

Coalition Update: 21-27 June

The Centre; the Centre's relationship with departments

Why Steve Hilton is Thatcher's heir (*FT*, June 21) ££

Bruce Anderson paints a picture of how David Cameron and Steve Hilton discuss policy.

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0390ae3a-9b83-11e0-98f2-00144feabdc0,Authorised=false.html?i_location=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ft.com%2Fcms%2Fs%2F0%2F0390ae3a-9b83-11e0-98f2-00144feabdc0.html&i_referer=http%3A%2F%2Fconservativehome.blogs.com%2Ffrontpage%2F2011%2F06%2Fnewslinks-for-tuesday-21st-june-2011.html#axzz1PuKPOCLk

Humiliation for Kenneth Clarke as David Cameron orders tougher jail sentences (*Telegraph*, 22 June)

David Cameron has seized control of the Government's justice strategy and ordered a return to proper life sentences for the most serious and prolific criminals. The Prime Minister may now face a battle to convince Liberal Democrat colleagues of the merits of the scheme, although Nick Clegg has said he supports the plan.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/8590810/Humiliation-for-Kenneth-Clarke-as-David-Cameron-orders-tougher-jail-sentences.html>

Cabinet pair 'at daggers drawn' after bitter bin collection feud (*Telegraph*, 23 June)

Eric Pickles and Caroline Spelman are no longer on speaking terms after a row over the Government's waste policy

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/8593388/Cabinet-pair-at-daggers-drawn-after-bitter-bin-collection-feud.html>

DEFRA and animal welfare

Victory in the campaign to ban circus animals (*Independent*, 24 June)

Government concedes defeat after bribes and intimidation fail to deter rebels in both coalition parties

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/nature/victory-in-the-campaign-to-ban-circus-animals-2302073.html>

Could foxes and badgers be next to feel MPs' love? (*Independent*, 25 June)

Article discussing the coalition parties' views on fox hunting and badger culls

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/nature/could-foxes-and-badgers-be-next-to-feel-mps-love-2302557.html>

Lords reform

Labour delivers blow to Clegg's Lords plans (*Independent*, 22 June)

Labour vows to oppose

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/labour-delivers-blow-to-cleggs-lords-plans-2300775.html>

Peers attack 'stonkingly silly' Lords reform bill (*Epolitix.com* 22 June)

Nick Clegg's bill was variously described as "palpable nonsense", "fanciful", a "conceptual mess" and a "stonkingly silly" piece of "Cleggery" that risked bringing down the monarchy.

<http://www.epolitix.com/policy/parliament/parliament-article/newsarticle/peers-attack-stonkingly-silly-lords-reform-bill/>

The Conservative Party

The Class of 2010 is reshaping the Tory party for the better (*Telegraph*, 25 June)

The new intake of MPs are pushing David Cameron towards a more robust, more appealing Conservatism, argues Tim Montgomerie

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/david-cameron/8598650/The-Class-of-2010-is-reshaping-the-Tory-party-for-the-better.html>

I thought the new intake of Tories would clean up politics. The cruel hounding of Mark Pritchard shows I was wrong (*Mail*, 25 June)

Anonymous Conservative MP takes a view opposite to Montgomerie: hat tip to Conservative Home

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-2008199/The-cruel-hounding-Mark-Pritchard-shows-Tories-failed-clean-politics.html#ixzz1QN8awhls>

The Conservatives are losing female supporters. Why? (*ConservativeHome*, 26 June)

Women are turning away from the Tories because of the perceived disproportionate impact of 'coalition' policies on women

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/thetorydiary/2011/06/the-conservatives-are-losing-female-supporters-why.html>

The Liberal Democrats: policies and philosophies

Lib Dems' tax strategy may fox their rivals (*Guardian*, 22 June)

Both parties at work on their own distinctive policies

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/jun/22/lib-dems-tax-strategy-fox-rivals>

The Lib Dems and their eccentric heritage (*Times*, 23 June) **££**

Daniel Finkelstein discusses the strange story of Richard Wainwright, Liberal Democrat MP, and how this helps us understand the culture of the Liberal Democrats. 3 points: 1. This is a party that has, on many occasions, come close to extinction. It has grown very tough. Being in government and at 9 per cent looks much more like success to Lib Dems than failure. 2. Identity is very important to the Lib Dems; 3. a belief in the virtue of coalition politics.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/danielfinkelstein/article3071739.ece>

Nick Clegg calls for public to get shares in bailed-out banks (*Guardian*, 23 June)

Deputy prime minister proposes plan to create 46 million shareholders and allow collective ownership of banks

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2011/jun/23/nick-clegg-banks-public-shares>

Liberal Democrats say in leaked email: keep challenging 'bad' NHS plans (*Guardian*, 24 June)

Evan Harris, leader of Lib Dem rebels, vows to keep fighting even after partial Tory climbdown on NHS reforms

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/wintour-and-watt/2011/jun/24/nhs-health>

Cameron starts to blame Liberal Democrats for likely failure to deliver immigration promise (*ConservativeHome*, 25 June)

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/thetorydiary/2011/06/cameron-starts-to-blame-liberal-democrats-for-likely-failure-to-deliver-immigration-promise.html>

The alchemists of liberalism have left their parties behind (*Guardian*, 20 June)

Julian Astle argues that Blairites, Cameroons and Orange Book Lib Dems have far more in common with each other than with their own members: "What defines these politicians and separates them from their party colleagues, however, is a talent for alchemy, for taking base metals from left and right and turning them into political gold."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/jun/20/alchemists-of-liberalism-nick-clegg>

Liberal traditions and true colours (*Guardian*, 23 June)

....And the response

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/jun/23/liberal-traditions-and-true-colours>

Labour

Ed Miliband moves to end shadow cabinet ballot (*Guardian*, 23 June)

Internal troubles continue: Labour leader wants to be free to appoint members, while quota of posts for women will also be abolished

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/jun/23/ed-miliband-end-shadow-cabinet-ballot>

Miscellaneous

Health Bill facing tight timetable in Parliament (*Mark D'Arcy's blog*, 22 June)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-13879494>

Suddenly Parliament matters again (*Independent*, 23 June)

The use of the urgent question has made the Commons as relevant as the Today programme and sometimes more so

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/steve-richards/steve-richards-suddenly-parliament-matters-again-2301191.html>

Middle class face £35,000 bill to help pay for care in their old age (*Guardian*, 25 June)

Coalition split over new proposals on funding of social care

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2011/jun/25/middle-class-35000-bill-care-old-age>

No wonder the coalition hasn't got many friends in the north (*Guardian*, 26 June)

The Tories are failing to make headway; the LDs are losing their voters there

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/jun/26/andrew-rawnsley-north-south-divide>

Why aren't the Greens doing better? (*PoliticalBetting.com*, 27 June)

This ought to be a good time for the minor parties, but voters are continuing to switch between the three main parties: four surveys show that for each 2010 Lib Dem vote that's gone Green, roughly two have gone Conservative and about six to Labour.

<http://www6.politicalbetting.com/index.php/archives/2011/06/27/why-aren%E2%80%99t-the-greens-doing-better/>