

HEADLINE

North Highland, North Fife, Angus, West Galloway and Girvan are now at Moderate Scarcity.

The Northeast and South Highland remain at Moderate Scarcity.

We are seeing evidence of drying river channels and high water temperatures in these areas which indicates Significant Scarcity in some catchments.

Solway and the rest of Ayrshire are now at Alert.

Alerts remain in place for Orkney and Shetland, the Western Isles, the Tay and the Lothian areas.

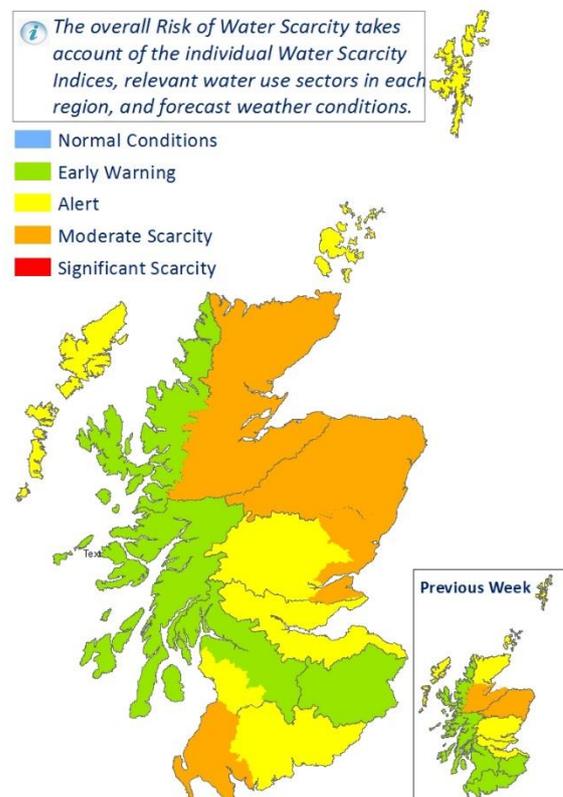
Situation summary

Hot and dry weather conditions have been experienced across the country again this week, leading to more widespread water scarcity. Dry conditions are forecast for the next week at least, with high confidence. Pressures on water resources are expected to continue.

River levels are very low across the country, particularly across the north, north east and south west regions. We are seeing evidence in these areas of river beds becoming extensively exposed and, where there is water, it is very shallow and slow flowing. These conditions have also led to some high river water temperatures all of which put stress on river plants, fish and other animals. Loch and reservoir storage has fallen again following a brief recharge. Groundwater levels have started to fall more quickly.

The soil moisture deficit has continued to rise across the country. Along the Moray coast and in Aberdeenshire the deficit is very near the 'extremely dry' category, and approaching the highest level on record (going back to 1978).

The last time we saw early summer conditions like this in Scotland was in 2010. In that year, impacts were reported on private water supplies, distillery production and angling catches. During that event, Scottish Water brought in measures to encourage more efficient water use. That event was short-lived, being mainly limited to the months of May and June after which an exceptionally wet July brought an abrupt end across the most affected areas.



The conditions we are seeing now in Scotland are due to a dry spring and summer. If Scotland receives less than 95% of the average rainfall in July we should expect to see the driest 6 month period (Feb – Jul) since 1984.

We are monitoring the situation closely and coordinating steps to manage water resources in line with [Scotland's National Water Scarcity Plan](#).

There are no areas where normal public water supplies have been affected, but there has been an increase in water usage levels.

Scottish Water is managing water supplies across Scotland through this extended dry period and will continue to monitor the situation closely. Advice has been issued to all customers to use water wisely nationwide (*link to advice www.scottishwater.co.uk/about-us/media-centre/latest-news/customers-across-scotland-asked-to-use-water-wisely*).

By taking the right steps now, businesses that abstract water can help make the water supplies on which they and others depend last as long as possible through this period.

SEPA is working with businesses to help ensure abstractions can be sustained and the water environment protected.

General and sector specific advice for abstractors is available: [Advice for abstractors](#)

Water abstractors with concerns about meeting licence conditions or wishing to discuss contingency measures should [contact their local SEPA office](#).

