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*Dear Alison,*

Plaid Cymru have taken a case to court about the charging arrangements for Welsh water. At the end of last week, the court ruled that there was a case to be heard. The case will revolve around the complexities of Section 30 of the Water Act 1973 which deals with the need for equity of treatment of charges between different groups of consumers. Should Plaid Cymru win their case, (which is a possibility) then the prospect opens up of the Severn-Trent and North West England Water Authorities being charged more for their water supplies from Wales. The result would be the export of what has been an argument running for decades within the Welsh national context to one in the UK context. No date has yet been set for the hearing, but I will try and keep my ears open and tell you when this is likely to be. One of the reasons that the last Water Charges Equalisation Act was so unpopular was that English consumers resented bailing out the Welsh consumers.

*Yours sincerely,*  
*Chris Butler*

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