

HEADLINE

The West Highland area has been raised to Alert level. All other areas remain at last week's water scarcity level.

The Deveron and Ythan catchments are at Significant Scarcity due to evidence of drying river channels and high water temperatures in these areas.

There are no areas where normal public water supplies have been affected

Situation summary

Dry weather has continued to dominate this week, but patchy rain spells have occurred across much of the country, although very limited in eastern regions. Any rainfall experienced has not been sufficient to alleviate the widespread water scarcity situation and this is forecast to continue for the week ahead.

River levels have been very low right across the country for quite some time now. Some rivers, particularly in the north and northeast, have been at very low flows for almost a month. Such a prolonged period of very low flows is unusual. We are seeing continuing evidence in the north, north east and south west regions 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 continues to fall.

Groundwater levels are continuing to fall steadily and in Aberdeenshire some levels are the lowest for at least the last 10 years.

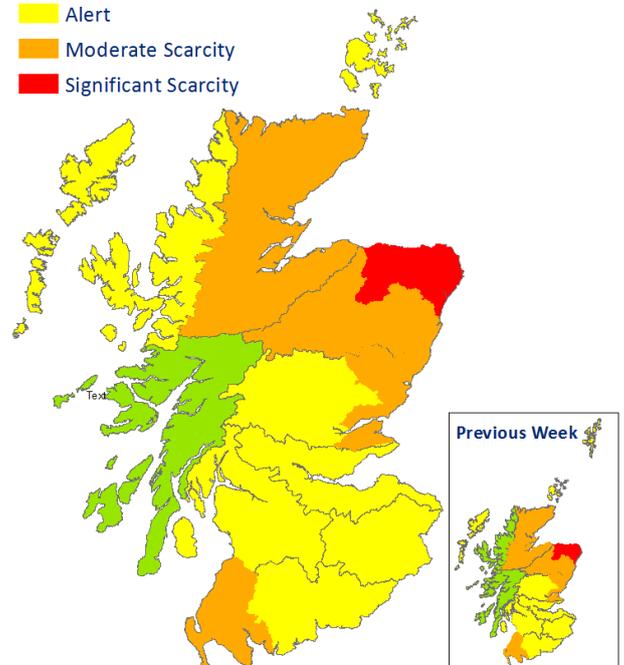
The soil moisture deficit has continued to rise across the country. The area within the "extremely dry" category, last week confined to parts of the Ythan and Don river basins, has expanded along the Moray Firth as far as the Black Isle. Part of the east coast between Montrose and the East Neuk of Fife is also now in the "extremely dry" category.

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 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

 *The overall Risk of Water Scarcity takes account of the individual Water Scarcity Indices, relevant water use sectors in each region, and forecast weather conditions.*

-  Normal Conditions
-  Early Warning
-  Alert
-  Moderate Scarcity
-  Significant Scarcity



(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](#). Similarly, if you now wish to abstract water as a result of this unusually dry period and don't have an authorisation, you must contact SEPA before commencing any abstraction.

If your private water supply is drying up or you have concerns about the quality due to the dry weather please contact your local authority who can help you. You should also follow advice about [maintaining your private supply](#).

Scottish Government funding will be made available to Local Authorities and Scottish Water to ensure that emergency supplies of drinking water are provided to communities where their private water supplies have run dry. Further detail on this are available at <https://beta.gov.scot/news/private-water-supplies/>

Forecast

The forecast for the next five days is for the warm, dry weather to continue, though some rain (around 20mm) is forecast for Argyll, Skye and Lochaber on Friday. The East will be much drier, although some areas could see up to 15 mm of rain this week. However, since evaporation rates have been around 15 mm per week it is unlikely that this rainfall will do much to reduce the water scarcity risk. Temperatures will remain high and it is expected to be relatively dry for the rest of July.

The longer-term outlook still 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.

18/07/2018

Precipitation Indices

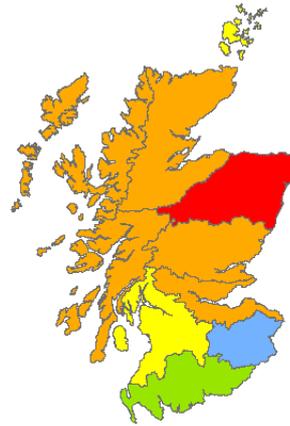
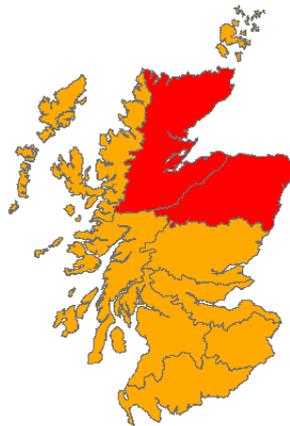
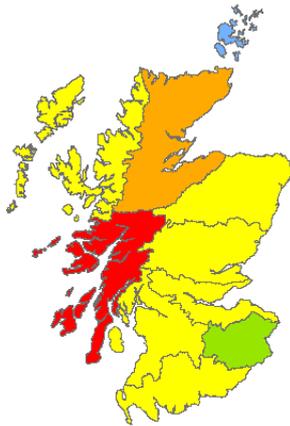
Rainfall over the
past 30 days