If your private water supply is drying up you should follow the advice about [maintaining your private supply](#)

Forecast

The forecast for the next five days is for more warm and dry weather. There is potential for more unsettled weather in the second half of July, although fine weather is expected to dominate.

The longer-term outlook shows a slightly higher likelihood of drier and warmer conditions than normal over the next three months, although the confidence in this is not high.

Further details on the current situation are provided in the following figures.

03/07/2018

Precipitation Indices

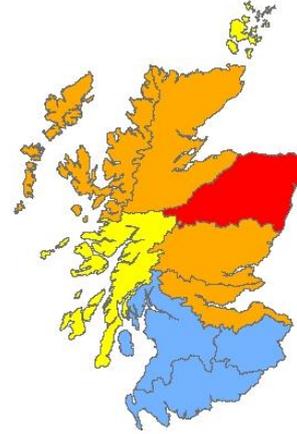
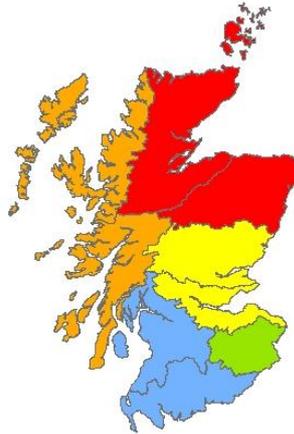
Rainfall over the past 30 days



Rainfall over the past 90 days



Rainfall over the past 180 days



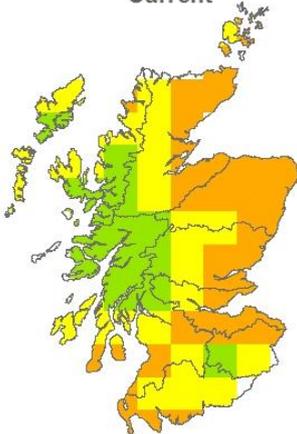
These maps show how low current rainfall totals are for this time of year, relative to historical averages, over the past 30, 90 and 180 days.

- Normal Conditions
- Quite Dry
- Dry
- Very Dry
- Exceptionally Dry

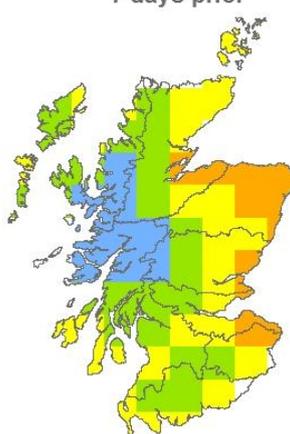
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Soil Moisture Deficit Maps

