



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Tam McFarlane
Executive Council Member
Fire Brigades Union
158 Muller Road
HORFIELD
Bristol
Avon
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Our ref:
4340SJC

09 January 2013

Dear Tam,

Thank you for your letter on the role of the Fire & Rescue Services in the SW of England.

I absolutely agree that the work done by the Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service (Glosfire) during recent floods was invaluable - and I paid tribute to this in the House, as did the Leader of the House: and as the PM himself did in our Tri Service Centre.

In terms of rescue equipment for flooding, my understanding is that Glosfire is pretty well equipped. They have the right specialist boats - one donated by my own Rotary Club - and are quite used to putting on their waterproof kit.

On statutory laws and requirements I'm happy for Glosfire to raise this through their role in the county council but haven't been approached yet.

In general I think we celebrated the completion of anti flood work in the nick of time in Gloucester and the new fire stations had been opened and were in operation. So overall I think we had good facilities, equipment and above all people - and all played their part in keeping the floods away.

*With regards,
Richard*

cc Cllr Will Windsor-Clive GCC
Jon Hall Chief Fire Officer