



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA
www.pm.gov.uk

THE PRIME MINISTER

5 October 2007

Dear Signor Passoni

I and the large number of British citizens affected by the recent floods are most grateful to you, your colleagues and to the volunteers and for the use of your hovercraft that you brought to Gloucestershire this summer. I understand that the professionalism of these crews has already been commended by Terry Standing, the Gloucestershire Chief Fire Officer, and I can only add my own heartfelt thanks to his - I should certainly like to go on record as saying how much their efforts were appreciated.

The Government is currently in the process of reviewing its water rescue capability during flooding, and the undoubted efficacy of the hovercraft demonstrated during the summer provides us with considerable evidence for any future decisions. As such the review will consider the number and extent of hovercraft use in such circumstances. An additional concern for the Chief Fire Officers Association here will be the training of crews, as much as the physical assets of the craft themselves. Your crews' kindness and generally exemplary behaviour, is a splendid example for our own crews.

Signor Carlo Guido Passoni