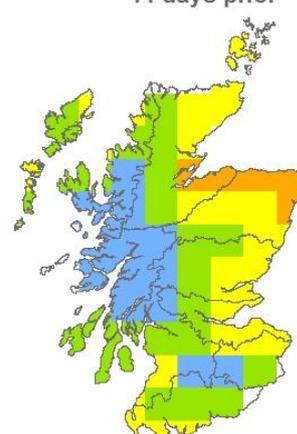
Soil Moisture Deficit Current



Soil Moisture Deficit 7 days prior



Soil Moisture Deficit 14 days prior

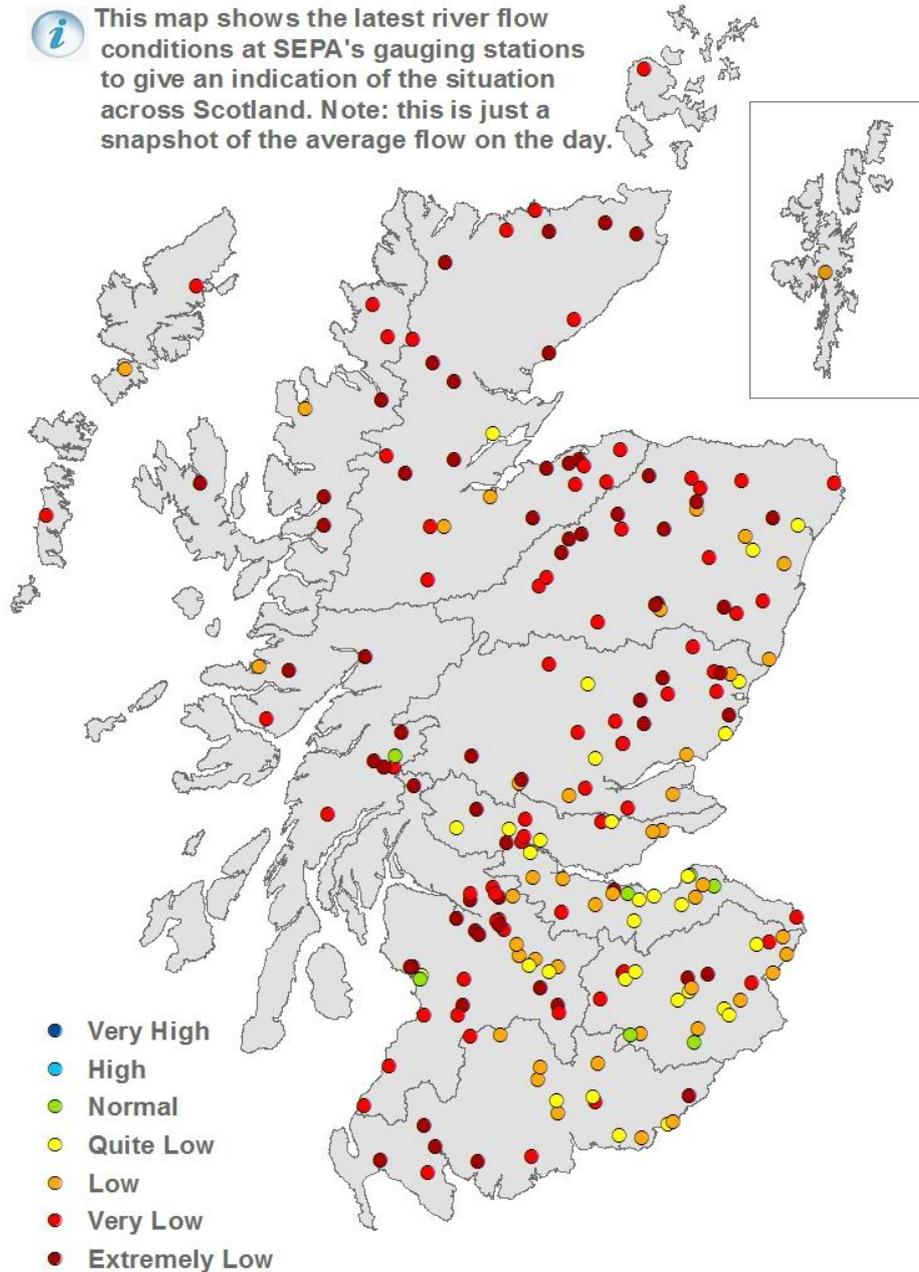


These maps depict the latest Soil Moisture Deficit (SMD) data and the SMD 7 and 14 days prior.

- No Deficit
- Quite Dry
- Dry
- Very Dry
- Exceptionally Dry



This map shows the latest river flow conditions at SEPA's gauging stations to give an indication of the situation across Scotland. Note: this is just a snapshot of the average flow on the day.



Notes on 'Extremely Low Flows':

- Extremely low flows indicate an increased risk to fish and other river wildlife. We would only expect to see such flows occurring on average once every 5 years and even then they would normally only last a few days. SEPA is targeting its monitoring of the situation on watercourses experiencing such flows.
- Even in areas where flows have not reached this extremely low level the advice to use water wisely still applies.

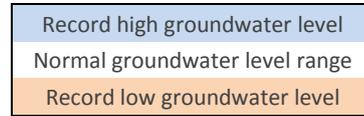
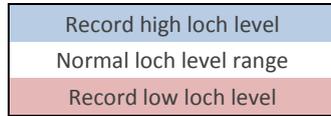
Further information from SEPA's water level stations can be found at

<http://apps.sepa.org.uk/waterlevels/>.

Loch and Groundwater levels: 03/07/2018



These charts show the trend in groundwater and loch levels since January 2017. The white zone represents the observed range in the long-term record.



The lochs shown have been selected as representative of lochs not being used for abstraction.

