

**SGoR(M) – handling of weather event (red and amber warnings)
Chair – Deputy First Minister**

Note of Meeting

Thursday 19 October 2023 1600

1. Introduction and purpose

The Deputy First Minister chaired the meeting and agreed that Deputy Director for Resilience, Jim Baird, would facilitate the call.

2. Weather and water outlook:

a. Met Office – REDACTED

The Met Office provided an update on the weather warnings including the extension of the geographical area covered by the red warnings and noted the forecast is continuing to indicate that parts of eastern and central Scotland will see exceptionally wet conditions, with very strong southeasterly winds also affecting much of the north of Scotland. The importance of highlighting that this is not a normal autumn storm was reiterated, with some incredible amounts of rain expected to fall within a 36 to 48 hour period, possibly even within 24 hours. The rain will be exacerbated by prolonged, strong winds from an unusual direction.

b. SEPA – REDACTED

SEPA covered where their flood alerts would cover in terms of geographical areas and severity. It was noted that 12 flood alerts, 19 flood warnings and 1 severe flood warning would be in place through tonight. Brechin is main area of concern and could potentially reach and possibly exceed the flood prevention barriers this evening. A number of areas are receiving flood warnings do not usually receive flood warnings and an action is being issued to SEPA to communicate these areas so

3. Updates on arrangements in place:

a) Regional Resilience Partnerships – REDACTED:

All ferry providers have been actively messaging and in contact with passengers/ customers in advance of the weather. All north isles ferries cancelled on 19 October 2023. Some disruption/ cancellation to west coast services. No issues with supermarket stock lines today with deliveries on 18 October 2023. Extensive discussion underway between partners and all relevant LAs regarding proactive work relating to closing flood defences and roads. Unplanned electricity outages affecting north west highland, Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Moray and Perthshire. Tayside LRP have declared a Major Incident. Angus council currently drawing up evacuation plans

based on SEPAs inundation mapping. Rest Centres set up in Forfar, Brechin & Montrose.

b) Utilities

Updates were given by utility providers who updated on their resilience plans, including: Scottish Water (including an update that there are no concerns about Loch Katrine), Scottish Gas Network (SGN), Scottish and Southern Energy Network (SSEN), and SP Energy Networks. There was a particular focus on this being early in the storm response. Utility service providers are busy but dealing with disconnections in a business as usual footing.

c) Transport Scotland – REDACTED

Police Warnings to Avoid Travel on the Roads and High Risk of Disruption remain in place for areas affected by the Red and Amber Warnings. The Red Warning for Rain comes into force at 1800 and the affected area has been expanded to include Perth and Dundee. Restrictions are in place on bridges across the country due to high winds. There are significant cancellations across the bus, rail and ferry network. Flood patrol and chainsaw teams have been deployed to the A90 due to the anticipated evacuation order in Brechin. Transport Scotland have contact AMEY North East who have offered to provide support with sandbags for flood defences.

d) Police Scotland – REDACTED

Strategic Coordination Centre is set up from Govan in Glasgow. Police Scotland resources capable for now but looking at overnight resources, especially around red area and considering safety of staff and need to move people and resources. Major Incident declared in Tayside which is an operational response matter however resources were already deployed pre-emptively.

4. Comms – REDACTED

It was noted that the main SG channels have continued to issue communications and have continued to do so today. Comms have engaged with airports and tourism associations to ensure communication of weather. They will ensure messaging will stress that this is the start of the storm to ensure public kept aware of continued severe weather impacts on Friday 20 October. It was noted that a further letter is to be drafted to MSPs around the severe weather and support contact information for members of the public.

5. Any other business

It was noted that SGoRR is active, and SGoRR arrangements for the coming days were set out.

The following **ACTIONS** were agreed at the meeting. Please provide update on progress / completion to REDACTED by 1200 tomorrow Friday.

1. **ACTION** - SG Comms to contact PCG group and follow up on LRP communications to provide public signposting to members of the public and elected members for flood support.
2. **ACTION** - RRP coordinators to follow up with relevant LRPs on increasing social media activity for flood support.
3. **ACTION** - SEPA to highlight locations which do not usually see flooding. Regional Resilience Partnership (RRP) colleagues to ensure these areas receive proactive support.
4. **ACTION** - RRP colleagues to share contact information with Angus and Aberdeenshire to discuss with AMEY North East on support with sandbags.
5. **ACTION** - SG to issue an updated letter to MSPs and Ministers which should include contact information for the public look.
6. **ACTION** - Comms to consider communication to those travelling domestically on holiday who may not have access to news.
7. **ACTION** - Briefing from LRP on people who refuse to leave, house bound or otherwise vulnerable.

