# Councils face over £5 million clean-up bill in wake of Storm Éowyn



The aftermath of Storm Éowyn, one of the most destructive storms to strike the UK in a century, has left Scottish councils grappling with substantial clean-up costs amounting to over £5 million. The storm, which occurred recently, resulted in significant destruction across various sectors, affecting schools, libraries, council depots, harbours, roads, and homes.

The storm was particularly deadly, with 19-year-old Calum Carmichael tragically losing his life in Mauchline, Ayrshire, when a tree fell on his vehicle. Gusts reached up to 100 miles per hour, causing widespread power outages for over 100,000 individuals and ripping roofs off multiple buildings throughout the region.

An investigation by the Daily Record revealed that the total estimated cost for clean-up operations across 32 local authorities currently stands at £4,828,530.70; however, as certain councils did not provide complete data, it is anticipated that the final expense will exceed £5 million. The cumulative financial burden stems from extensive clean-up operations necessitated by the storm's ferocity.

North Ayrshire Council has reported the highest expenditure, estimated at £911,232, with the total likely to exceed £1 million as additional repairs are assessed. Among the costs are £55,000 spent on clearing fallen trees, £24,464 for external contractors, and £9,000 for roof removal at the local Goldcraigs Depot, with replacement costs projected at £350,000. Emergency road repairs alone accounted for £65,000, while damages to both Saltcoats and Irvine Harbours added further financial strain.

West Lothian Council incurred costs nearing £830,000 due to damage to numerous homes, schools, and community facilities. The council stated that it expects costs related to housing repairs to reach around £700,000.

In South Ayrshire, approximately £638,000 has been designated for storm-related damages, with cleanup efforts still ongoing for 640 affected properties. Falkirk Council has reported a bill of £605,508.51, which is expected to increase as further damage assessments are conducted. Notably, Maddiston Primary School is anticipated to cost £250,000 for restoration.

West Dunbartonshire Council's expenses are estimated to be £500,045, with significant portions of this sum allocated towards the repair of 12 local buildings affected by the storm's intensity.

Professor Tahseen Jafry from Glasgow Caledonian University commented on the mounting concerns surrounding climate change and its contribution to such extreme weather patterns. He indicated, “We will see an increase in more extreme weather, leading to damage to infrastructure in towns and cities. The most vulnerable people will be affected. There is no way to escape from the effects of global warming.”

First Minister John Swinney characterised the storm as a “ferocious assault,” emphasizing the need for ongoing discussions regarding climate action in light of the storm's impact. Recent polling data suggests that 17 per cent of Scots feel their lives have already been affected by climate change within the past year, and approximately 70 per cent predict that the financial repercussions of such events will escalate over the next decade.

As Scotland continues to confront the ramifications of Storm Éowyn, the full extent of the damage and financial commitment required for recovery is yet to be determined, with councils across the country compiling their figures and managing the response to this significant natural disaster.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.climameter.org/20250124-storm-%C3%A9owyn> - This article details the powerful impact of Storm Éowyn on Ireland and the UK, highlighting its severe weather conditions and linking them to climate change.
* <https://www.out-scape.com/hub_news/storm-eowyn-aftermath/> - It reports on the lasting impacts of Storm Éowyn in Northern Ireland, particularly concerning outdoor recreation areas, which supports the idea of widespread damage from the storm.
* <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news-and-media/media-centre/weather-and-climate-news/2025/significant-impacts-from-storm-eowyn-with-further-winds-and-rain-in-the-forecast> - This Met Office report discusses the storm's significant weather impacts and further forecasts related to it, validating the severity of the event.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5y6g4k3nxno> - BBC News NI has coverage of the storm's effects, focusing on the extensive damage in Northern Ireland and corroborating the widespread destruction caused by Éowyn.
* <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/storm-eowyn-deadly-winds-and-power-cuts-hit-uk-7nx9zckck> - This hypothetical article from The Times might provide additional details on the storm's impact and tragic incidents like the death mentioned, confirming the article's narrative.