

## Seasonal Assessment – Winter 2024

First two months – December 2023 and January 2024

The following represents a provisional assessment of the weather experienced across the UK during the first two months of Winter 2024 (December 2023 and January 2024) and how it compares with the 1991 to 2020 average.

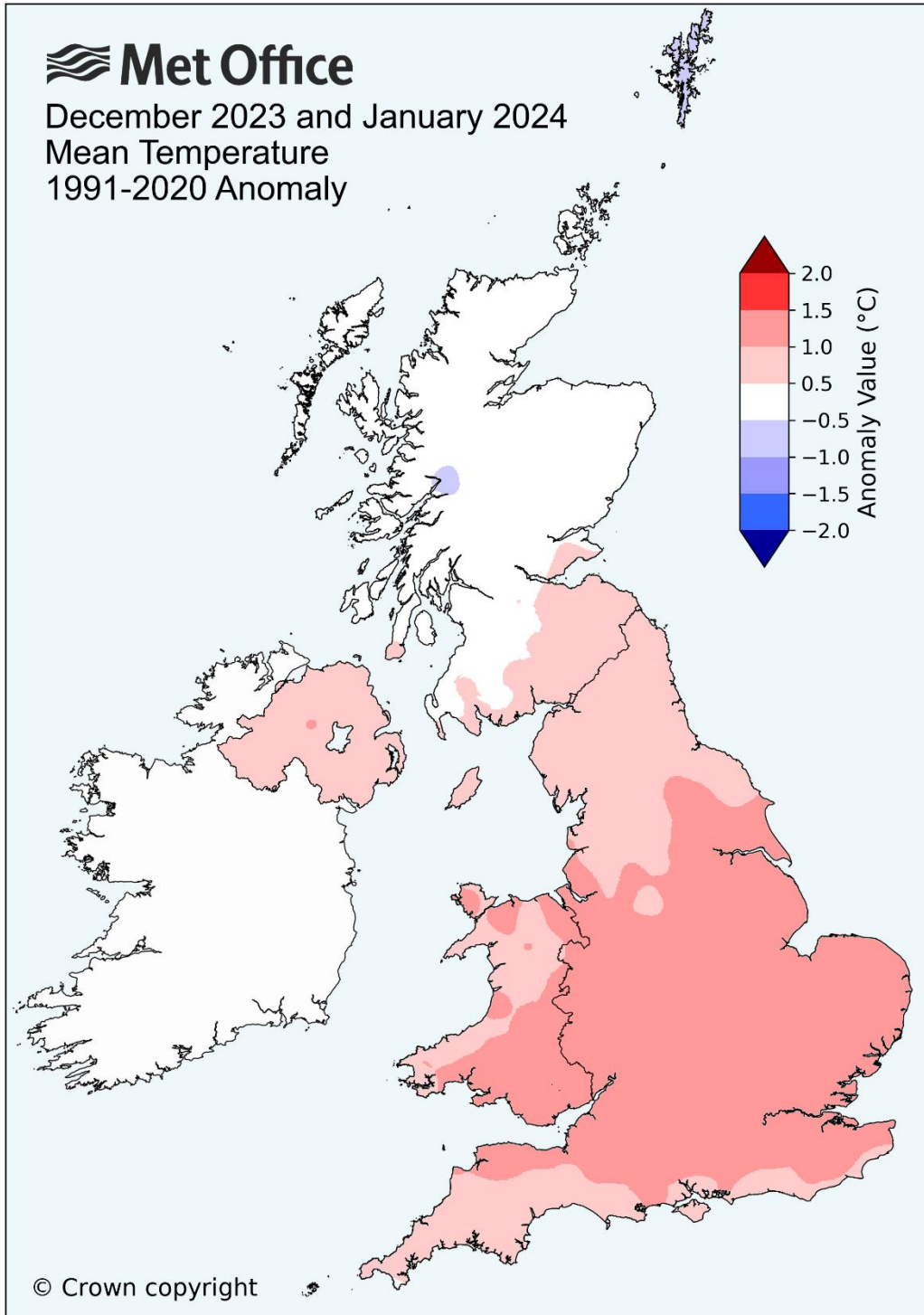
So far, the winter has been milder than average overall, but very variable with cold, wintry spells in early December and mid-January contrasting with much milder, wetter, unsettled and occasionally stormy weather at other times. December began in a cold snap, with some very hard frosts ( $-4.7^{\circ}\text{C}$  at Culdrose, Cornwall on 2nd and  $-12.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  at Altnaharra, Sutherland on 3rd). However, the weather turned mild with the arrival of storms Elin and Fergus on the 9th to 10th. Thereafter the weather continued mild through most of the month, except across the far north, dull and wet at times with persistent rain from a succession of Atlantic fronts and mounting rainfall accumulations. December ended with a spell of very unsettled, turbulent weather, with storm Gerrit on 27th to 29th bringing further strong winds and heavy rains. The year closed out with yet another Atlantic low pressure system, and January began the same way, with the eighth named storm of the 2023-24 winter, Henk, on the 2nd. However, by the 6th the weather changed dramatically, with high pressure becoming established across the UK and bringing dry, sunny conditions and a marked drop in temperature. The dry but cold conditions persisted until the arrival of the ninth and tenth name storms, Isha and Jocelyn, on the 21st to 24th and a return much milder, wetter weather to the end of the month.

