

Coalition Update: 12-18 April

The AV Referendum

[Osborne raps 'dodgy' Yes to AV](#) (*Sun*, 13 April)

George Osborne said it "stinks" that the Electoral Reform Society is one of the campaign's biggest donors - giving it £1million. Osborne also rubbished Nick Clegg's claims that AV would stop another MPs' expenses scandal.

[AV reform: Nick Clegg derides 'desperate' no campaign](#) (*Guardian*, 15 April)

Lib Dem leader accuses George Osborne of peddling 'ludicrous false claims' over AV funding as cabinet tensions rise

[Peers to be elected by PR in sop to Nick Clegg](#) (*Telegraph*, 16 April)

Members of the House of Lords are to be elected by PR - to be announced as one of several policies to be put forward as Lib Dem wins if Clegg loses on AV and does badly in locals. Cabinet discord over AV is discussed (Clegg attacking Osborne, etc.)

[AV vote: Paddy Ashdown attacks George Osborne](#) (*Guardian*, 16 April)

The strategy is clear," writes Ashdown. "Throw as much mud as you can, don't let the issue be discussed openly and frighten the public over the next three weeks into voting to preserve the power the present first-past-the-post system gives you. This strategy stinks of the same odour which has surrounded our politics recently.

[The double nightmare scenario for David Cameron on 5 May](#) (*Observer*, 17 April)

Andrew Rawnsley: "Once the elections are over, they need to be able to take off their gloves and have a laugh in the dressing room."

Immigration

[David Cameron accused of breaching immigration policy deal as rift opens](#) (*Guardian*, 14 April)

Furore following PM's speech that the government would cut net migration to the "tens of thousands". Vince Cable, responds. "I do understand there is an election coming but talk of mass immigration risks inflaming the extremism to which he and I are both strongly opposed ... "The reference to the tens of thousands of immigrants rather than hundreds of thousands is not part of the coalition agreement, it is Tory party policy only".

[PM is urged to sack Cable over immigration rift as Lib Dem says Cameron's speech 'will inflame extremism'](#) (*Mail*, 15 April)

Daily Mail reports Tory calls to sack Cable and includes a useful box on his alleged "outbursts"

[Vince Cable broke the rules and he should have been sacked](#) (*Telegraph*, 16 April)

Matt D'Ancona marshals the case for sacking Vince Cable

Coalition relations

[Coalition is 'practical arrangement'](#) (*Independent*, 14 April)

Simon Hughes' gloss on coalition party differences during the local elections campaign: "coalition is a "practical business relationship" rather than a "meeting of minds".

[Four new rules for making the coalition succeed](#) (*Conservativehome*, 15 April)

Tim Montgomerie offers advice on how to maintain the coalition and improve its electoral prospects in 2015.

The Future

[Reports of the Lib Dems' death have been greatly exaggerated](#) (*Telegraph*, 13 April)

Nick Clegg and the party are addressing important and long-standing brand weaknesses. They are "making the difficult transition from the politics of protest to the politics of power, swapping public affection for public respect."

[Can the Liberal Democrats survive another coalition?](#) (*LibDemVoice*, 16 April)

Comment on the pros and cons for the Lib Dems regarding a coalition after the 2015 election.

The Conservatives and the Coalition

[Ten reasons why David Cameron has a trust deficit in his own party](#) (*Conservativehome*, 12 April)

Paul Goodman explains the reasons that there is a lack of trust between the PM and his party, including the need for "bluer" policies and the desire for minority govt over coalition.

[David Davis takes up challenge to prepare next round of Tory policies](#) (*Guardian*, 14 April)

Davis and fellow Tory backbencher Brian Binley have been soliciting contributions for what they are calling the Blue Book—an alternative manifesto to Cameron's, reflecting a belief that the government has been over-run by the Lib Dem Orange Bookers.

Other issues

[These moderate proposals may just be acceptable to both Coalition parties](#) (*Independent*, 12 April)

Vickers Commission on banking reform issues interim report: stops short of recommending separation of banks' high street and investment arms

[Clegg to Lansley: Change NHS reforms or lose our support](#) (*Independent*, 17 April)

Deputy PM sets out five 'non-negotiable' demands to ward off threat of privatisation. 41 per cent of people polled believe the Lib Dems should leave the coalition if they fail to secure changes on the health reforms.

[Almost 40 per cent of Lib Dem voters desert](#) (*Independent*, 17 April)