

Coalition Update: 22-28 February

Lib Dem-Tory Tensions

[Green Investment Bank: Osborne Goes Missing](#) (*LibDemVoice*, 22 February)

Mark Pack discusses the Treasury's continuing opposition to the green investment bank, championed by Nick Clegg, noting that George Osborne is "curiously absent from the scene".

[Ashdown Goes Fox-Hunting](#) (*Spectator*, 22 February)

James Forsyth comments on Paddy Ashdown's attack on the MoD's conduct of the Strategic Defence Review, calling it "brutal criticism of a serving secretary of state from one of Nick Clegg's closest political confidants."

[Free Councils to Keep Bulk of Cash Raised Through Business Rates](#) (*Guardian*, 23 February)

An article examining coalition negotiations on a new policy on local government funding, noting the key points on which the Lib Dems ceded ground.

[The coalition's stance on peaceful protest exposes its inherent frailty](#) (*Guardian*, 25 February)

David Mead claims that the Government's policy on the right to protest is a microcosm of the coalition government: a compromise that will please supporters of neither party.

Internal Lib Dem Tensions

[Will the Old Labour wing of the Lib Dems try to sabotage Cameron's public services revolution?](#) (*Telegraph*, 22 February)

CenteForum's Julian Astle discusses the increasingly apparent differences in ideology between the Lib Dem leadership and its members. He predicts a "day of reckoning" in the near future.

[Lib Dems must fight Tory plans for NHS reform](#) (*Times*, 28 February) ££

Senior Lib Dem Shirley Williams has declared that she cannot support the coalition's plans for reform of the NHS.

Internal Tory Tensions

[Conflicts of Tory loyalties](#) (*Guardian*, 22 February)

Editorial contending that recent debates about the ECHR will leave the Conservative party with two policies on the issue come the next election: that of the government and that of the party.

The AV Referendum

[Voters might not give two hoots about AV - but David Cameron should](#) (*Telegraph*, 23 February)

Benedict Brogan discusses the potential impact of the AV referendum on the coalition, focusing on how it will affect the Conservatives.

[Voting reform will not cause more cuts, Treasury insists](#) (*Independent*, 27 February)

Danny Alexander has denied claims that AV would be prohibitively expensive at a time of public spending cuts.

Number 10 and the Centre

[The New 10 Downing Street](#) (*ConservativeHome*, 24 February)

Tim Montgomerie discusses the recent organisation of Downing Street, which includes new policy and press units.

Conservative-Lib Dem similarities

[Did the Orange Book Pave the way to Coalition with the Conservatives?](#) (*Telegraph*, 24 February)

Julian Astle denies that the Orange Book wing of the Lib Dems had a pro-Conservative bias prior to the 2010 election, claiming that they could easily have worked with Labour ministers such as Andrew Adonis and Alan Milburn.

Democratic deficit?

[The coalition has sneaked a coup on a sleeping public](#) (*Guardian*, 27 February)

John Harris claims that the coalition's public reform programme suffers from a democratic deficit due to the inclusion of a number of key measures not included in either party's manifesto and the dropping of key election promises by both parties.

The potential for merging the parties

[Danny Alexander: We're not giving nice cover to nasty Tory cuts](#) (*Times*, 26 February) **££**

The Times contains an interview with Danny Alexander, in which he defends government spending decisions, but denies that there is much prospect of a joint coalition electoral platform.

[Coalition parties train to fight each other in May local elections offensive](#) (*Times*, 28 February) **££**

Both coalition parties are to strategise on how to best take on the other at local elections set for May.

Parliamentary rebellions

[Labour's rebellious streak](#) (*BBC News*, 25 February)

Feature on the number of rebellions by Labour MPs, claiming that the problem is not confined to the coalition parties.