Guardian*, 11 April)

Political blog discusses the Lansley-Lamb relationship, which it claims has led to a contest that only one can survive politically. The potential ramifications for the coalition are also discussed.

[Clegg's adviser threatens resignation over health reform](#) (*New Statesman*, 11 April)

The Staggers blog examines the reasons behind, and potential consequences of, the Norman Lamb intervention on NHS reform.

## **Social Mobility**

[Clegg's big moment backfires over interns](#) (*Times*, 6 April) **££**

Conservative MPs have expressed discontent regarding Nick Clegg's social mobility strategy, with one calling it "soft and silly".

## **Banking Commission**

[Bank reforms are high noon for the coalition](#) (*Guardian*, 8 April)

Lord Oakeshott supports the IBC proposals, and has called on government to implement them in full.

[Cable plans to relaunch his career with a new war on bankers](#) (*Independent*, 8 April)

Vince Cable and Nick Clegg are expected to push for full implementation of the Vickers report, with senior Lib Dems claiming that dilution of the proposals will be unacceptable.

[Bank reform plan sparks Cabinet rift](#) (*Telegraph*, 9 April)

A senior Lib Dem source has stressed the interim nature of the IBC report and claimed their party will keep fighting for increased competition in the banking sector.

## **AV**

[AV voting referendum: Tim Farron's viewpoint](#) (*BBC News*, 11 April)

Lib Dem President Tim Farron sets out the case for AV, claiming that only Tories, the BNP and Communists are against it.

## **Relations with Labour**

[Miliband may be punished for his contempt for Clegg](#) (*Spectator*, 5 April)

Peter Hoskin warns against Labour burning its bridges regarding Nick Clegg, who could be Lib Dem leader in the event of a hung parliament after the next election.

## **May elections**

[Lib Dems face grassroots backlash in May elections](#) (*Independent*, 8 April)

The Lib Dems are only contesting 59 per cent of local council seats in May, slightly behind Labour and a long way behind their coalition partners.

[Scottish Lib Dem leader: Nick Clegg makes me grimace](#) (*New Statesman*, 11 April)

Tavish Scott has attempted to distance himself from the Westminster party in advance of the Scottish Parliament elections.

## **Miscellaneous**

[Downing Street mustn't present the Liberal Democrats as the caring face of the coalition](#)

(*Conservativehome*, 5 April)

Paul Goodman claims that on EMA, the NHS, tax and other issues, the government is allowing the Lib Dems to present themselves as the compassionate side of the coalition.

[Budget boosts Osborne, Libya boosts Hague](#) (*Conservativehome*, 9 April)

The Conservativehome Members' Panel has been polled regarding the effectiveness of individual cabinet members. Vince Cable comes bottom, IDS comes top and Nick Clegg is mid-table.

[Not everybody's cup of tea](#) (*Economist*, 8 April)

A review of Vernon Bogdanor's new book on the state of the British constitution following the formation of the coalition government.