

HEADLINE

East coast catchments remain very dry. Angus, North Fife and North East Scotland remain at Moderate Scarcity level due to continued falling groundwater levels and extremely drying ground conditions.

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

Situation summary

The water scarcity situation largely remains the same this week. Conditions in the East have remained dry, with Exceptionally Dry ground conditions and very low river. Groundwater levels in Angus are at record low levels and have continued to fall, which has caused issues with some private water supplies.

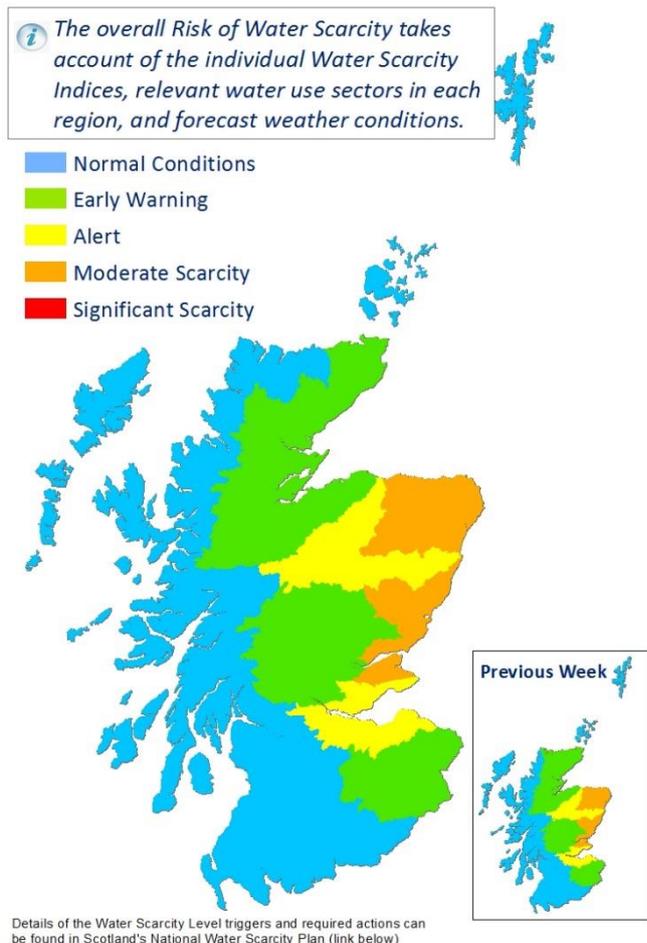
In areas at Moderate Scarcity any water abstractors with concerns about groundwater supplies should [contact their local SEPA office](#) to discuss possible contingency measures.

Heavy rainfall is forecast across all regions at times in the coming week, so ground conditions will become wetter. Groundwater recovery will be much slower however.

Groundwater levels and loch storage would normally begin to recover in October. Water resources generally are low going into this recharge period so the amount of rainfall over winter will determine whether there are any knock-on effects into next year. SEPA will continue to monitor this water storage situation throughout the autumn and winter. The areas remaining at Alert and Early Warning are where current low groundwater levels could lead to issues if insufficient winter recovery takes place.

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

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](http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/about-us/media-centre/latest-news/customers-across-scotland-asked-to-use-water-wisely)).



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

Scottish Water and Local Authorities are working together to help maintain supplies. If your private water supply is drying up you should contact your local authority for assistance and follow the advice about [maintaining your private supply](#).

Forecast (at 11/10/18): Based on information from the UK Met Office

Heavy, persistent rain will push quickly northeast early Friday. This will clear through the morning, before returning to southern and eastern Scotland later with showers in the northwest. Drier for a time overnight into Saturday but further heavy rain expected, especially across the south and east, during the day. Showers follow to western parts through Sunday and Monday with the south and east becoming largely dry.

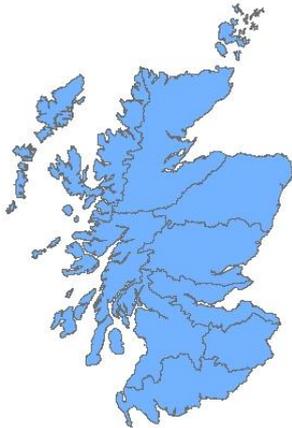
The longer-term outlook now shows a very slightly higher likelihood of wetter and warmer conditions than normal over the next three months for the UK, with an increased chance of spells of wet and stormy weather throughout autumn, compared to normal. For further details on the seasonal forecast see the latest report at <http://www.hydoutuk.net>.

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

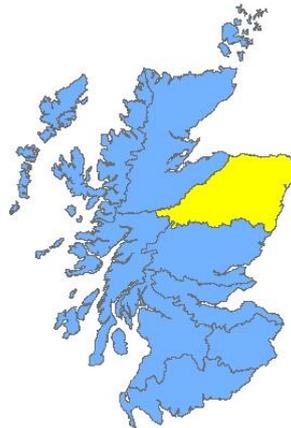
11/10/2018

Precipitation Indices

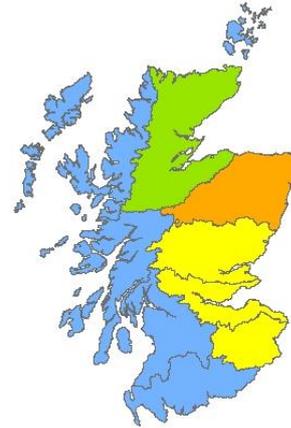
Rainfall over the past 30 days



Rainfall over the past 90 days



Rainfall over the past 180 days



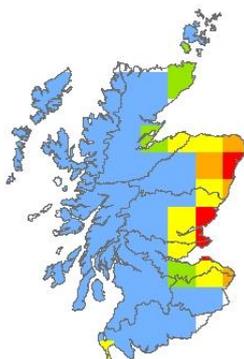
These maps show how low current rainfall totals are for this time of year, relative to historical averages, over the past 30, 90 and 180 days.

