Seasonal Assessment – Spring 2023

First 2 months – March and April 2023

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

The spring so far has seen temperatures generally close to average, with an alternation between colder and milder spells of weather. There was a notable cold spell in early March, and it was chilly for a time in late April. Altnaharra (Sutherland) recorded -16.0 °C on March 9th. Temperatures have also been above average at times, but any settled spells of weather have been short-lived, with only parts of north-west Scotland having been drier than average, and many parts of southern England have been quite wet over the spring so far.

Temperatures in March averaged out to near normal, though northern Scotland was slightly colder. Mean temperatures for March were equal to the long-term average. April also saw near-average temperatures generally, with Northern Ireland being slightly warmer than average, and UK monthly-mean temperatures were 0.1 °C below average.

Many areas in the southern half of the UK had more than double their average March rainfall, and only in north-west Scotland was rainfall appreciably below average. The overall UK rainfall total was 155% of average, making it provisionally the sixth wettest March in a series back to 1836. April rainfall totals were generally closer to average, again rather drier in some northern areas but rather wet in parts of the south and east, giving 97% of average UK rainfall overall.

Sunshine was in relatively short supply for many areas during March, particularly the south, with only parts of Scotland being the exception to this. Most northern and eastern areas had sunshine totals near or above average in April, but again some southern areas were duller. Sunshine totals for the UK overall were 74% of average in March and 102% of average in April.

UK statistical summary		
Mean temperature	Rainfall	Sunshine
The provisional mean value for	The provisional total for March	The provisional total for March
March and April is 6.7 °C, which is 0.1 °C below the	and April is 202 mm, which is 129% of the 1991-2020	and April is 239 hours, which is 90% of the 1991-2020
1991-2020 average.	average.	average.







