

Coalition Update: 5-11 July

Phone hacking and the BSkyB takeover bid

Cameron and Clegg at odds over phone hacking inquiry (*Guardian*, 7 July)

Deputy prime minister insists judge must preside over at least one of the public inquiries pledged at yesterday's PMQs

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2011/jul/06/phone-hacking-david-cameron-forced-to-act>

Panic in No 10 as the decision day for BSkyB takeover bid looms (*Independent*, 7 July)

Liberal Democrats increase pressure for deal to be blocked

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/media/tv-radio/panic-in-no-10-as-the-decision-day-for-bskyb-takeover-bid-looms-2308180.html>

Ed Miliband will urge MPs to halt Murdoch's BSkyB takeover (*Guardian*, 9 July)

Labour leader to test the strength of the coalition with Commons motion aimed at stopping BSkyB buyout in its tracks

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2011/jul/09/ed-miliband-phone-hacking-bskyb-takeover>

Rupert Murdoch's bid for BSkyB sent to Competition Commission (*Guardian*, 11 July)

News Corp announcement leads to automatic referral – a move that could buy time for the News of the World furore to fade

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2011/jul/11/rupert-murdoch-bid-bskyb-competition-commission>

Rebellions

Ten things we know about Coalition MPs (*Ballots and Bullets Blog*, 5 July)

Phil Cowley on rebellions in the Coalition so far: rebellions at an all time high with a rebellion in almost one in every two votes; the Conservative rebellion rate is higher than at any time since

<http://nottspolitics.org/2011/07/05/ten-things-we-know-about-coalition-mps/>

Intra-party issues

What is the Tory right? (*Totalpolitics*, 5 July)

Long article on the various groups within the Conservatives

<http://www.totalpolitics.com/articles/162227/what-is-the-tory-right.shtml>

Conservative MEPs defeat new climate change targets (*Independent*, 6 July)

Tory opposition helped make the difference in a European Parliament vote which watered down a call for an unconditional increase in Europe's emissions reduction target from 20 per cent to 30 per cent.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/conservative-meps-defeat-new-climate-change-targets-2307556.html>

It's do or die for Nick Clegg as he fights to transform an unwilling party (*Telegraph*, 7 July)
Julian Astle: Traditional Lib Dem support is slipping away as the party leader Nick Clegg plots to stay in power.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/nick-clegg/8623463/Its-do-or-die-for-Nick-Clegg-as-he-fights-to-transform-an-unwilling-party.html>

How many Conservative MPs will fall for Miliband's ploy next week?

(*ConservativeHome*, 10 July)

Paul Goodman dismisses the threat posed by Ed Miliband's debate on the sale of BSkyB, but notes the rebelliousness of Tory MPs

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/thetorydiary/2011/07/how-many-conservative-mps-will-fall-for-milibands-ploy.html>

Inter-party conflict and consensus

Clegg and Cameron split over Europe (*Independent*, 8 July)

Differences between Nick Clegg and David Cameron over Europe will emerge today when the Deputy Prime Minister will warn British Eurosceptics not to gloat over the crisis in the single currency.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/clegg-and-cameron-split-over-europe-2308882.html>

Coalition MPs condemn abolition of Rural Advocate (*Independent*, 10 July)

Countryside needs an independent voice in government, say rebellious Conservative and Lib Dem backbenchers

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/coalition-mps-condemn-abolition-of-rural-advocate-2309911.html>

Party Identity

James Morris MP: We mustn't sub-contract "niceness" to the Lib Dems (*ConservativeHome*, 9 July)

"Allowing the narrative to take hold that somehow the Liberal Democrats are tempering the instincts of the 'nasty' Tories could be fatal to the long term prospects of the Conservative Party. The so called 'de-toxification' of the Tory brand was an essential task of the last six years. Huge progress was made, but this vital work was only partially completed."

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/platform/2011/07/james-morris-mp-we-musnt-sub-contract-niceness-to-the-lib-dems.html>

Nick Clegg: 'The pillars of the establishment are tumbling' (*Independent*, 11 July)

The Deputy Prime Minister tells Andrew Grice why the crisis enveloping the Murdoch empire is an opportunity for the Liberal Democrats: the Lib Dems' new unique selling point is "compassion and competence":

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/profiles/nick-clegg-the-pillars-of-the-establishment-are-tumbling-2311653.html>

Labour

Miliband running out of time to beat the odds of an election win (*Independent*, 5 July)
Labour figures say leader must 'raise his game' and define what he stands for as poll reveals his personal rating is falling

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/miliband-running-out-of-time-to-beat-the-odds-of-an-election-win-2306969.html>

The Public Services White Paper

Now the coalition will try to set its compass for reform (*Guardian*, 11 July)

Julian Glover: At heart this is an internal discussion of how radical the coalition dare be, and how radically they dare talk, after the shambles of NHS reform and amid the Murdoch firestorm.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/jul/10/coalition-compass-public-services-white-paper>

Ministers urged to let schools and hospitals fail to hasten reforms (*Guardian*, 11 July)

the plans contained in the public services white paper have been downgraded since Cameron first revealed details in a speech in February, after an internal coalition battle with the Liberal Democrats, who have sought to ensure that any outsourcing and market-driven reforms maintain a strong degree of accountability.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2011/jul/11/nhs-health>

Miscellaneous

A blast of Oakeshott (*Epolitix*, 5 July)

Profile of the outspoken Lib Dem peer, Lord Oakeshott

<http://www.epolitix.com/policy/parliament/parliament-article/newsarticle/a-blast-of-oakeshott/>

Divisive, bombastic and insecure – John Bercow is not the Speaker we need (*Telegraph*, 6 July)

Rob Wilson: John Bercow is widely seen as biased against the Tories and risks losing MPs' confidence

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/conservative/8619053/Divisive-bombastic-and-insecure-John-Bercow-is-not-the-Speaker-we-need.html>

Viewing guide: The week ahead at Parliament (*Mark D'Arcy's blog*, 8 July)

MPs' last sitting week before recess: various controversial bills coming up

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-14080727>

Equalities minister issues warning over unfair impact of cuts on women (*Guardian*, 8 July)

Lynne Featherstone says government departments and local authorities will break the law if they ignore new equality duty

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/jul/08/equalities-minister-impact-of-cuts-on-women>

Facing the music with a new partner? (*Epolitix*, 11 July)

Lord Owen on the strategic decisions to be made by the Lib Dems and Labour come the 2015 election

<http://www.epolitix.com/policy/parliament/parliament-article/newsarticle/facing-the-music-with-a-new-partner/>