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

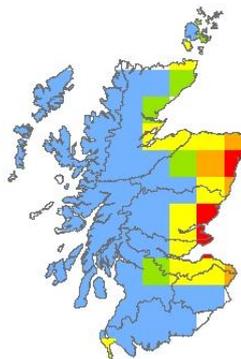
10/10/2018

Soil Moisture Deficit Maps

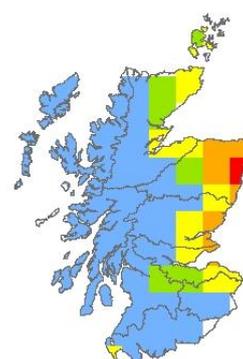
Soil Moisture Deficit Current



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

* MORECS data obtained from MetOffice

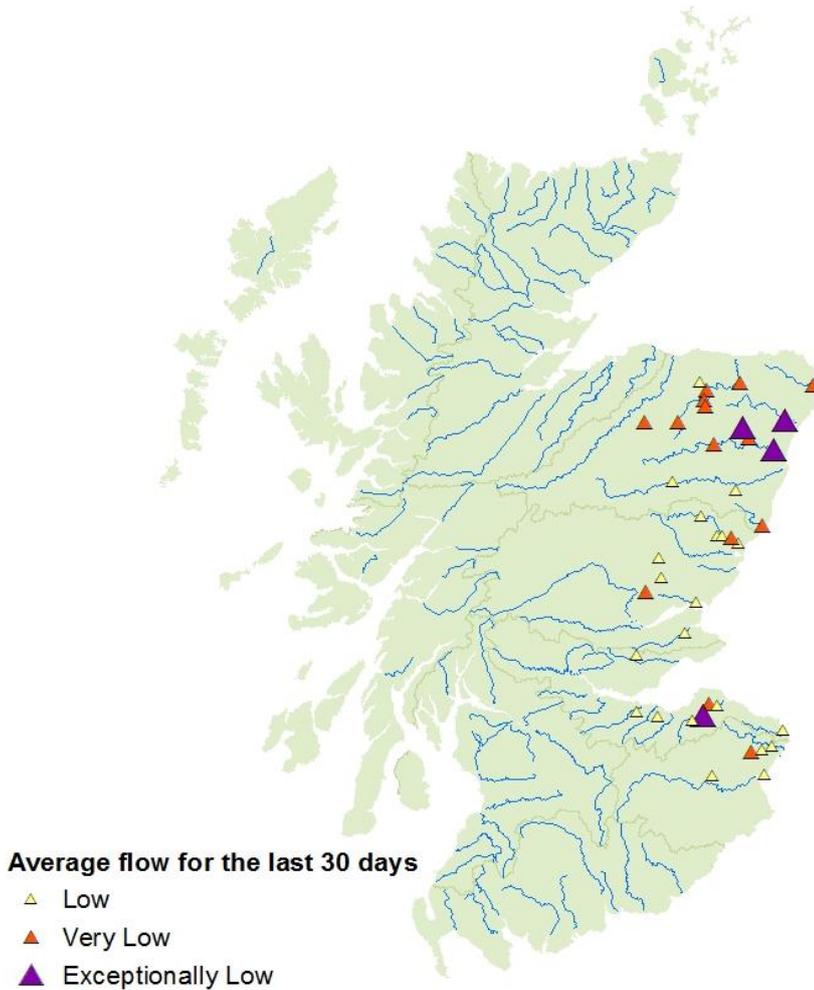
Average flow over the last 30 days

11/10/2018



This map shows the average flow at SEPA's gauging stations over the past 30 days, highlighting sites which have been at very low flows for this period.

Evidence shows that river ecology is at high risk when very low flows are maintained for this length of time.



Notes on exceptionally low flows:

- In the figure above, those sites marked as exceptionally low have had the types of low flows normally seen only a few days per year, persisting for at least a month.
- Even in areas where flows have not reached this exceptionally 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/>.



Natural water storage situation

In each river catchment there is some degree of water storage, which can maintain river flows even when it is not raining. This natural water storage is mainly held in lochs and groundwater. When natural storage has been depleted it will take a lot of rainfall for levels to recover.

Please note that the map below does not reflect conditions in managed water supply reservoirs.

12/10/2018



North East

**Groundwater levels - very low
Loch storage – low**

Very low groundwater levels in the Northeast area compared to the long-term record. With current conditions it will take a long time for levels to return to normal.

Loch levels in this area are also low following the dry summer but have shown some recent recovery following rainfall, particularly in the North Highlands.

Northwest, West and South – Recovering

Loch level data indicate that storage is recovering in this area.

Where groundwater level data is available, it shows that levels are largely within the normal range, and some recovery of levels is evident.