

Coalition Update: 25-31 January

Electoral Co-Operation

[Covert or overt coalition, Michael Gove offers cash or flowers](#) (*Guardian*, 27 January)

Allegra Stratton claims Michael Gove and Sarah Teather are in an "overt coalition", whilst he and May are "in the same party, but not on the same page." She says MoJ and DWP have similar cross-party affinity.

[Tory ministers considering a tactical vote deal to stop Labour](#) (*Independent*, 28th January)

Tory ministers are considering endorsing anti-Labour tactical voting in order to protect Lib Dem MPs such as Chris Huhne.

[David Cameron's purple plotters still plan to merge with Lib Dems claims Tory rebel](#) (*Mail*, 30th January)

Following his condemnation of "purple plotters" 1922 Committee chair Mark Pritchard MP has condemned Cabinet ministers for discussing plans to encourage anti-Labour tactical voting.

Compromise on Control Orders

[Nick Clegg's opposition to control orders 'made without evidence', says Lord Carlile](#) (*Daily Telegraph*, 26th January)

The coalition has reformed control orders, coming to a compromise on one of its most divisive issues, amidst claims the deal was done to protect Nick Clegg.

[Liberal Democrat responses to anti-terrorism legislation review](#) (*LibDemvoice*, 27 January)

A roundup of Liberal Democrat opinion on the reformation of control orders.

[Control orders seek to address the symptoms of terrorism and extremism. But it's even more important to deal with the causes](#) (*ConservativeHome*, 27 January)

A Conservative view of the compromise on control orders.

Party Management: Conservatives

[A growing rebellion and a general losing touch with his troops](#) (*Daily Mail*, 29th January)

Tim Montgomerie claims that the Tory leadership is out of touch with the needs of its backbenchers.

Party Management: the Lib Dems

[How party members rate the performances of leading Lib Dems](#) (*LibDem Voice*, 31 January)

LDvoice polled about 600 LDs to rate the government and party's best performers. Huhne top in Cabinet, Cable down, Hughes down.

Parliament

[Coalition, Government and the Lords](#) (*LibDem Voice*, 25th January).

Lord Greaves discusses the difficulties of working in a coalition composed of two parties with different philosophies and the need for proper Lords scrutiny of government legislation.

[Labour and government inch towards voting reform bill deal](#) (*Guardian*, 31 January)

Suggestion that Coalition Government will modify its stance on the Parliamentary Voting and Constituencies Bill, after crossbenchers react negatively to the Government's threat of imposing a 'guillotine' motion to enable the bill to pass.

Labour and the Lib Dems

[Rally to our standard, Miliband urges 'lost' Lib Dem supporters](#) (*Independent*, 26th January) Labour leader Ed Miliband reveals how he wants to create an electoral alliance to represent Britain's 'progressive majority' and claims he could work with Nick Clegg.

Searching for distinctiveness

[Politics? Nothing a bit of thinking can't cure](#) (*Independent*, 30th January)

Both coalition parties have begun work on their respective policies for 2015 in an attempt to placate backbenchers. Both are engaging an interesting range of think tanks to help.

The Lib Dems in Government

[Vince needs to put the bad jokes behind him](#) (*Mail*, 29th January)

Columnist muses that Vince Cable is likely to be replaced with David Laws due to the former's poor relationship with the business world and his Conservative colleagues.

[Huhne plan for green bank has Treasury seeing red](#) (*Financial Times*, 31 January) £

Vince Cable is reportedly acting as arbiter as Chris Huhne and the Treasury are at odds on the role and powers of a planned green investment bank.

[The dashing prince who lost direction](#) (*Financial Times*, January 25) **££**

Sue Cameron reports: "Mr Clegg lacks civil service support. I am told that wiser counsel came from Scots Lib Dem Jim Wallace, who warned Mr Clegg to learn from his example – he struggled to combine the deputy first minister of Scotland role with the minister for justice in Scotland. ... Others say he needs to be much more disciplined and limit himself to a handful of issues, such as constitutional reform, where he really needs to score."

[Is Clegg working hard enough?](#) (*BBC*, 31 January)

Sue Cameron and David Mellor discuss Clegg: "Nick Clegg is very very short of staff....poor old Clegg has only got 12 people in his office, whereas David Cameron has 175... everything that goes to David Cameron has to be copied to Nick Clegg... he's got stuff coming at him from all over Whitehall... he's understaffed."