

Coalition Update: 7-13 June

The Lords

Putting the House in order (*Total Politics*, 8 June)

Long article on more about the state of politics in the Lords: but does note that Lords ministers have limited scope to negotiate because the coalition's decision-making by committee leaves their hands tied

<http://www.totalpolitics.com/articles/160357/putting-the-house-in-order.shtml>

No plans for additional Lords reform (*Epolitix*, 9 June)

The coalition rejects incremental reforms of the House of Lords before more wide-ranging measures are brought in.

<http://www.epolitix.com/latestnews/article-detail/newsarticle/no-plans-for-additional-lords-reform/>

U-turns: not a coalition issue?

Cameron starts to feel the heat from U-turns (*FT*, 8 June) **££**

Many Tory MPs pin the blame for Mr Cameron's reversals on the Liberal Democrats. But the prime minister did not need Nick Clegg to tell him the NHS reforms and sentencing plans were toxic. Indeed the policies on forests, health and sentencing were all driven by Tory ministers with encouragement from George Osborne at the Treasury. Downing Street insiders concede that all were holed by dismal presentation, not the Lib Dems.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/877f042c-9204-11e0-b8c1-00144feab49a.html?ftcamp=rss#axzz1OnLW0LxV>

Meet Mr U-Turn: Cameron's new guru is a pollster who won't sneeze without consulting a focus group... (*Mail*, 11 June)

Article critical of Andrew Cooper: blames the Tory moderniser for David Cameron's recent spate of 'U turns'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-2002410/David-Camerons-new-guru-Andrew-Cooper-wont-sneeze-consulting-focus-group-.html>

NHS reforms

Public outcry at health reforms forces Cameron to back down (*Independent*, 8 June)

The U-turn reflects the demands of Nick Clegg for the Lansley blueprint to be watered down to one his party can back

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/public-outcry-at-health-reforms-forces-cameron-to-back-down-2294342.html>

Lib Dem warns NHS deal could fall apart over private finance (*Guardian*, 11 June)

Lib Dem Health co-chair fears deal could collapse over 'Trojan horse' for companies to run NHS services

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/jun/11/uk-coalition-health-privatisation>

Tories furious as Clegg humiliates Andrew Lansley by boasting he 'won' fight to water down NHS reforms (*Mail*, 12 June)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2002634/Tories-furious-Clegg-humiliates-Andrew-Lansley-NHS-victory-roll.html#ixzz1P2Pmlqnf>

Health reform: who will 'win' the battle of the NHS pause? (*MHS blog*, 13 June)

Excellent Mike Birtwistle piece on the politics of NHS reform

<http://www.mhpc.com/blog/health-reform-who-will-%E2%80%98win%E2%80%99-battle-nhs-pause>

'NHS reform is safe' – Andrew Lansley makes private plea for Tory support (*Guardian*, 13 June)

Health secretary expected to deny that altered reforms represent Lib Dem victory: note also at end of piece that Conservatives also claim credit for changes--thanks to George Osborne

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/jun/13/nhs-reform-andrew-lansley>

Miscellaneous

The voters may have abandoned Nick Clegg, but David Cameron still needs him (*Telegraph*, 7 June)

Ben Brogan discusses the strategic dilemmas underlying the coalition's future. "The more one scrutinises a deliberate decision to end the Coalition by either side, the more perilous it seems. To withdraw for short-term advantage would be to break with the pledges of long-term government in the national interest made last year. How to reassert those promises in the interest of grown-up politics – and in pursuit of grown-up voters – is what must preoccupy Mr Clegg, and Mr Cameron."

http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/benedictbrogan/100091199/the-voters-may-have-abandoned-nick-clegg-but-david-cameron-still-needs-him/?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter

In conversation with... Chris Rennard (*Total Politics*, 9 June)

Iain Dale interviews Chris Rennard

<http://www.totalpolitics.com/articles/160427/in-conversation-with-chris-rennard.thtml>

Voters remain unconvinced by Miliband and Clegg (*Independent*, 9 June)

Ed Miliband and Nick Clegg are struggling to improve their image with voters while David Cameron remains almost twice as popular as his two rival leaders

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/voters-remain-unconvinced-by-miliband-and-clegg-2294974.html>

Cameron must be wary of being seen to divide and rule (*ConservativeHome*, 12 June)

Paul Goodman discusses PM's meetings with the 2010 Conservative intake: why exclude those who were in Parliament before?

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/thetorydiary/2011/06/cameron-must-be-wary-of-being-seen-to-divide-and-rule.html>