Attendees

SG First Minister - Humza Yousaf
SG Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance – Shona Robison
SG Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition - Mairi McAllan
SG Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands – Mairi Gougeon
SG Minister for Transport - Fiona Hyslop
SG – Director – General Net Zero – Roy Brannen
SG Resilience – Jim Baird- REDACTED – REDACTED – REDACTED – REDACTED
– REDACTED – REDACTED – REDACTED
EoS RRP - REDACTED
NoS RRP - REDACTED
WoS RRP - REDACTED
SG Water Environment – REDACTED
SG Water Policy – REDACTED
SG Island Communities Policy – REDACTED
SG Food and Drink Policy - REDACTED
SG Environmental Quality and Resilience – REDACTED - REDACTED
SG Central Analysis Division – Audrey MacDougall
SG Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response - REDACTED
SG Special Adviser – Kate Higgins
SG Comms – REDACTED – REDACTED - REDACTED
SG Essential Services – REDACTED
SG Facilities Services - REDACTED
SG Onshore Electricity, Strategy and Consents – REDACTED
SG Adult Social Care Oversight and Assurance Support – REDACTED
SG Director of Energy and Climate Change – Kersti Berge
SG Director for Justice – Neil Rennick
SG Director Deposit Return Scheme – Kevin Quinlan
SG Director, Environment & Forestry – David Signorini

MET Office - REDACTED
SEPA - REDACTED
Transport Scotland – REDACTED – REDACTED – REDACTED - REDACTED
Police Scotland - REDACTED
Scottish Ambulance Service – REDACTED
Maritime and Coastguard Agency - REDACTED
British Army - REDACTED
Scottish Water – REDACTED
SSE – REDACTED – REDACTED-REDACTED
SPEN – REDACTED - REDACTED
BT – REDACTED - REDACTED
SGN - REDACTED

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Note of Meeting

Friday 20 October 2023 1600

1. Introduction and purpose

The First Minister chaired the meeting and agreed that Deputy Director for Resilience, Jim Baird, would facilitate the call.

2 Weather and water outlook:

a. Met Office – REDACTED

Met office provided a summary of the current warnings and highlighted the new Red warning for Rain covering parts of Perthshire, Angus and Aberdeenshire coming into effect at midnight which is assessed as a high likelihood of high impact and is expected to be valid throughout Saturday.

b. SEPA – REDACTED

SEPA covered where their flood alerts would cover in terms of geographical areas and severity. It was noted that 11 flood alerts, 16 flood warnings and 5 severe flood warning would be in place through tonight. Following consultation with emergency responder partners, SEPA had issued a severe flood warning for Brechin, due to the risks of overtopping of the Brechin flood alleviation scheme, and the associated risk of rapid inundation of parts of the town. That scheme overtopped at ~04.00 this morning. Extensive flooding is now causing significant danger behind the scheme. Evacuation instructions were not followed by a number of properties and the emergency services are now undertaking rescue operations. The water levels will remain high throughout the day and into tomorrow with a second lower peak expected tomorrow. SEPA expect to be able to remove severe flood warnings by Saturday afternoon.

3. Updates on arrangements in place:

Regional Resilience Partnerships – REDACTED

All ferry providers have been actively messaging and in contact with passengers/ customers in advance of the weather. All north isles ferries cancelled on 19 October 2023. Some disruption/ cancellation to west coast services. No issues with supermarket stock lines today with deliveries on 18 October 2023. Extensive discussion underway between partners and all relevant LAs regarding proactive work relating to closing flood defences and roads. Unplanned electricity outages affecting north west highland, Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Moray and Perthshire. Rest Centres set up in Forfar, Brechin & Montrose.

Highland

- Not meeting until 1100 tomorrow.

Grampian

- Grampian LRP met 1100 and 1500 – steady state with 5 rest centres open in Marykirk and around Kintore and small number of residents evacuated at Northwater Bridge and being cared for.
- British Red Cross assisting with door knocking.
- Tayside remains worst affected with Dundee now experiencing a number of flooding incidents with the Dighty Burn bursting its banks.
- LA looking at setting up a rest centre if situation worsens.
- Pitkerro Care Home in Dundee have moved residents to upper levels. No evacuations required at this stage.
- Tayside PS – incidents of concern have been concluded but ongoing search for male at Marykirk bridge from this morning.

4. Utilities - REDACTED

SGN: Operating within business as usual levels at present.

SPEN are seeing increased activity on their network in the last few hours; 8,800 customers impacted since midnight of which 24 HV faults affecting 1000 customers still off supply which is 91% restoration of customers impacted. This is busier than usual but well within capability. No additional support required at this time. All current affected customers are expected to be restored tonight. Vulnerability support in place in for customers.

SSEN remains at its Yellow Alert status in response to the ongoing impacts of Storm Babet. Electricity supplies have been successfully restored to 28,000 customers, and working to reconnect 3000 customers' currently off supply.

Telephony: Operating within business as usual levels at present.

- Scottish Water: 60 waste water sites submerged but no risk associated with these sites and no significant customer issues reported.

