

## **Coalition Update: 14-20 June**

### **Policy Making in Coalitions**

**Long Live The U-Turn** (*Total Politics*, 17 June)

Martin Shapland praises U-turns as the sign of a government seeking consensus.

<http://www.totalpolitics.com/blog/161217/long-live-the-urn.html>

**Nick Clegg is doing better - but will it be enough?** (*Guardian*, 17 June)

Michael White discusses the problems of policy-making in coalition governments and in Parliament.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/blog/2011/jun/17/nick-clegg-doing-better-michael-white>

**Retreat and recrimination is in the air** (*Telegraph*, 17 June)

Benedict Brogan claims that the "reforming zeal" has gone from a Tory party "in retreat, frightened of taking risks, riven by internal disputes and desperate to appease its Lib Dem junior partner."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/8583102/Retreat-and-recrimination-is-in-the-air.html>

**Coalition 2.0 agreement on back-burner** (*FT*, 17 June) **££**

The FT claims that the drafting of a second coalition agreement to cover the latter stage of this Parliament looks unlikely.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/7213f8ac-98ff-11e0-acd2-00144feab49a.html#axzz1PuKPOClk>

**The coalition still hasn't worked out the principles that bind it together** (*Guardian*, 19 June)

Julian Glover claims the coalition has no binding principles or philosophy, finding it easier to agree specific policies than the reasoning behind them, with "the spark gone" from Coalition 2.0.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/jun/19/coalition-principles-nhs-retreat>

**Tory-only government would be tougher in some areas** (*BBC*, 20 June)

David Cameron claims that a Tory government led by him would have had harder policies on welfare and immigration than the coalition does.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-13847445>

### **Policy Differences**

**George Osborne pulls strings on NHS while Liberal Democrats claim victory** (*Guardian*, 14 June)

A senior Cabinet minister has claimed George Osborne was architect of the NHS reforms, with Nick Clegg "claiming the credit for effectively carrying out George's work".

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

**Political failure has scuppered NHS reform** (*Telegraph*, 14 June)

Telegraph leader claiming that the coalition partners have been desperately attempting to take the credit for "unravelling their own work".

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/8573585/Political-failure-has-scuppered-NHS-reform.html>

**Clegg Backs Clarke Over Prisons** (*Times*, 15 June) **££**

Nick Clegg sided with Ken Clarke in a "Quad" meeting on sentencing, showing that it is not simply Lib Dem v Tory in the coalition.

<http://www.timesplus.co.uk/tto/news/?login=false&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.thetimes.co.uk%2Ftto%2Fnews%2Fpolitics%2Farticle3062241.ece>

**Why the battle of the bins matters** (*Spectator*, 15 June)

The *Spectator* analyses the bin collection farrago, amongst claims that Caroline Spelman is under the thumb of her officials, whilst Eric Pickles is fighting for an easily identifiable Tory policy.

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/coffeehouse/7028113/why-the-battle-of-the-bins-matters.shtml>

**Pro-European Tories, including Brittan and Heseltine, join with Lib Dem peers** (*Conservativehome*, 16 June)

Tim Montgomerie claims that the House of Lords is in danger of becoming a roadblock to coalition policy, as Lib Dem and Tory peers made significant amendments to the European Union Bill.

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/parliament/2011/06/pro-european-tories-including-brittan-and-heseltine-join-with-lib-dem-peers-to-defeat-referendum-loc.html>

**Nick Clegg's draft House of Lords Reform Bill is an absolute dog's dinner** (*Telegraph*, 17 June)

Lord Tebbit claims that normally loyalist Tories are considering opposition on Lord's reform, with some believing the Lib Dems have set an example on how to oppose the Prime Minister.

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/frontpage/2011/06/newlinks-for-saturday-18th-june-2011.html>

**Jail terms to be halved for guilty pleas** (*Telegraph*, 18 June)

Tory MPs are concerned that Nick Clegg has too much influence on justice policy, making the coalition appear soft on crime.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/8583548/Jail-terms-to-be-halved-for-guilty-pleas.html>

**Chris Huhne attacks Tory zealots over proposed scrapping of green laws** (*Guardian*, 19 June)

Chris Huhne has condemned plans to remove environmental regulations as part of the proposed red-tape abolition exercise.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/jun/19/chris-huhne-scrapping-green-laws>

**Steve Hilton and Downing Street's role in government**

**How the realists eclipsed the radicals** (*Telegraph*, 18 June)

Tim Montgomerie discusses the "tensions" between Steve Hilton and George Osborne at the centre of the coalition, discussing a supposed battle between "radicals" and "realists"...  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/david-cameron/8584314/How-the-realists-eclipsed-the-radicals-inside-Downing-Street.html>

**Why would Hilton leave?** (*Conservativehome*, 20 June)

...whilst Paul Goodman claims the two men are not as far apart as some make out.

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/thetorydiary/2011/06/why-the-differences-between-george-osborne-and-steve-hilton-are-exaggerated.html>

### **Maintaining a Separate Identity**

**Lib Dems learn how to love each other again** (*FT*, 19 June) **££**

Nick Clegg wants to stress "reasonableness" in government and has urged his MPs not to create an internal opposition.

<http://blogs.ft.com/westminster/2011/06/lib-dems-learn-how-to-love-each-other-again/>