

HUW MERRIMAN MP  
(Bexhill and Battle)



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Basil Scarsella  
Chief Executive  
UK Power Networks  
237 Southwark Bridge Road  
London  
SE1 6NP

Our Ref: HM32334

17 August 2023

Dear Basil,

**Re: UKPN and Water Companies**

I am writing to request an update from UK Power Networks following the Energy Emergencies Committee Storm Arwen Review Report of June 2022 in regard to the prioritisation of critical sites during electricity restoration.

I have been working closely with South East Water Ltd and the Local Resilience Forum since Storm Eunice, in March 2022, caused the loss of power and water to hundreds of households in my constituency of Bexhill and Battle. The water loss affected many more homes and was prolonged as the re-connection of power to water pumping stations was not prioritised.

The Storm Arwen report highlighted that areas outside of Scotland suffered more secondary effects from the storms as water companies were unable to effectively contact their DNOs.

I am therefore seeking an update and assurance that UKPN has put an effective communication system in place with all local stakeholders and utility companies, including SE Water, to ensure that essential services are prioritised for re-connection during power cuts.

I look forward to receiving your response so it can be shared with my constituents.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huw Merriman', on a light yellow background.

Huw Merriman  
Member of Parliament for Bexhill and Battle

Please reply to: Constituency Office, 29-31 Sea Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN40 1EE  
Telephone: 01424 734910  
Email: [huw.merriman.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:huw.merriman.mp@parliament.uk) [www.huwmerriman.org.uk](http://www.huwmerriman.org.uk)