

# Water Scarcity Situation Report

5<sup>th</sup> Sep 2019

## HEADLINE

**Normal Conditions remain in place across the entire country.**

**Reports will be issued monthly over the winter period.**

### Situation summary

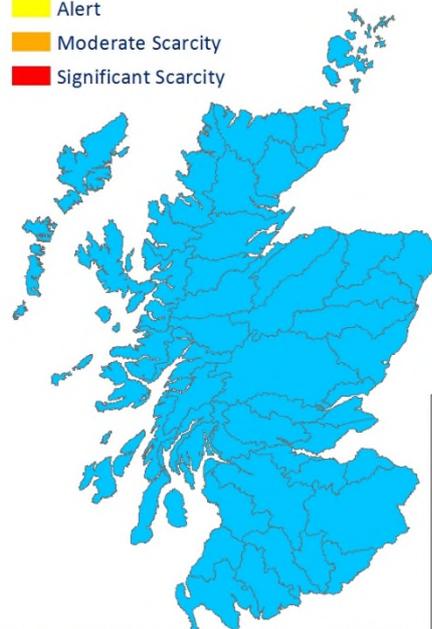
Normal conditions remain in place across the entire country. Surface conditions have stabilised after recent improvement, with river levels responding to persistent rainfall across the country.

The majority of groundwater levels across the country have recovered following rainfall over the summer. However, groundwater levels remain low for this time of year for some locations in the south-west. Any prolonged periods without rainfall in these areas may see a water scarcity situation develop.

SEPA will continue to monitor the water scarcity situation throughout the coming autumn/winter season. Updated situation reports will be issued at the start of each month, to inform on the risk for the coming year.

 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



SEPA are monitoring the situation closely and coordinating steps to manage water resources in line with [Scotland's National Water Scarcity Plan](#). If you have noticed any impact as a result of the dry weather, we would be interested in hearing about them. For further details on reporting impacts of dry weather see <https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/water-scarcity/>.

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](#).

## Rainfall forecast (Source: Met Office 04/09/2019)

Rain or showers on Wednesday with strengthening northerly winds, gales developing around the coast. The showers well scattered on Thursday, many areas dry, although the showers merging into longer outbreaks of rain in the northwest later. Showers or longer outbreaks of rain across the northwest on Friday, the showers scattered elsewhere. Mainly dry on Saturday, then rain pushing east on Sunday, although much of the south and east mainly dry.

The longer-term outlook is uncertain. For September-October-November as a whole, above-average precipitation is slightly more likely than below-average precipitation. For further details on the seasonal forecast see the latest 3-month outlook summaries at <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/contingency-planners/index>

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

04/09/2019

### Precipitation Indices

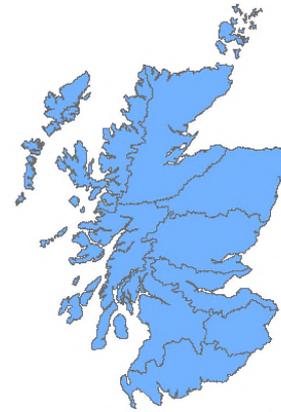
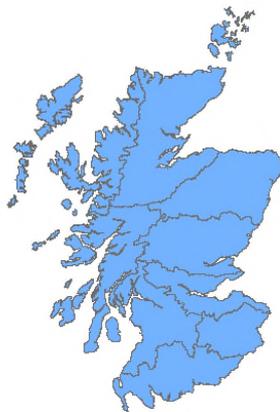
Rainfall over the  
past 30 days



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.*

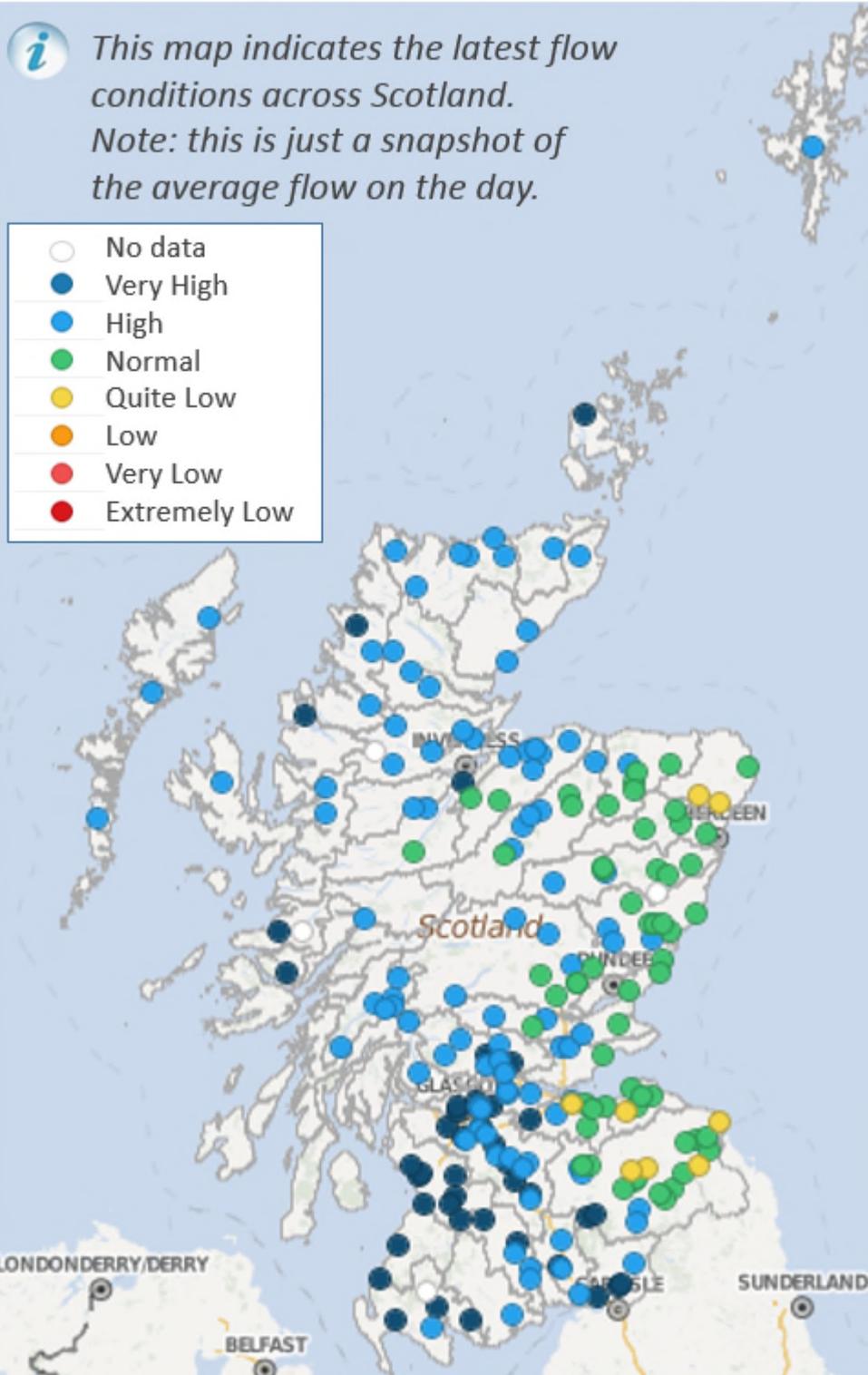
- Normal conditions
- Quite dry
- Dry
- Very dry
- Exceptionally dry

