

Coalition Update: 12-18 July

The coalition parties' relationship and Cameron's position

Lib Dems' new parlour game... (*Guardian*, 14 July)

A discussion of whether or not Nick Clegg has the power to unseat David Cameron as Prime Minister over the phone hacking scandal. He claims the prospect is fantastical, but that their relationship's warmth was destroyed by the AV referendum.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/wintour-and-watt/2011/jul/14/davidcameron-nickclegg>

Simon Hughes holds his fire over Cameron's Coulson meeting at Chequers, and attacks Blair instead (*ConservativeHome*, 16 July)

This News International saga has been an open goal for the Lib Dem left to bash the Conservative leadership, and on the whole, they have been business-like in their media appearances and Parliamentary activity.

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/leftwatch/2011/07/simon-hughes-holds-his-fire-over-camerons-coulson-meeting-at-chequers-and-attacks-blair-instead.html>

Miliband urges overhaul of media regulation (*FT Westminster Blog*, 17 July)

Some Lib Dem backbenchers concerned that Clegg has not done enough to lead the debate on phone hacking, allowing Ed Miliband to take much of the credit.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/2ddae4c8-ae1-11e0-9310-00144feabdc0.html#axzz1SeemAKil>

Is David Cameron going to be the next victim of the Murdochocalypse? (*Telegraph*, 18 July)

Toby Young claims that the Conservatives (David Davis or Liam Fox) are more likely to mount a coup against David Cameron than the Lib Dems.

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/tobyyoung/100097312/is-david-cameron-going-to-be-the-next-victim-of-the-murdochocalypse/>

Policy Differences

Why we shouldn't leave the EU (*Conservativehome*, 14 July)

Anthony Browne claims some ministers wish the government to leave the EU, a policy which he believes the coalition could not survive.

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/platform/2011/07/anthony-browne-why-we-shouldnt-leave-the-eu.html>

Tories slam fixed-term parliaments (*Epolitix.com*, 14 July)

MPs clashed over fixed-term parliaments and proposed a rescheduling of devolved government elections in the Commons

<http://www.epolitix.com/policy/parliament/parliament-article/newsarticle/tories-slam-fixed-term-parliaments/>

Little platoons on a slow march (*Economist*, 15 July)

The *Economist* comments on the public services white paper, which can cause divisions in the coalition, particularly on the issue of the ability to make profits.

<http://www.economist.com/node/18958721>

Closure shows weakness of Lib Dems (*Scotsman*, 18 July)

David Maddox claims that the issue of defence base closures show that the Lib Dems, with the exception of Danny Alexander, have little sway within the coalition.

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/Analysis-Closure-shows-weakness-of.6803166.jp>

Rebellions

Surprise timing helps IMF funding pass Commons (*BBC*, 12 July)

One Tory rebel has claimed that government whips scheduled a vote on extra funding for the IMF in order to avoid a large rebellion by Conservative MPs. The rebels are confident of victory should the matter arise again, with Labour poised to exploit a coalition faultline.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-14122552>

George Osborne faces revolt over benefits cap pledge (*Independent*, 15 July)

Sarah Teather has openly questioned the policy of a benefit cap, with sources predicting a Lib Dem rebellion on the issue.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/george-osborne-faces-revolt-over-benefits-cap-pledge-2314083.html>

Tory attitudes to coalition

Support for coalition down to 59% (*Conservativehome*, 12 July)

A poll of Conservative members show support for the coalition is down to 59 per cent, with 51 per cent agreeing it is a good thing for their party.

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/thetorydiary/2011/07/support-for-coalition-down-to-59-among-tory-members-but-satisfaction-with-cameron-remains-high.html>

Long-Term Coalition

Law change paves way for coalition candidates (*Telegraph*, 16 July)

The government is "correcting" the situation that means a general election candidate cannot currently stand as the nominee of multiple candidates. An anonymous minister close to David Cameron said he's "comfortable" with idea of coalition candidate.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/8642178/Law-change-paves-way-for-Coalition-candidates.html>

Miscellaneous

House of Lords reform: Ditchers and Hedgers (*BBC*, 13 July)

Discussion of the process of scrutinising the House of Lords legislation, noting that it will need Conservative ministers to "show they're serious" to secure passage.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-14138275>

On coalition and mandates (*Whitehallwatch*, 14 July)

A book review that contains a discussion of whether or not the coalition has a mandate for its policies.

<http://whitehallwatch.org/2011/07/14/on-coalitions-and-mandates/>

Is Nick Clegg trying to destroy the conservative press? (*Telegraph*, 14 July)

Julian Astle discusses Nick Clegg's recent critiques of the press, denying that he has an agenda to damage the anti-conservative press.

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/julianastle/100096982/is-nick-clegg-trying-to-destroy-the-conservative-press/>