

ADAPTING TO THE 'NEW NORMAL' OF EXTREME WEATHER: SCALING UP WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY RESILIENCE

 **Digital Conference**

 **Tuesday 7th July 2026**



Key Speakers



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs
Stuart Armstrong (M.EPS)



Dan Suri



Olivia Shears



**Environment
Agency**

Caroline Douglass



UK Health
Security
Agency

Agostinho Moreira de Sousa



JESIP

Working Together – Saving Lives

Charlotte Lory

Overview

Extreme weather is no longer an isolated risk — it is a sustained and escalating challenge for the UK. Flooding, drought, heatwaves and major storms are increasing in frequency and intensity, placing growing pressure on critical infrastructure, public services, communities and business continuity.

January 2026 was among the wettest on record, with some areas receiving up to 170% of average monthly rainfall. River levels rose sharply, soils remain saturated and warnings of prolonged groundwater flooding underline how extreme weather events are becoming more severe, longer-lasting and less predictable. With the highest temperatures ever recorded for the month of May, the issue of extreme weather once again comes into sharp focus.

The UK Government's **Resilience Action Plan** sets out reforms to strengthen accountability, enhance Local Resilience Forum capability and embed a more coordinated, performance-driven approach to climate adaptation and extreme weather preparedness. The challenge now is turning policy ambition into practical delivery.

This timely digital conference brings together senior leaders from across government, emergency services, infrastructure and civil society to examine how to strengthen adaptation, protect critical systems, improve coordinated responses and embed a genuine whole-of-society approach to resilience.

Why Attend?

- Hear from senior policymakers and resilience leaders driving delivery of the UK Government's **Resilience Action Plan**
- Understand escalating climate risks — including record rainfall, flood exposure and infrastructure vulnerability — and explore how adaptation and coordinated flood defence delivery can mitigate impact
- Strengthen multi-agency emergency responses to increasingly complex and prolonged extreme weather incidents
- Discover how embedding a genuine whole-of-society approach can enhance societal resilience and protect vulnerable communities
- Interactive *Question Time* sessions with opportunities to engage with all speakers
- Share ideas with fellow participants from local authorities, local resilience forums, emergency planning / civil contingencies, the police, fire and rescue services, health, the private and third sectors
- *On Demand* – Exclusive access to speaker presentations and post-event resources



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Programme

09:30 AM	Delegate Online Login
10:00 AM	Introduction by Webinar Organiser
10:05 AM	Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks • Charlie Hall QPM, <i>Former Chief Constable, Hertfordshire Constabulary; Former National Police Strategic Lead, JESIP</i>
10:10 AM	Keynote Address: Adapting to the 'New Normal' of Extreme Weather – The National Picture ➤ Delivering the ambitions of the <i>Resilience Action Plan</i> in response to escalating climate risks ➤ Strengthening Local Resilience Forum capability and national consistency ➤ Embedding accountability and measurable progress across the resilience system ➤ Scaling up a whole-of-society approach to preparedness ➤ Looking to the future – Building a more adaptive, anticipatory and resilient UK • Stuart Armstrong (M.EPS), <i>Deputy Director for Water & Flooding Resilience & Emergencies Division, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs</i>
10:30 AM	Keynote Address: Questions and Discussion
10:50 AM	Comfort Break
11:00 AM	Panel Session One: Critical Systems and Climate Risk: Future-Proofing Infrastructure Resilience ➤ Assessing evolving projections for heat, flooding and severe weather, including the impact of prolonged and record rainfall ➤ Translating climate risk into long-term adaptation priorities within national and local resilience planning ➤ Strengthening critical national infrastructure resilience across transport, energy, water and digital systems ➤ Aligning investment — including nature-based and place-based solutions — with projected flood and heat risk ➤ Examining the role of the <i>Floods Resilience Taskforce</i> in accelerating delivery and improving national coordination • Olivia Shears, <i>Senior Analyst – Adaptation in the Built Environment, Climate Change Committee</i> • Dan Suri, <i>Chief Operational Meteorologist, Met Office</i> • Ben Rabb, <i>Technical Director for Climate Risk and Adaptation, JBA Consulting</i> • Caroline Douglass, <i>Executive Director of Flood and Coastal Risk Management (FCRM), Environment Agency; Member, Floods Resilience Taskforce</i>
12:10 AM	Panel Session One: Questions and Discussion
12:30 PM	Comfort Break

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1:15 PM	Programme Cont'd Panel Session Two: Command, Coordination and Communication: Strengthening the Multi-Agency Response to Extreme Weather Events ➤ Enhancing multi-agency coordination across emergency services, local government, public health, transport and voluntary and private sector partners ➤ Embedding core joint response principles — shared situational awareness, coordinated communication and timely decision-making during complex and prolonged incidents ➤ Delivering timely warnings and clear public messaging throughout fast-moving and extended extreme weather events ➤ Safeguarding essential services, critical supply chains and business continuity ➤ Ensuring an effective transition from response to recovery, capturing lessons to strengthen future resilience • Agostinho Moreira de Sousa, <i>Head of Extreme Events and Health Protection, UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA)</i> • Charlotte Lory, <i>National Transformation Lead, JESIP</i> • Edith Baker, <i>Senior Resilience Officer, London Resilience Unit</i>
1:50 PM	Panel Session Two: Questions and Discussion
2:10 PM	Comfort Break
2:20 PM	Panel Session Three: Scaling Up Whole-of-Society Resilience: Transforming Rhetoric into Reality ➤ Embedding a genuine whole-of-society approach to resilience by clarifying roles and responsibilities across government, infrastructure providers, businesses and communities ➤ Strengthening public risk literacy and preparedness during extreme weather events ➤ Protecting communities disproportionately affected by heat, flooding and prolonged disruption ➤ Co-producing locally grounded resilience strategies with community and voluntary sector partners ➤ Building sustainable local capacity beyond emergency response to support long-term societal resilience • Jon Vangoroph, <i>Head of Partnership Insight, VCS Emergencies Partnership</i> • Sulafa Abushal, <i>Strategic Policy Lead (Whole of Society Resilience), Greater Manchester Combined Authority</i> • Summer Wyatt-Buchan, <i>Climate Adaptation and Resilience Manager, UK Resilience Directorate, British Red Cross</i>
3:10 PM	Panel Session Three: Questions and Discussion
3:30 PM	Final Questions and Chair's Summary & Closing Comments
3:40 PM	End of Digital Conference

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1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
Total no. places:		

Invoicing Details:

Name of Key Contact:	Job Title:
Organisation Name:	Department:
Address:	Postcode:
Email Address:	Telephone No:
Accounts Dept. Contact:	Telephone No:
Purchase Order No:	Cost Centre Code (if applicable):

Card Payments:

Government Procurement Card (GPC) ☐	MasterCard ☐	VISA / VISA Debit ☐
Cardholder:	Postcode:	Total Amount: £ + VAT (at 20%)
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