## Soil moisture deficit update – 04/09/2019

The majority of the country remains at No Deficit, however conditions remain locally Quite Dry along the east coast, on the Caithness north coast and in Orkney.

04/09/2019

### Current Flow Conditions





## 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.

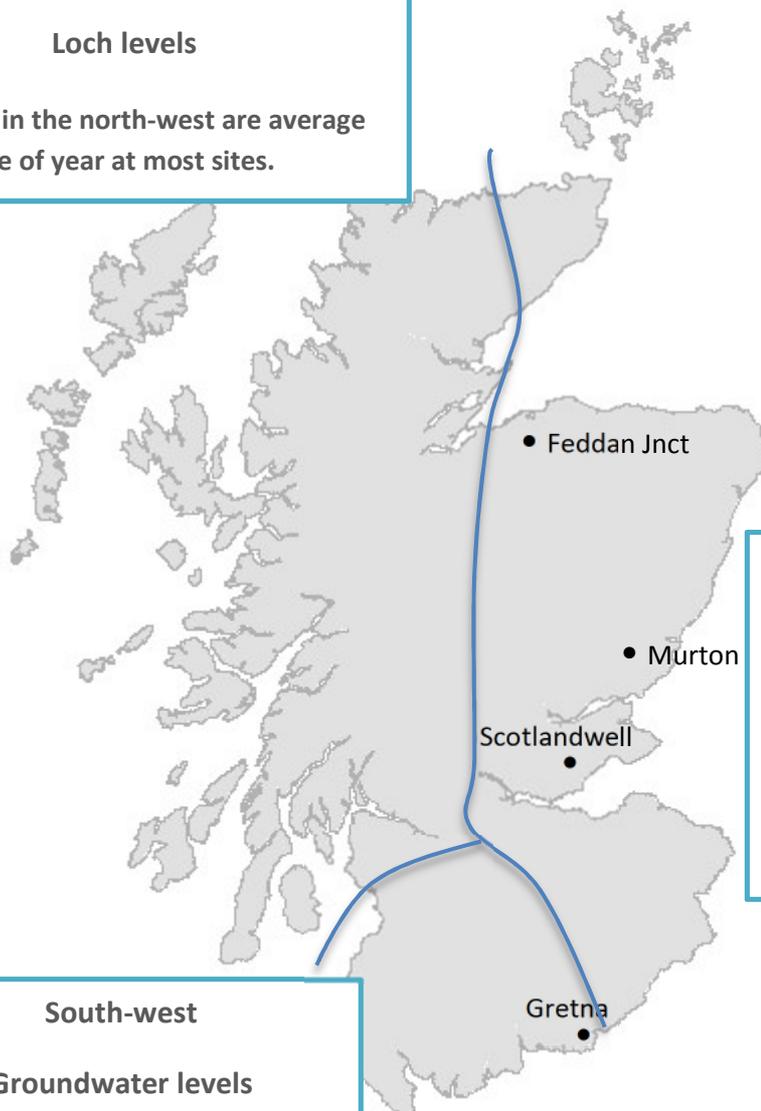
Please note that the map below does not reflect conditions in managed water supply reservoirs.



### North-west

#### Loch levels

Loch levels in the north-west are average for this time of year at most sites.



### East

#### Groundwater levels

Groundwater levels at most sites have improved following summer rainfall. Levels at most sites are above the long-term average.

### South-west

#### Groundwater levels

Groundwater levels in this region are quite low compared to the long term average.



These charts show the trend in groundwater level (GWL) since autumn 2018 at selected monitoring sites (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

