



Pete Wishart MP
Chair of the Scottish Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

25 January 2022

Dear Mr Wishart,

Thank you for the opportunity to give evidence to the Scottish Affairs Select Committee on Storm Arwen. During the evidence session, Committee member Douglas Ross MP asked SSEN to write to the Committee regarding the location of SSEN staff in the run up to the storm on 26 November.

As explained during the session, we planned our preparations around a highly volatile weather forecast. The graphic in the attached appendix sets out the weather forecast SSEN received in the days leading up to Storm Arwen and shows that until 25 November, the Western Isles and North West Scotland were deemed to be the highest risk of the weather front arriving.

Based on this forecast and our standard procedure, we formally moved to Yellow Alert on 24 November: storm roles were assigned across SSEN workforce and contractors were activated or put on standby. As part of this preparation, we ensured additional resource was stationed in locations on the Western Isles and Shetland as we did in other areas likely to be impacted, including Aberdeenshire and Moray. Specifically, a team who were already working on line upgrades on Lewis were retained in locations across the Western Isles and a specialised 'hot glove' team of three was sent to Shetland on 24 November.

Once it became clear on the evening of Friday 26 November that both Western Isles and Shetland were unlikely to be severely impacted, the process was initiated to redeploy members of staff from the Western Isles and Shetland to the mainland, with the first team able to get on ferries when they restarted on 27 November after which they travelled to Buchan, Aberdeenshire and Perthshire. By Monday 29 November all team members able to be redeployed from island locations were working in areas most impacted by Storm Arwen.

I hope that this information has been useful for the Committee and please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any additional material from SSEN.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Rough

Director of Customer Operations
SSEN Distribution



Appendix 1 - Weather Forecast showing predicted weather on Friday 26th November at 6pm (Collated 23-25 November)

