

Briefing: Scottish Flood Forecast

May 2022



EMBARGOED UNTIL AFTER 10:30AM ON 12/05/2022

Background

On 12 May, we are launching a new daily 3-day flood forecast produced by the Scottish Flood Forecasting Service (SFFS). The SFFS is a partnership between SEPA and the Met Office.

The Scottish Flood Forecast is the public version of the daily Flood Guidance Statement (FGS) we issue to Civil Contingencies Category 1 and 2 agencies.

It will be available on SEPA's website www.sepa.org.uk/scottishfloodforecast and will initially be released as a test version to the public until the Autumn 2022. This is so that we can gather feedback and make any improvements before fully launching the service to the public formally later this year.

Why we created the Scottish Flood Forecast

The Scottish Flood Forecast has been created after research was undertaken with the public, community flood groups, emergency responders, our partners, and employees.

The user research identified a need for the public to receive flood information earlier than our current regional flood alerts and local flood warnings in a simple and clear way and have the ability to check if no significant flooding is expected.

Who will use the Scottish Flood Forecast

It can be used by anyone interested in finding out at a national level whether flooding is likely to happen across Scotland over the next 3 days and what to do next. The public can check it any time.

The Scottish Flood Forecast is based on the best available information, but there will still be a chance of minor and localised flooding when the maps have no areas coloured red, amber and yellow.

What the Scottish Flood Forecast shows


The Scottish Flood Forecast is like the Environment Agency's 5-day Flood Forecast and Natural Resources Wales 5-day flood risk outlook.

However, the Scottish Flood Forecast shows a 3-day rather than 5-day forecast at a national level, using maps and the colours yellow, amber, and red to show whether flooding is likely to happen over the next 3 days and describe what the impacts may be. It will also point people to information on what to do next. The maps use the "area of concern" concept to provide the best available information on the geographical extent of risks.

We made the decision to go with a 3-day rather than a 5-day forecast and not include the colour green based on customer feedback.

A screenshot of the Scottish Flood Forecast is available on the next page.

What the web service shows



Scottish Flood Forecast [Feedback](#) [Back to SEPA](#)

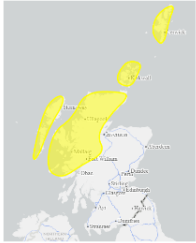
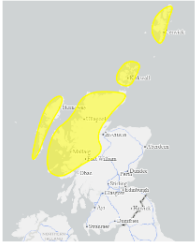

This is a **BETA** service - your [feedback](#) will help us improve the service.

Last updated on 31/03/2022 @ 11:22

Summary

Widespread rain moving north on Sunday to most of Scotland, although the northwest seeing just a few showers. Monday will see showers in the north, mainly dry in the south. Early rain clearing to scattered showers on Tuesday.

Further rain spreading east on Wednesday, followed by showers, these turning wintry into Thursday most frequent in the west.

Sunday 13 February 2022	Monday 14 February 2022	Tuesday 15 February 2022
 <p>View larger map</p> <p>Yellow - Caithness and Sutherland, Easter Ross and Great Glen, Orkney, Shetland, Skye and Lochaber, Wester Ross, Western Isles</p>	 <p>View larger map</p> <p>Yellow - Caithness and Sutherland, Easter Ross and Great Glen, Orkney, Shetland, Skye and Lochaber, Wester Ross, Western Isles</p>	 <p>View larger map</p> <p>No impacts</p>

[Click here to view the flood area descriptions](#)

Flood Risks for Sunday 13 February 2022

+ **Yellow**

Flood Risks for Monday 14 February 2022

+ **Yellow**

Flood Risks for Tuesday 15 February 2022

+ **No impacts**

Other ways of getting this information

To receive this information over the phone, call Floodline on [0345 988 1188](tel:0345 988 1188)

Further information

SEPA information	Partner information
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Check flood alerts and warnings in placeSign up to Floodline to receive free flood alerts and warningsCheck river levels near youHow to prepare for floodingWhat to do during and after floodingCheck flood maps in your areaFAQs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">View Met Office weather forecastCheck travel information from Traffic ScotlandCheck help and advice from the Scottish Flood Forum

Key points about the new service

1. The 3-day flood forecast is a static web service which will be available on SEPA's website www.sepa.org.uk/scottishfloodforecast from 12 May.
2. It is a static web service and customers are required to be proactive and visit the webpage. The public will not be able to sign up to receive the forecast directly to them although we may consider such option in future.
3. It can be used by anyone interested in finding out at a high-level whether flooding is likely to happen across Scotland over the next 3 days and what to do next. The public can check it any time.
4. At the moment, the public will not be able to do a postcode search to find out what the flood risk will be for their local area, but the service will give an indication of flood risk in their area. We will be looking to further develop the service to provide more detailed regional flood forecasts in the future.
5. The Scottish Flood Forecast is based on the best available information, but there will still be a chance of minor and localised flooding when the maps have no areas coloured red, amber, and yellow.
6. The Scottish Flood Forecast does not replace Regional Flood Alerts and Local Flood Warnings.
7. The web service will be updated daily after 10:30am. If a situation is developing or escalating and the risk significantly changes, then an updated version of the Scottish Flood Forecast will be published in the afternoon after 3:30pm in alignment with the Flood Guidance Statement. In exceptional circumstances (such as risk elevated to amber or red), the Scottish Flood Forecast will be updated at other times.
8. The web service has been designed and works with screen readers to describe the statement for those with visual impairments.

How is it produced?

A new application has been created which the Scottish Flood Forecasting Service will use to create both Flood Guidance Statement (FGS) issued to emergency responders and the new Scottish Flood Forecast.

Is there any change to Flood Guidance Statement (FGS)?

We have made some minor changes to the FGS. The key change relates to the Area of Concern (AOC) map. If there is an AOC map, it will now always appear on the first page of the FGS. We've made this change based on feedback from our partners who told us that when there are five green thumbnail maps at the top of the FGS, they sometimes didn't realise that there was an AOC map on another page because there was a very low risk of flooding.

The font, colours and style of the AOC maps have also changed slightly due to the new application.

More information

More information will also be available at [FAQs | Scottish Environment Protection Agency \(SEPA\)](#) from 12 May.

If you have a query, about the Scottish Flood Forecast please email laura.paterson@sepa.org.uk.