

Coalition Update: 24-30 May

Coalition relations

Why the Coalition will stop working in three years to this month (*ConservativeHome*, 25 May)

Sir Gus O'Donnell has dusted down the file on "Confidence and Supply" - in case the Liberal Democrats pull out of the Coalition and take up that arrangement during the final period of this Parliament

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/thetorydiary/2011/05/why-the-coalition-will-stop-working-in-four-years-to-this-month.html>

How the president envies our Dave (*FT*, 27 May) ££

Never mind the Coalition. Let's raise a cheer for coalition in general. The proponents of elective dictatorship told us there would be chaos. In fact, there has been a fine balance between traditional parliamentary discipline, enforced by the original agreement, and the far looser give-and-take associated with more grown-up polities. All kinds of new forces are at work.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/520bc6e0-8895-11e0-afe1-00144feabdc0.html#ixzz1NjtZe8dh>

What a difference a month can make in the life of a coalition (*Independent*, 28 May)

The atmosphere inside the Coalition is suddenly more tribal and formal. It's business, not personal. The Liberal Democrats now talk privately about "identity issues" where they diverge from the Tories, to remind voters they are a separate party, and "unity issues" on which they strongly support their Coalition partner

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/andrew-grice/andrew-grice-what-a-difference-a-month-can-make-in-the-life-of-a-coalition-2290152.html>

From rose garden romance to secret love (*Times*, 30 May) ££

Rachel Sylvester argues the coalition at the top is still cosy; and that it may even survive should the Conservatives win a majority in the next general election

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/columnists/rachelsylvester/article3045004.ece>

The NHS reforms

Nick Clegg angers Tories with new delay to NHS reforms (*Guardian*, 26 May)

Conservatives furious as Liberal Democrat leader says it will take at least six months to go through the bill for a second time

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/may/26/nick-clegg-angers-tories-nhs-delay>

The Coalition's retreat on the NHS is turning into a rout (*Telegraph*, 26 May)

Ben Brogan states: "This is a political fix authorised by George Osborne and David Cameron, and driven by Mr Clegg."

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/benedictbrogan/100089792/coalitions-retreat-on-the-nhs-is-turning-into-a-rout/>

Leaked email shows Tory MPs determined to fight Nick Clegg (*Guardian*, 26 May)

Tory backbencher: my 'red lines' to reclaim NHS debate from Liberal Democrats

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/wintour-and-watt/2011/may/26/nickclegg-andrewlansley?INTCMP=SRCH>

Tory backbenchers spoiling for a fight (*FT's Westminster Blog*, 27 May)

The fall-out of the Tories' triumph on May 6 is also beginning to be felt.

<http://blogs.ft.com/westminster/2011/05/tory-backbenchers-spoiling-for-a-fight/>

Why Cameron is giving Clegg the high ground on the NHS (*Telegraph*, 28 May)

Matthew d'Ancona: "what we are now witnessing is not a "pause for reflection" or a "listening exercise", but a full-blown, carefully orchestrated retreat."

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/matthewd_ancona/8543838/Why-Cameron-is-giving-Clegg-the-high-ground-on-the-NHS.html

Labour and the Coalition

Could the NHS Bill end up hurting Labour's prospects? (*Liberal Conspiracy*, 27 May)

Sunny Hindal worries that the Libdems have positioned themselves to become the de-facto opposition on the NHS rather than Labour.

<http://liberalconspiracy.org/2011/05/27/could-the-nhs-bill-end-up-hurting-labours-prospects/>

Ed Miliband shouldn't crow. It's time to move closer to Clegg (*Guardian*, 30 May)

The NHS cuts fiasco offers an opportunity for the Labour leader. By working with the Lib Dems he can reshape the reforms

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/may/30/ed-miliband-move-closer-to-clegg>

Labour considers link with Eurosceptic Tories over eurozone bailout terms (*Guardian*, 30 May)

Alliance could push for reduction in UK payments, threatening government's Commons majority and George Osborne's strategy

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/may/29/labour-alliance-with-tory-eurosceptics>

Miscellaneous

Crossbench Voting Independence! (*Lords of the Blog*, 23 May)

Baroness D'Souza rejects the idea that the Crossbenchers are anti-government.

<http://lordsoftheblog.net/2011/05/23/crossbench-voting-independence/>

The Eric Pickles agenda emerges strengthened from the local election results (*ConservativeHome*, 25 May)

Tim Montgomerie reports on Eric Pickles' speech on localism

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/localgovernment/2011/05/the-ericpickles-agenda-emerges-strengthened-from-the-local-election-results.html>

What odds an early election? (*politicalbetting.com*, 28 May)

How likely is brinkmanship over the NHS to go wrong? Very unlikely

<http://www1.politicalbetting.com/index.php/archives/2011/05/28/what-odds-an-early-election/>

Chris Huhne: the untold story (*Independent*, 29 May)

Sympathetic evaluation of Huhne's work as the Energy Secretary

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/leading-articles/leading-article-chris-huhne-the-untold-story-2290327.html>

Pressure grows for circus ban on wild animals (*Independent*, 30 May)

The Coalition is thought to be split on the issue, with Mr Cameron's opposition to a ban at odds with the Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg's position.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/nature/pressure-grows-for-circus-ban-on-wild-animals-2290785.html>

Lib Dems warning to government on big society faith groups (*Guardian*, 30 May)

Protect secularism and prevent proselytising, urge grassroots Lib Dems following involvement of faith groups in public services

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/may/30/lib-dems-warning-big-society-faith-groups>