

Coalition Update: 19-25 July

'Hackgate'

'Murky practices' revealed, says Nick Clegg (*Independent*, 21 July)

Clegg tries to establish a distinctive position for his party, saying: "I don't think anyone should be surprised that the Liberal Democrats and Conservatives come at this issue from completely different directions.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/murky-practices-revealed-says-nick-clegg-2318068.html>

Nick Clegg defends Cameron's discussions with NI executives over BSkyB bid (*FT Westminster blog*, 21 July)

Nick Clegg plays the loyal deputy in his press conference and resists the temptation to distance himself from David Cameron.

<http://blogs.ft.com/westminster/2011/07/nick-clegg-tries-to-defend-camerons-discussions-with-ni-executives-over-bskyb-bid/#axzz1T5qYEQE4>

News International 'bullied Liberal Democrats over BSkyB bid' (*Guardian*, 23 July)

Party claims it was told it would be 'done over' by Murdoch papers if deal did not go through as company wanted

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2011/jul/23/news-international-liberal-democrats-bskyb>

How phone hacking scandal took the shine off the Prime Minister (*Guardian*, 24 July)

David Cameron's Tory backbenchers cheer him in Parliament. But in private MPs complain of U-turns and being marginalised by an elite that lavished attention on News International

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2011/jul/24/david-cameron-hacking-conservative-fallout>

Europe

Nick Clegg opens rift with David Cameron over eurozone crisis (*Guardian*, 21 July)

Nick Clegg rejects Downing Street plans to demand concessions for Britain in talks on managing the euro

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/jul/21/nick-clegg-david-cameron-eurozone>

Chris Huhne orders inquiry into fossil fuel lobby influence over Tory MEPs (*Guardian*, 22 July)

Groups may have swung crucial vote on ambitious carbon target, says energy and climate change minister

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/jul/22/chris-huhne-fossil-fuel-lobby>

The euro crisis could pull the Coalition apart (*Telegraph*, 23 July)

David Cameron's troops want him to seize the moment over Europe – but will Nick Clegg let him?

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/state-of-europe/8655355/The-euro-crisis-could-pull-the-Coalition-apart.html>

Lib Dem Voices

Andrew Stunell MP writes: Re-localisation of business rates will give councils real financial freedom (*LibDem Voice*, 19 July)

<http://www.libdemvoice.org/andrew-stunell-mp-writes-relocalisation-of-business-rates-will-give-councils-real-financial-freedom-24787.html>

Lib Dem councillors attack Government plans for elected police commissioners (*ConservativeHome*, 23 July)

15 Lib Dem councillors urge the Government to drop the proposal for elected police commissioners.

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/localgovernment/2011/07/lib-dem-councillors-attack-government-plans-for-elected-police-commissioners.html>

Don't blame Nick (*Liberator*, 25 July)

"The coalition is not the primary cause of the party's woes. Rather, it has precipitated more fundamental and longer-term weaknesses. In particular, it has tested to destruction the party's 'strategy'."

<http://www.liberator.org.uk/article.asp?id=224704181>

Cable waxes as Murdoch wanes (*Guardian*, 25 July)

Vince Cable has not actually said 'I told you so', but the crisis at Murdoch's empire has given him renewed authority and he is using it to press for a bigger banking shakeup

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/jul/25/cable-revived-by-fall-of-murdoch>

Miscellaneous

No 10 discloses salaries of political advisers (*Independent*, 20 July)

With the attention of the British press and public concentrated on the committee hearings at Portcullis House over the phone-hacking scandal, Downing Street chose yesterday to publish the salaries of ministerial special advisers.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/no-10-discloses-salaries-of-political-advisers-2317178.html>

Flatlining economy puts pressure on Coalition partners (*Independent*, 25 July)

Cabinet tensions are rising over Britain's flatlining economy as ministers brace themselves for weak figures on growth, to be announced tomorrow.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/flatlining-economy-puts-pressure-on-coalition-partners-2319893.html>