5. Transport Scotland – REDACTED

The decision to close the A90 between Dundee and Stonehaven was taken by Transport Scotland staff in the Resilience Room in consultation with Police Scotland. The decision was taken following expert advice from SEPA during the Police Scotland Gold Command meeting chaired by Police Scotland Assistant Chief Constable. The Multi Agency Response Team (MART) stood up at 0600 this morning and will continue to operate on a 24 hour basis with the duration under constant review.

The Transport Scotland Resilience Room (TSRR) will engage with partners and issue composite situational reports throughout the duration of the weather event.

Police Warnings to Avoid Travel on the Roads and High Risk of Disruption remain in place for areas affected by the Red and Amber Warnings. There has been significant disruption and cancellations across the bus, rail and ferry network today.

6. Police Scotland – REDACTED

Strategic Coordination Centre is set up in Govan, Glasgow, with regular 4 hour meetings taking place. All agencies currently operating within acceptable tolerance levels, which includes the SFRS. Continue to support Tayside.

Police Scotland reviewing weekend resources and risk assessing a local MACC at Bell Street in Dundee to support the Tayside response which can then feed into SCG. SCG/PS looking at required resources for the SCG over the weekend, including for overnight. Trying to ensure anyone leaving rest centres to go to other properties are noted so not then reported as unaccounted for.

Media reporting a male in car missing in the North Esk area. Unable to action any search and recovery at this moment but exploring and prioritising capabilities to assist.

SPFL meeting took place at 1300 – several games within red area suggesting 5 being cancelled and encourage another 2 to be considered for cancellation to allow comms to go out – can also use SPFL to help push out wider messages re travel (including for those who may be trying to travel through at risk areas to attend other games). Once cancellations are confirmed PS will be able to reallocate resources from these games.

MACA request for Tayside being considered however SFRS still have capacity and can call on additional resource. Queries have been received from UKG regarding potential MACA requests as a result of media enquires. We remain engaged with Local Authorities, if a MACA request is received we will be in a position to process it quickly but no such request has been forthcoming

7. Comms – REDACTED

It was noted that the main SG channels have continued to issue communications today. It was noted that a further letter is to be drafted to MSPs around the severe weather and support contact information for members of the public.

- Post SGOR(M) yesterday- DFM conducted a media round with key outlets (BBC Radio Drivetime inc Rep Scot and STV) to run key messaging into the evening bulletins and online updates.
- A news release was issued following SGoR(M) highlighting that the red weather warning had been expanded, focussing on significant action being taken to tackle the impacts and reinforce not to travel warnings.
- Transport Secretary was interviewed on BBC Radio Scotland GMS this morning – setting out key messaging and advice on the response to the impacts of the storm overnight.

- Main SG social media channels continue to be updated to carry new information about the weather warning areas, as well as related sharing of key updates from partners.
- Similar sharing has been taking place across the Ready Scotland social media channels and will continue throughout the warning period.
- Continue to liaise closely with our key partners around the consistency of messaging including the expansion of the warning areas, a continued emphasis on the 'do not travel' information and to make sure people know about where to get the latest information and advice.
- We expect to issue a further news release and conduct interviews following SGoR(M) today, incorporating news of football cancellations and will consider earlier bids from media as when they come in.

8. COSLA and SOLACE – REDACTED (COSLA); REDACTED (SOLACE)

COSLA – Thinking about next steps and access to the Bellwin scheme for clean up activities.

SOLACE – No request for mutual aid received.

9. Any other business

It was noted that SGoRR remains active, and SGoRR arrangements are in place until Monday.

Daily letter to MSPs to continue.

Further SGORR meetings over the weekend tbc

The following **ACTIONS** were agreed at the meeting. Please provide update on progress / completion to REDACTED by 1200 tomorrow Saturday.

1. **ACTION** – REDACTED (SEPA) to provide details on breaches of flood defences
2. **ACTION** - REDACTED (SEPA) to liaise with LRPs to provide figures on number of homes and businesses impacted by flooding in preparation for the recovery stage
3. **ACTION** – RRP's to provide readouts for MSP letter. COMPLETE
4. **ACTION** – SGN to update if incident affecting gas supply in Glenrothes continues beyond a couple of hours. COMPLETE – now reconnected
5. **ACTION** – NOSRRP - Circulate confirmation that all people asked to evacuate have now been evacuated and confirm whether they are in rest centres and how long they are expected to be there.
6. **ACTION** – Circulate timeline for evacuation requests for media lines - COMPLETE

ATTENDEES

SG First Minister - Humza Yousaf
SG Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance – Shona Robison
SG Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition - Mairi McAllan
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SG Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response – REDACTED -
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SG Special Adviser – Kate Higgins – Tom Thomson – Jack Middleton
SG Comms – REDACTED – REDACTED – REDACTED - REDACTED -
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