

A spokesperson for Stena told the Free Press: "Stena Line can confirm that two crew members onboard the Superfast VIII

protocols, Stena Line has alerted the Public Health Authority (PHA), who boarded the vessel berthed in Cairnryan, to

establishing a crew close contact cancelled its scheduled 15.30hrs service from Cairnryan to Belfast.

SPR's £250m for windfarms

ANTI-WINDFARM campaigners have told a renewable energy company to stop "wrecking the landscape" after it announced it was spending £250 million on three proposed developments in Dumfries and Galloway.

Last week, Scottish Power Renewables (SPR), one of the leading developers of wind-powered energy in the UK, revealed plans to invest more than £250 million on extensions to the existing Kilgallioch and Harestanes South windfarms and a new renewable energy development at Eucharhead.

An SPR spokesperson said the company was committed to: "clean, green electricity infrastructure, habitat management and community development programmes as part of the company's long-term commitment to Dumfries and Galloway."

"With around £20 million to be spent locally across the three projects, an estimated 600 person-years of employment will be provided – including employment for 150 people at the peak of construction."

Iain Milligan, spokesman for Save Our Hills, replied: "People across Stranraer and Wigtownshire have had enough of being targeted by wealthy windfarm developers."

"The area as a whole is at saturation point and already more than pulls its weight when it comes to renewable energy."

"If ScottishPower Renewables want to invest and bring jobs to the area then they should find a way to do it without wrecking the landscape."

"We need the Council and Scottish Government to start protecting the unrivalled scenery and unique landscape."

SPR said the three developments have the potential to generate 233MW.

SPR added: "Subject to approval, works at Kilgallioch and Harestanes could commence in 2022, with Eucharhead following by 2025. This would help accelerate progress towards Dumfries and Galloway Council's ambition to become a Net Zero Carbon Region by 2025."

Finlay Carson MSP said: "Dumfries and Galloway at the moment has ten times the generating capacity compared to its demand. Most of the energy is exported to urban areas. "What I don't understand is D&G has one of the lowest wind speeds. So why is it one of the most popular places for windfarm developers? I'm suggesting its gained the reputation as a welcome host."

"Why are D&G Council accepting so many windfarm applications?"

Colin Smyth, Labour MSP commented: "Renewable energy has an important role to play if we are serious about tackling the climate crisis but there is no doubt that Dumfries

and Galloway does get a disproportionate number of windfarm developments."

"Even when local councillors reject planning applications for developments for legitimate reasons, they are often overruled by Government Ministers sitting in Edinburgh."

I've urged the Scottish Government to have a more comprehensive plan for where wind farms should be sited that ensures they are more fairly shared across Scotland."

Emma Harper, SNP MSP added: "In order to respond to the climate emergency we must reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and instead explore and expand our use of alternative, green and renewable forms of energy."

"I recognise the concerns of constituents over the potential landscape and cumulative impact of wind turbines and I am always happy to engage with any constituent or local groups on these important issues."

"However, as part of the Scottish Government's energy strategy, there are commitments to other forms of renewable energy – such as solar and tidal – in addition to turbine energy sources. I would encourage all to review and consider the Scottish Government's Renewable Energy Plan and I am always happy to provide any update or hear any concerns from constituents."