

Coalition Update: 15-21 March

The AV referendum

[Miliband brands Clegg a 'vote-loser' as AV vote row gets personal](#) (*Independent*, 15 March)

Ed Miliband refuses to share a platform with Nick Clegg

[Not finking straight](#) (*Telegraph*, 16 March)

Julian Astle responds to Danny Finkelstein's rejection of AV: AV isn't just about the way in which "marginal seats are allocated" ... It is about creating more marginal seats – more seats where MPs need to worry about whether or not they will get re-elected; more seats where MPs might be punished by the voters for complacency or corruption. In short, more seats where MPs are properly accountable to those they represent.

[Charles Kennedy can share pro-AV platform with Labour leader](#) (*Guardian*, 18 March)

Former Lib Dem leader to stand with Ed Miliband at joint alternative vote campaign rally after Nick Clegg drops objection

The Centre

[Edward Timpson MP appointed to strengthen Number 10's relations with 'Class of 2010'](#)

(*ConservativeHome*, 15 March)

Deceptive title: Tim Montgomerie updates his earlier piece on No 10 Downing Street

[One week to get a grip: It was meant to be a routine budget. Now Osborne looks like the government's last chance](#) (*PoliticsHome*, 17 March)

James Forsyth on the obstacles the centre faces: officials, Europe, the judiciary--all this threatens a loss of momentum. Hope lies with George Osborne and the budget

The proposed NHS reforms

[The increasing divide between the Lib Dem grassroots and their MPs](#) (*TotalPolitics*, 16 March)

NHS reform is the latest issue to demonstrate the distance between what Lib Dem party members want and what their MPs deliver in the Commons

[NHS reforms leave health ministers under attack from all sides](#) (*Guardian*, 17 March)

Ministers have already lost the support of the Lib Dems, the BMA and the former health secretary Alan Milburn

[Liberal Democrats seek changes to health reforms](#) (*Guardian*, 20 March)

Officials drawing up plans to turn motions passed at party's spring conference into amendments to health and social care bill.

Intra-party relations

[Too soon for a wobble, Lib Dems](#) (*Bagehot*, 17 March)

Straightforward discussion of the Lib Dems' current dilemma: stay the course or begin to assert the party's distinctiveness? Bagehot advocates the former.

[Party Members expect Tory MPs to "normally support" the Government in Commons votes and call on regular rebels to be disciplined](#) (*ConservativeHome*, 18 March)

Jonathan Isaby discusses a recent poll of Conservative Party members

Inter-party relations

[Labour is playing snog/marry/avoid with the Lib Dems](#) (*TotalPolitics Blog*, 15 March)

Instead of worrying about its relations with the Lib Dems, Labour needs to focus on its own priorities

[Nick Clegg's effort at team-building with Tory MPs ends in farce](#) (*Evening Standard*, 17 March)

Attempts by the DPM to connect with Tory MPs fail

Libya: a non-issue?

[Libya: This is only the first step along an unpredictable and hazardous road](#) (*Observer*, 20 March)

The durability of the international coalition behind the Libyan intervention will be tested in the crucible of conflict: Lib Dem leadership in agreement with Cameron

[Parliament debates Libya: what Liberal Democrat MPs have been saying](#) (*LibDem Voice*, 21 March)

Mark Pack provides selections from Lib Dems on the debate in Parliament so far on the United Nations resolution on Libya and subsequent military action

Miscellaneous

[Osborne's long game](#) (*Financial Times*, 18 March) **££**

Expected to be hated for his policies, Osborne comments: "I hadn't reckoned on Nick Clegg"

[Clegg's coup](#) (*Spectator*, 18 March)

Fraser Nelson argues that Nick Clegg has just won a powerful victory over the Conservatives, appointing a Bill of Rights commission which is certain to leave the ECHR intact.

[The Liberal Democrats should be judged on how we deliver our own agenda](#) (*Observer*, 20 March)

"We may not have won the general election outright, but we are on course to deliver all four of our main priorities from our election manifesto."

[Chris Huhne: Nuclear power may become less attractive option for UK](#) (*Observer*, 20 March)

Energy Secretary discusses the difficulty of investment in nuclear power after Japan's troubles.