

Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Ceartas agus Seann-ghaisgich
Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans
Keith Brown MSP



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Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
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28 October 2022

Dear Convener

Further to the letter of 22 June from the Deputy First Minister, I am writing to inform you that the Storm Arwen Review October Update report has been published today at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/storm-arwen-review-recommendations-update-october-2022>. This captures the work that has been ongoing since the last update report in June – [Storm Arwen review recommendations update: June 2022 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/storm-arwen-review-recommendations-update-june-2022) - and provides a final overview of the steps taken in the year since the storm. The initial review into the response to Storm Arwen, including its recommendations, was published on 27 January - www.gov.scot/publications/storm-arwen-review.

As you know, the review in June identified that many of the core recommendations set out in the January report had been formally incorporated into the central workplans of all the resilience partnerships, with further commitments to test and exercise these before winter 2022. The report that has been published today outlines how the Scottish Resilience Partnership has coordinated a Winter Preparedness Programme, and that by the end of November 2022 every Local Resilience Partnership (LRP) in Scotland will have conducted a full winter resilience exercise. In the review you will also find updates on winter monitoring, public communications, and longer term projects such as the development of the Persons at Risk Distribution (PARD) system.

Although this report brings the Scottish Government's formal review process of Storm Arwen to an end, work with resilience partners will continue as part of the cycle of continual improvement which underpins our emergency planning. This is particularly pertinent given the increasing challenges we are facing throughout each year rather than just in the winter months, as the extreme heat events in July of this year showed.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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In this context, it is vital that we learn from severe weather events such as Storm Arwen so that our systems and process continue to adapt and improve and enable a world class response to these types of events.

KEITH BROWN

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