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

18/07/2018

Soil Moisture Deficit Maps

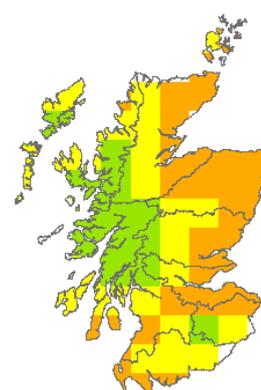
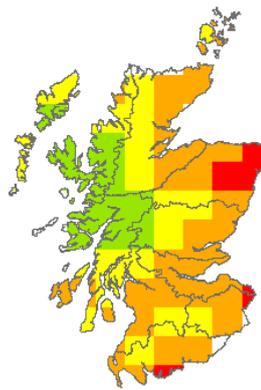
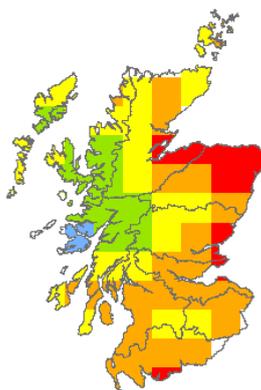
Soil Moisture Deficit
Current



Soil Moisture Deficit
7 days prior



Soil Moisture Deficit
14 days prior

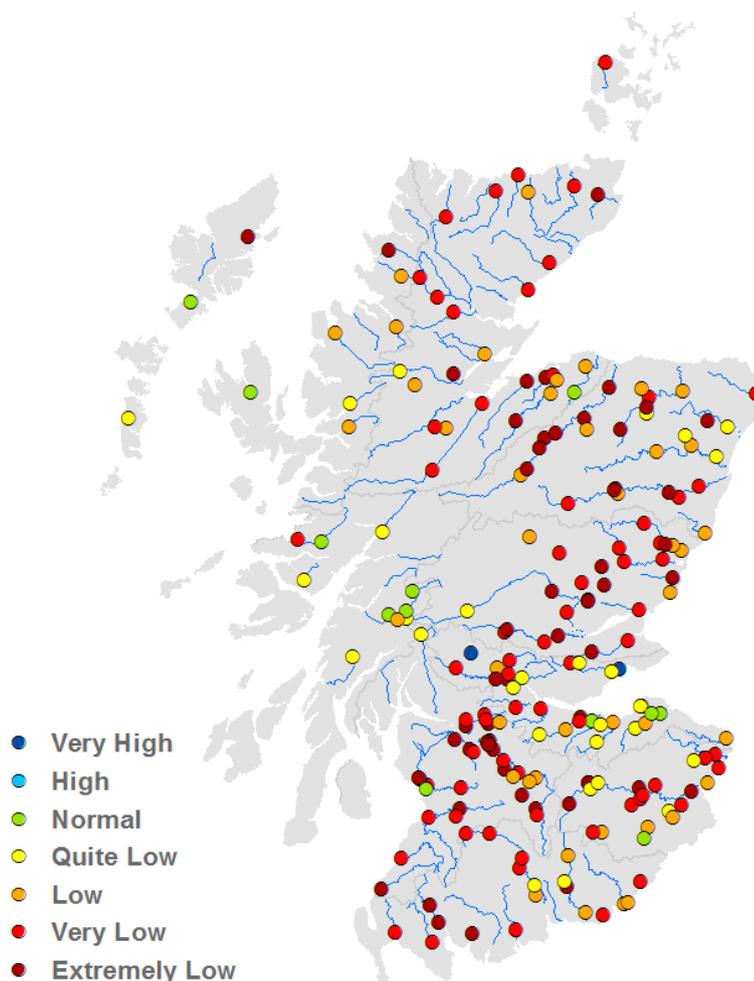


These maps depict the latest Soil Moisture Deficit (SMD) data and the SMD 7 and 14 days prior.

- No Data
- 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':

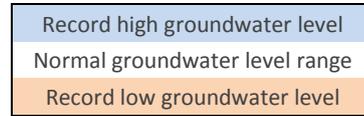
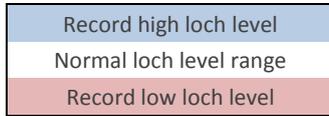
- Extremely low flows indicate an increased risk to fish and other river wildlife. We would only expect to see such flows occurring on average once every 5 years and even then they would normally only last a few days. SEPA is targeting its monitoring of the situation on watercourses experiencing such 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: 18/07/2018



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.

