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WIN GRIFFITHS MP

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From The Parliamentary Under-Secretary

29 August 1997

Paul Murphy Esq MP
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

Dear Paul

Thank you for your letter of 8 August enclosing further correspondence from your constituent Mr W E Jones.

The Local Government Act 1972 abolished the administrative county of Monmouthshire and the county borough of Newport, which until then were legally part of England. The definition of Wales in that Act was fully debated prior to the legislation receiving royal assent in 1972 and consequently Monmouthshire became part of Wales on 1 April 1974. I believe this presented ample opportunity for Members of Parliament to put forward any representations that had been made to them by their constituents on any of the proposed boundary changes. This ongoing process of elected members representing their constituents views is the cornerstone of our Parliamentary process and presents a more than adequate opportunity for democratic debate.

The Government has no plans to hold a referendum in the County of Monmouthshire on whether it should become part of England.

Yours sincerely