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.

**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."

**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".
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.


**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.thtml

**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.


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


**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.


**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/]