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Storm Floris Causes Widespread Travel Disruption Across Scotland

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Travellers across Scotland have been advised to expect further delays following a day of significant disruption caused by Storm Floris. With wind speeds reaching up to 124 miles per hour on 4 August 2025, the storm brought down trees and power lines, disrupted travel services, and left tens of thousands without electricity.

The Scottish government convened an emergency meeting on Monday evening to assess the damage and coordinate recovery efforts. Although most weather warnings have now

expired, a Yellow Warning for wind remains in effect for the Shetland Islands and Orkney until 8am today. Showers and gusty conditions are forecast to persist across many areas.

Rail services remain a key concern, particularly in affected rural and coastal areas. Network Rail Scotland's Route Director, Ross Moran, stated: "Our teams have been working tirelessly to keep services moving where possible and to clear fallen trees and debris from the tracks. We're grateful to passengers for their patience whilst we do this." Overnight efforts focused on inspecting and reopening blocked routes, with work ongoing today to restore full service.

The storm had a particularly severe impact on transport. At least 68 flights were cancelled, with Aberdeen and Belfast City airports the most affected, according to aviation analytics firm Cirium. Ferry services also faced significant disruption, with operator Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) cancelling multiple sailings due to unsafe conditions at sea.

Motorists were similarly affected. Police Scotland received numerous reports of campervans overturned by high winds on the A87 between Broadford and Portree on the Isle of Skye. In Aberdeenshire, the A96 was closed in both directions near Old Rayne due to fallen trees, while several other routes, including the A95 Rosarie and A9 at Daviot, faced closures or restrictions. The A1 Tyne Bridge remained open only to cars and single-decker buses. Drivers have been urged to avoid the most affected areas, allow extra travel time, and drive cautiously in adverse conditions.

Cultural events were not spared from the disruption. Organisers of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe confirmed that around 100 events were cancelled on Monday due to the storm's impact, marking a notable interruption to one of the world's largest arts festivals.

Power outages affected more than 30,000 properties at the height of the storm, with energy companies working throughout the night to restore supply. Repairs are continuing in rural regions where access remains difficult due to debris and damage to infrastructure.

According to the Met Office, the highest recorded wind speed was 124mph at Cairngorm in the Highlands, one of the most exposed points in the UK. However, conditions are expected to ease today, with Sky News weather producer Christopher England forecasting a "much calmer" day, though breezy spells and lingering showers will continue to affect travel and recovery operations.

Authorities continue to monitor the situation closely and urge the public to follow official travel and weather updates to remain informed and safe.