

Coalition Update: 19-25 April

AV I: The Campaign

The No campaign will win with a healthy but not huge margin (*TotalPolitics*, 21 April)

No campaign manager Matthew Elliott discusses his role in the first referendum in 30 years and managing the needs of different parties working towards the same goal.

<http://www.totalpolitics.com/blog/156927/and39the-no-campaign-will-win-with-a-healthy-but-not-huge-marginand39.html>

David Cameron attacks Major government in AV campaign (*Telegraph*, 22 April)

Writing on the AV referendum, Andrew Porter claims that Nick Clegg was led to believe David Cameron would not be so heavily involved in the No campaign, which has led to tensions in the coalition.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/av-referendum/8468108/David-Cameron-attacks-Major-government-in-AV-campaign.html>

Vote for AV to end Tory dominance (*Guardian*, 23 April)

Vince Cable has called on Labour and Lib Dem supporters to vote for AV and prevent Tory "dominance" of the political system. He also attacks the No campaign's tactics.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/apr/22/vote-for-av-vince-cable>

Deputy PM rages against Cameron lies (*Independent*, 24 April)

The Independent contains an interview with Nick Clegg, in which he attacks the No2AV campaign, and David Cameron specifically, for lying about the pros and cons of the Alternative Vote system. He also discusses Lib Dem support for action in Libya and the Lib Dem influence on coalition policy.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/profiles/nick-clegg-deputy-pm-rages-against-cameron-lies-2274236.html>

AV legal threat widens damaging coalition rift (*Guardian*, 24 April)

Chris Huhne has claimed that the manner of campaigning against a change to AV will make coalition government harder after May 5th.

http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/apr/24/av-legal-threat-widens?CMP=twf_fd

The Tories want to dominate British politics for generations (*Observer*, 24 April)

Peter Mandelson promotes AV as a system and claims that recent right-wing comments by David Cameron show he is scared a Yes vote could cost him his premiership.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/apr/24/peter-mandelson-av-referendum>

Clegg and Cameron's stage-managed ruckus (*New Statesman*, 25 April)

Duncan Robinson claims the recent Cameron-Clegg breakdown is artificial.

<http://www.newstatesman.com/blogs/the-staggers/2011/04/clegg-coalition-cameron>

AV II: The Aftermath

Tory diehards warn Cameron of 'bedlam' if AV goes through on low turnout (*Times*, 19 April) ££

The Times claims that Conservative MPs are planning a "guerilla" campaign to prevent AV being brought in whatever the referendum result.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article2991138.ece>

Lib Dems eye Lords reform (*Guardian*, 20 April)

Allegra Stratton claims that nothing is more important to Nick Clegg than an AV win, but outlines how a loss could help him secure reform of the House of Lords.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/apr/20/liberal-democrats-lords-reform-clegg>

Tory grassroots to Cameron: Stop the concessions to Clegg (*Conservativehome*, 23 April)

Tim Montgomerie discusses a Tory poll that claims 92 per cent of members are opposed to further concessions to the Lib Dems.

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/thetorydiary/2011/04/tory-grassroots-to-cameron-stop-the-concessions-to-clegg.html>

Politicians in different parties disagree: in lead-up politicians - not many hurt (*LibDemVoice*, 24 April)

Stephen Hall claims the coalition bickering on AV is normal and that the government is unlikely to break up soon.

http://www.libdemvoice.org/?p=23903&utm_source=tweet&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=twitter

Fault lines widen in coalition ahead of 5 May referendum (*Independent*, 25 April)

Despite claims that David Cameron will go soft on Nick Clegg after the referendum, plans to block Clegg's attempts to remove the Lords Spiritual from the Lords by proposing that leaders from other faiths be given peerages.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/av/fault-lines-widen-in-coalition-ahead-of-5-may-referendum-2274419.html>

Lib Dem Opposition to Coalition Policy I: Vince Cable the Maverick

Vince Cable gagged over Tory Thatcher jibe (*Scotsman*, 19 April)

A draft speech by Vince Cable was edited to remove comments that the Lib Dems had stopped Thatcherism from returning.

<http://news.scotsman.com/news/Vince-Cable-39gagged39-over-Tory.6754228.jp>

Vince Cable: Cabinet maverick on the risk of going nuclear (*Telegraph*, 19 April)

Andrew Porter claims that Vince Cable is so critical of his coalition partners that he seems to be daring David Cameron to sack him.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/av-referendum/8460041/Vince-Cable-Cabinet-maverick-runs-risk-of-going-nuclear.html>

Calamity Cable's calculated controversies (*Conservativehome*, 19 April)

A roundup of Vince Cable's various off-message comments about various government policies and the Conservative Party.

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/leftwatch/2011/04/calamity-cables-calculated-controversies.html>

The unique usefulness of a maverick (*Independent*, 19 April)

Editorial highlighting why Vince Cable's attacks on government policy are helpful both electorally and inside the Lib Dems.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/leading-articles/leading-article-the-unique-usefulness-of-a-maverick-2269673.html>

Lib Dem Opposition to Coalition Policy II: Specific Policies

Nick Clegg ally admits scale of spending cuts may turn Sheffield council red (*Guardian*, 19 April)

The Lib Dem leader of Sheffield Council has questioned the scale and speed of government spending cuts.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/apr/18/nick-clegg-sheffield-council-election>

Clegg approves peers' plan to delay police reform (*Times*, 22 April) **££**

Nick Clegg has reportedly given his support to Lib Dem peers planning to offer amendments to government policing legislation.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/politics/article2995602.ece?lightbox=false>

The Next General Election

An election this year is not impossible (*Guardian*, 24 April)

Jackie Ashley outlines why she thinks a 2011 general election is far from unlikely - a confident David Cameron, angry Tory party and weak junior coalition partners are all cited.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/apr/24/election-this-year-not-impossible>

Female Lib Dem MPs face electoral wipeout (*Guardian*, 25 April)

The Fabian Society has claimed that if current poll trends continue, the next election could leave the Lib Dems without a single female MP.

http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/apr/25/female-lib-dem-mps-numbers?CMP=twf_fd

Coalition Politics In Scotland

A deal between the Nationalists and the Scottish Conservatives would offer positives for both parties (*Scotsman*, 20 April)

In an article about coalition-building in Scotland, John McTernan claims that an SNP-Tory coalition would function well and benefit both sides.

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/opinion/John-McTernan-A-deal-between.6754747.jp>

Miscellaneous

Kennedy hasn't learned to love the coalition (*New Statesman*, 21 April)

George Eaton discusses a recent Charles Kennedy interview in which he claims he's learned to love the coalition. Eaton claims this isn't true, but that nor will Kennedy cross the floor.

<http://www.newstatesman.com/blogs/the-staggers/2011/04/learned-coalition-lib-kennedy>

Cameron and Clegg differ publicly on internship places (*BBC News*, 23 April)

David Cameron contradicts Nick Clegg by saying there was nothing wrong with nepotism regarding internships.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-13173505>

A coalition kept together only by fear (*Telegraph*, April 25)

Norman Tebbit condemns the machinery of government as incompetent and claims the coalition will survive for some time because it fears an election.

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/normantebbit/100084937/a-coalition-kept-together-only-by-fear/>