

## HEADLINE

**The current water scarcity level reflects groundwater storage only.** Surface water conditions have improved but there are still areas where low groundwater levels are causing problems for private water supplies. Angus and North East Scotland remain at Moderate Scarcity level as a result.

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

## Situation summary

The situation remains largely the same as previous weeks. Low groundwater levels in the East are still the main issue, with some private supplies still affected.

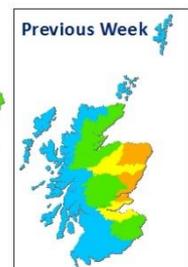
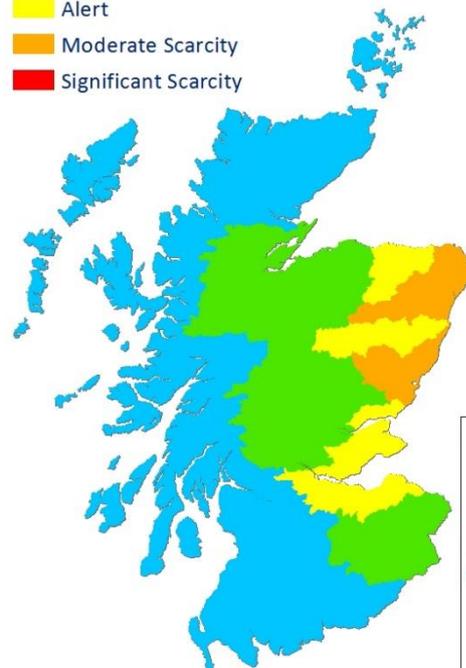
SEPA will continue to monitor this water storage situation throughout the autumn and winter. The areas in Moderate and those remaining at Alert and Early Warning are where current low groundwater levels could lead to issues if insufficient winter recovery takes place.

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

Scottish Water is managing water supplies across Scotland.

 *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



Details of the Water Scarcity Level triggers and required actions can be found in Scotland's National Water Scarcity Plan ([link below](#))

Forecast (at 15/11/18): Based on information from the UK Met Office

Some patchy light rain at first on Friday, mainly over the Southern Uplands and southern Highlands, else a dry day to come. The weekend will be dry. Isolated showers developing in the east and south on Monday.

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.hydotuk.net>.

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

14/11/2018

### Precipitation Indices

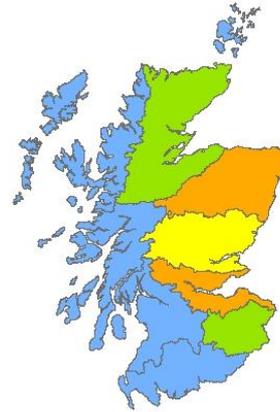
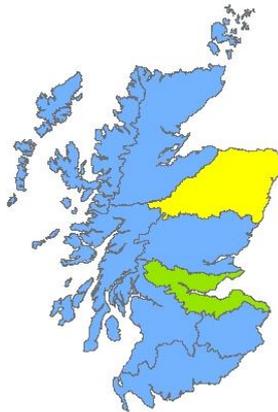
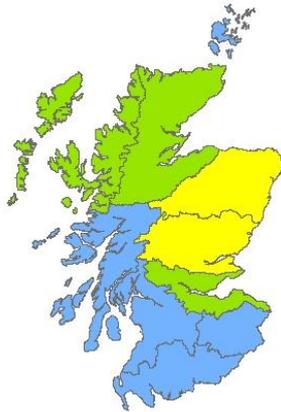
Rainfall over the past 30 days



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

14/11/2018

### Soil Moisture Deficit Maps

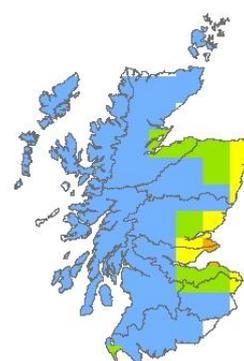
Soil Moisture Deficit Current



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



## 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.



### North East

#### Groundwater levels - very low

Very low groundwater levels in the Northeast and Angus areas compared to the long-term record (see the graphs below as an example). With current conditions it will take a long time for levels to return to normal.

Some private water supplies have been affected and are still at risk until levels start to recover.



These charts show the trend in groundwater and loch levels since autumn 2017 at two monitoring sites in the northeast (see map above). The white zone represents the observed range in the long-term record. The black line shows the actual groundwater level and the dashed line is the long-term average trend.

Record high groundwater level
Normal groundwater level range
Record low groundwater level

