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**Operational Notice**

**No.25 of 2024 - Storm Darragh**

Please be advised the approaching Storm “Darragh” will bring multiple hazards to Northern Ireland over the coming days. Please see below detailed weather warning from the Met Office:

**“Friday:**

Wet and increasingly windy conditions are expected from Friday afternoon onwards as Storm Darragh approaches. This will bring spells of rain, heavy at times and accompanied by strong south to southeasterly winds with gusts 50 mph, though 60 mph along the East coast. Heavy showers will follow on Friday evening and there may be a lull in wind speeds for a time as Storm Darragh passes overhead.

**Friday night / much of Saturday:**

As Storm Darragh moves to the east of Northern Ireland, winds will quickly turn north or north-westerly during the early hours of Saturday and this is when we are likely to see the strongest winds across Northern Ireland, lasting through the rest of the night and for much of Saturday (slowly moderating on Saturday afternoon) with north or north-westerly gusts reaching 60-70 mph inland, and 70-80 mph around the coast. It's worth noting this is quite an unusual direction for such strong winds and could lead to enhanced impacts in places. Occasional heavy showers are also expected (easing Saturday afternoon), along with large waves and spray in exposed coastal areas.

Through Friday, Friday night and Saturday morning, we could see up to 50-60 mm of rain in places, this could lead to some flooding, along with widespread surface water, spray and difficult travel conditions.

**Saturday evening:**

Winds are expected to continue to moderate through the evening, though gales will persist around the coast until the end of the night.

As a result, the following weather warnings have been issued for Friday and into the weekend warning for the disruption to travel, possibility of some flooding and also the potential damage to infrastructure:

<https://weather.metoffice.gov.uk/warnings-and-advice/uk-warnings#?date=2024-12-05>”

**Disruption and possible damage to infrastructure is expected.**

**All port stakeholders should take appropriate action in preparing their respective spaces accordingly for the incoming storm.**



Captain K G Allen

Port Operations Harbour Master

Belfast Harbour 6h December 2024