

PRIME MINISTER

Here is a case of delay in the Welsh Office, concerning a relatively small item, but showing ~~the~~ Government at its worst.

The draft reply suggested by the Welsh Office to me includes the phrase "I have received a report from the Welsh Office on this matter". The draft arrived without the report in question. When it (Flag A) reached me, I could understand why somebody had "accidentally" omitted it from the papers.

With your approval I should like to send the papers back to the Welsh Office, saying that you wish the Secretary of State to reply personally on your behalf. This will ensure that the incompetence with which it has been handled comes to his personal attention. I trust that he will do something to discourage any repetition.

MP

This must not happen
again - perhaps Welsh Secretary
& the relevant staff will

come & see me about it

A full apology is required
and I will give it. Over my own

signature.

Positive full draft please.
MB

3 March 1981