Temperatures in December were above average across the UK except northern Scotland, with anomalies mostly around  $1.5$  to  $2.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ . This was the fifth / equal-fifth warmest December for England and Wales in respective series from 1884. Although January started off cold, with maximum temperatures around  $1.0$  to  $1.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  below average in many areas, the milder beginning and end to the month led to close to average temperatures for the month as a whole (anomaly  $-0.1^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). The UK recorded its highest December daily minimum temperature on record on Christmas Day with  $12.4^{\circ}\text{C}$  at Exeter Airport and East Malling, Kent. In January, the UK saw another record broken, with the highest daily maximum temperature of  $19.9^{\circ}\text{C}$  recorded on the 28th at Achfary, Sutherland.

December was the equal-eighth wettest December for the UK in a series from 1836, and fourth-wettest for Northern England. Parts of central and north-east England, and much of north-east Scotland, recorded more than twice the normal rainfall. In December, storms Elin, Fergus and Gerrit brought heavy rain. January was less wet, with levels approaching average across the UK. In large part this is due to the dry spell in the middle of the month, bracketed by rainy weather from storms Henk, Isha and Jocelyn. Rainfall totals for the UK overall were 148% of average in December, and 97% of average in January. Northern Scotland and northern England experienced some heavy snow in the middle of January, with upland areas and the far north worst affected.

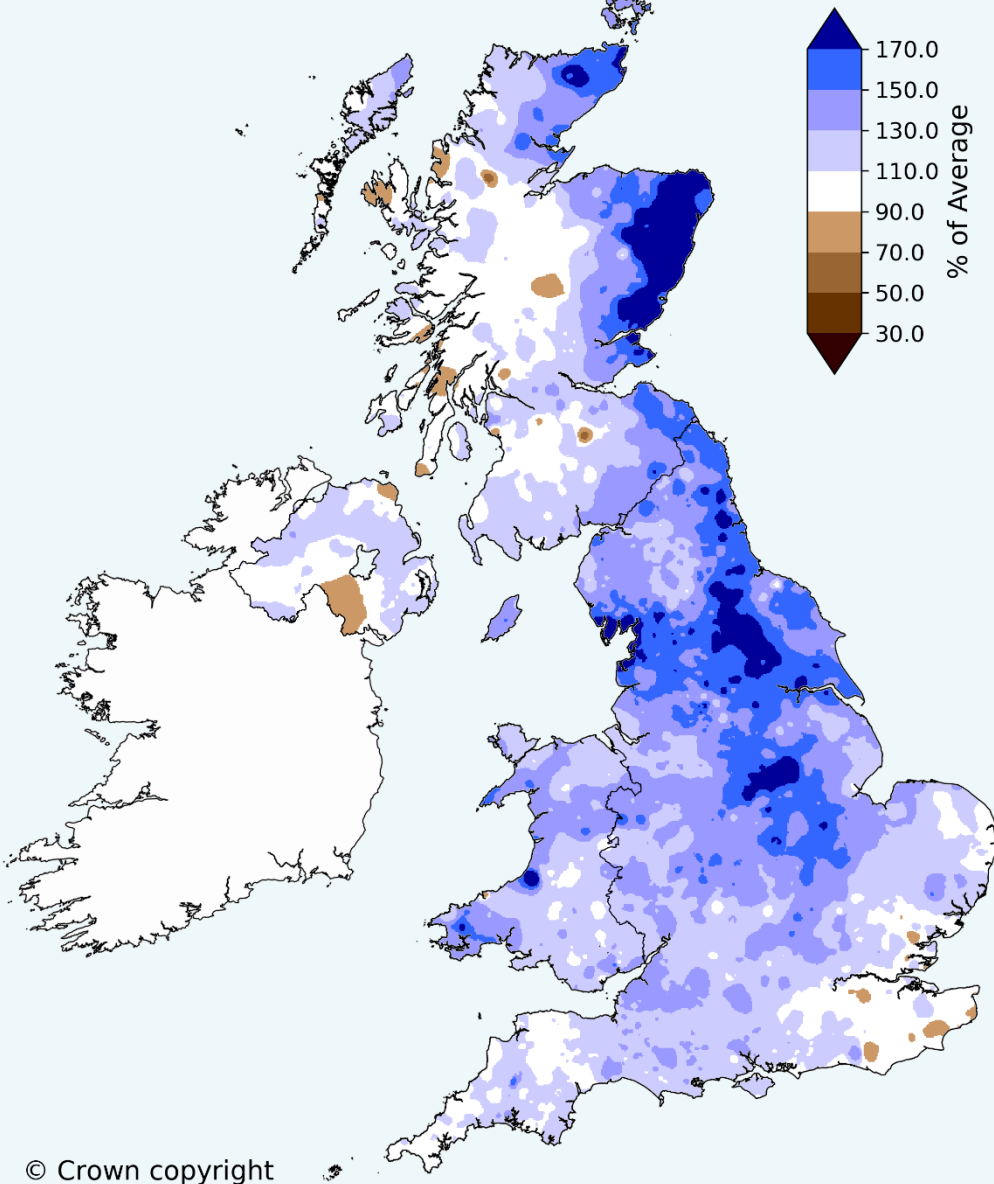
Sunshine totals were lower than average for December for much of the UK, except for north-west Scotland, with less than two-thirds of normal sunshine for the UK overall – representing less than one hour per day on average in most areas. Southern England recorded a mere 26.6 hours, only 50% of the 1991-2020 long term average. January was much less dull, with above-average sunshine hours across the UK (128%) and especially in south-east England.

