

## **Coalition Update: 6-12 September**

### **Cabinet Office Operations**

**Government sets up partnership unit to drive business comms (PR Week, 7 September)**

The Cabinet Office is to host a "partnership unit" that will seek to build relationships between government and major brands.

<http://www.prweek.com/news/1089819/Government-sets-partnership-unit-drive-business-comms/?DCMP=ILC-SEARCH>

<http://www.platform10.org/2011/09/how-should-the-government-promote-its-message/>

### **Maintaining Separate Identities**

**Shun the 'seductive chorus' of rightwingers, Cameron warned (Times, 9 September) ££**

Damian Green uses an Op-Ed in The Times to claim that the Lib Dems should not be allowed to present themselves as the caring face of the coalition.

<http://www.timesplus.co.uk/tto/news/?login=false&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.thetimes.co.uk%2Ftto%2Fnews%2Fpolitics%2Farticle3158930.ece>

### **NHS Reforms**

**Clegg refuses to budge on NHS reforms despite Lib Dem unrest (Times, 6 September) ££**

Clegg calls for 'probing questions' on NHS bill (*Guardian*, 6 September). The Deputy Prime Minister has promised to stick by the deal that he negotiated with the Prime Minister and Andrew Lansley, the Health Secretary, say The Times. But The Guardian claims not, and that Clegg offered to consider concessions at a party meeting.

<http://www.timesplus.co.uk/tto/news/?login=false&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.thetimes.co.uk%2Ftto%2Fhealth%2Fnews%2Farticle3155515.ece>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2011/sep/05/clegg-demands-probe-nhs-reforms>

**Health reforms face new challenge from Lib Dem rebels (*Guardian*, 9 September)**

Shirley Williams and Evan Harris are to table a conference motion calling for more concessions on the NHS legislation currently before Parliament.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2011/sep/09/health-reforms-lib-dem-rebels>

### **Europe**

**Tories are warned off trying to exploit crisis in eurozone (Times, 7 September) ££**

Danny Alexander calls on the Conservatives to stop calling for the repatriation of EU powers.

<http://www.timesplus.co.uk/tto/news/?login=false&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.thetimes.co.uk%2Ftto%2Fnews%2Fpolitics%2Farticle3157901.ece>

**Cameron risks coalition rift with plan to let MPs overrule human rights court (Times, 9 September) ££**

David Cameron is reportedly considering allowing Parliament to override ECHR decisions, in a move that is likely to cause problems for the coalition.

<http://www.timesplus.co.uk/tto/news/?login=false&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.thetimes.co.uk%2Ftto%2Fnews%2Fpolitics%2Farticle3159241.ece>

### **Will Cameron really square up to Clegg on ECHR? (*Conservativehome*, 9 September)**

Paul Goodman discusses conflicting media reports on David Cameron's position on Europe and claims he is unlikely to fight Nick Clegg too hard on the ECHR issue.

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/thetorydiary/2011/09/will-cameron-really-square-up-to-clegg-over-the-echr.html>

### **Britain must rethink ties with Europe, says Hague (*Times*, 10 September) ££**

In an interview with *The Times*, William Hague claims that the coalition restricts his ability to seek a change in UK relationship with the EU.

<http://www.timesplus.co.uk/tto/news/?login=false&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.thetimes.co.uk%2Ftto%2Fnews%2Fpolitics%2Farticle3160292.ece>

### **Coalition Formation**

#### **A manual for Coalition? (*LibDemVoice*, 7 September)**

Lord Tyler discusses the Cabinet Manual's position on who should be Prime Minister in event of a hung parliament.

[http://www.libdemvoice.org/?p=25163&utm\\_source=tweet&utm\\_medium=twitter&utm\\_campaign=twitter](http://www.libdemvoice.org/?p=25163&utm_source=tweet&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=twitter)

### **Banking and Tax Reforms**

#### **Crack down on the banks or I'll quit... (*Mail*, 10 September)**

Vince Cable has warned he will resign if the government does not get tough on the banks.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2036075/Crack-banks-Ill-quit-Vince-Cable-tells-George-Osborne.html#ixzz1Xd9KMrh1>

#### **Huhne attacks Tories helping their friends in the city (*Prospect*, 11 September)**

Chris Huhne has said he will not tolerate the abolition of the 50p tax rate.

<http://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/2011/09/huhne-attack-osborne-50p-rate/>

### **A Yellow Tail Wagging a Blue dog?**

#### **Pragmatism and consensus is the lifeblood of the coalition... (*Conservativehome*, 6 September)**

Stewart Jackson MP claims that Lib Dem activists caused the government not to support Nadine Dorries' abortion amendment.

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/platform/2011/09/stewart-jackson-mp-pragmatism-and-consensus-is-the-lifeblood-of-this-coalition-but-do-conservatives-.html>

#### **Why should a failed Lib Dem candidate hold sway... (*Conservativehome*, 7 September)**

The Tory Diary questions the influence of Lib Dem activist Evan Harris.

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/thetorydiary/2011/09/why-should-a-failed-libdem-candidate-rule-the-roost-in-the-department-of-health.html>

### **Police Commissioner elections delayed (*Times*, 7 September) ££**

Nick Clegg has succeeded in his efforts to delay police commissioner elections until November 2012.

<http://www.timesplus.co.uk/tto/news/?login=false&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.thetimes.co.uk%2Ftto%2Fnews%2Fpolitics%2Farticle3156695.ece>

### **War breaks out in Downing Street (*Observer*, 11 September)**

Toby Helm examines the policy areas most likely to cause problems for coalition unity.  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/sep/11/war-breaks-out-in-downing-street>

### **Stroppy Tories seem to have forgotten they didn't actually win (*Observer*, 11 September)**

Andrew Rawnsley claims that Tory complaints about Lib Dem influence is misguided, and that it boosts the junior party to talk of them as too influential.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/sep/11/andrew-rawnsley-david-cameron-nick-clegg?>

### **Miscellaneous**

#### **Polling Observatory #6: riots leave Coalition unscathed (*Ballots & Bullets blog*, 7 September)**

"Labour's estimated share has fallen consistently between 40% and 42%, the Conservatives between 34% and 36% and the Liberal Democrats between 8% and 10%. ... In other words, an eventful six months has produced nothing to alter the settled views of the electorate."

<http://nottspolitics.org/2011/09/07/polling-observatory-6-riots-leave-coalition-unscathed/>

#### **Government to investigate West Lothian Question (*Guardian*, 8 September)**

Mark Harper has announced a new commission to examine potential answers to the West Lothian Question.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/sep/08/government-investigate-west-lothian-question>

#### **The Liberal Democrats aren't especially liberal... (*Telegraph*, 9 September)**

Graeme Archer claims that "where the Lib Dems have been effective in the coalition, they have been anything but liberal" or copying a policy the Tories would implement anyway.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/liberaldemocrats/8753191/The-Liberal-Democrats-arent-especially-liberal-or-even-democratic.html>