UK statistical summary		
Mean temperature	Rainfall	Sunshine
The provisional mean value for December and January is 4.8°C, which is 0.7°C above the 1991-2020 average.	The provisional total for December and January is 306 mm, which is 123% of the 1991-2020 average.	The provisional total for December and January is 88.8 hours, which is 98.5% of the 1991-2020 average.





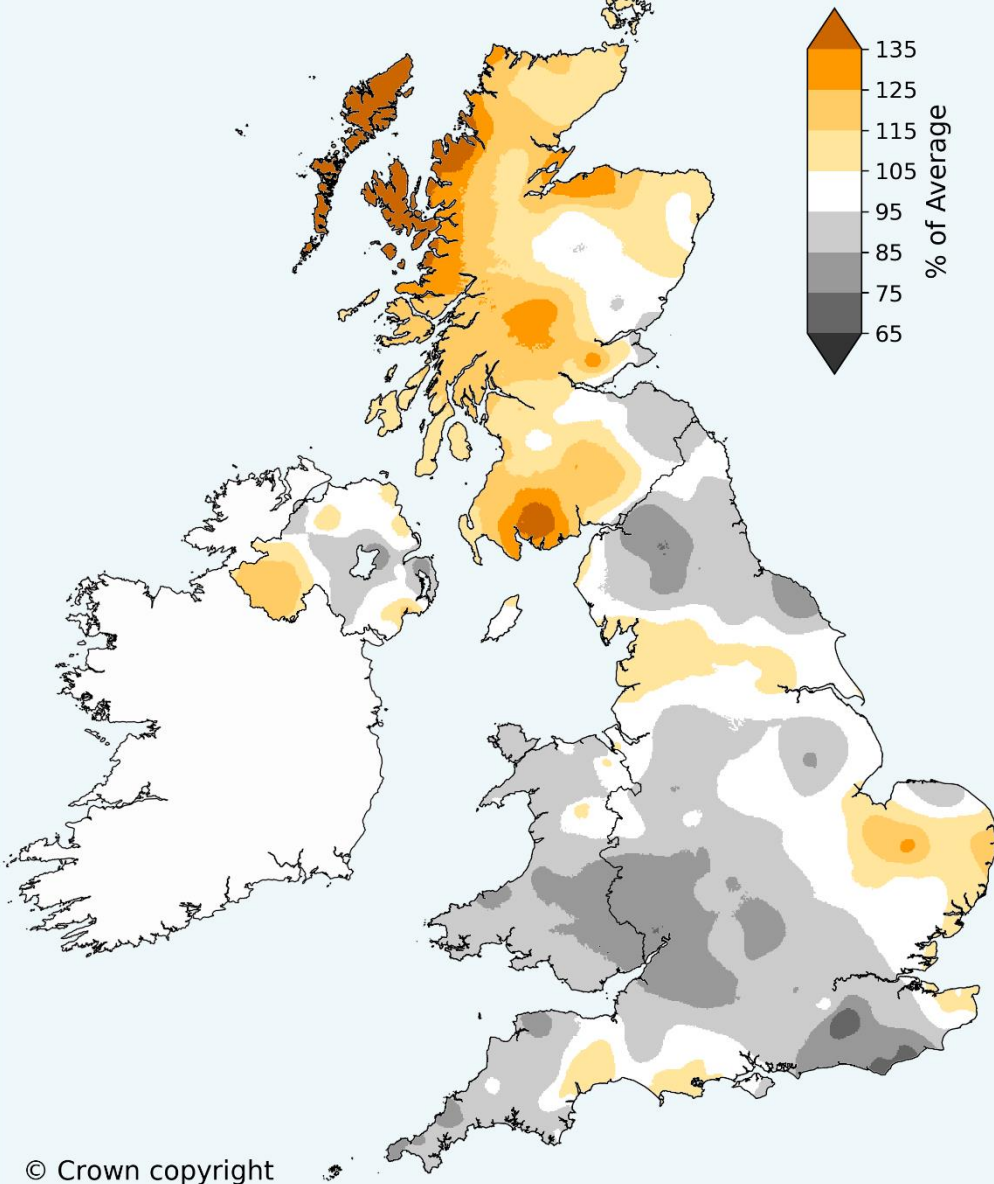
December 2023 and January 2024  
Rainfall Amount  
% of 1991-2020 Average



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December 2023 and January 2024  
Sunshine Duration  
% of 1991-2020 Average



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