

To: Kent Flood Risk & Water Management Committee – 4th March 2026

From: Rebecca Spore, Director of Infrastructure, Chief Executive's Directorate

Subject: KCC severe weather response activity.

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To update Kent Flood Risk & Water Management Committee on the severe weather alerts and warnings received from the Met Office and Environment Agency, and corresponding KCC response activity since the last meeting of the Committee on 29th October 2025 for the period October 2025 to December 2025

1. Background

1.1 This report provides the latest update to the Committee on the water-related alerts received by Kent County Council and the corresponding incident response activity led by the Resilience & Emergency Planning Service through the role of the Duty Emergency Planning Officer (DEPO). It outlines recent severe weather events, and the operational actions taken to mitigate associated risks.

1.2 The Environment Agency (EA) and Met Office send 24/7 regular alerts and warnings regarding severe weather to a list of recipients including the KCC Duty Emergency Planning Officer (DEPO), KCC Highways Senior Duty Officer and the Contact Point. The DEPO is also alerted to site-specific severe weather impacts by the emergency services and other resilience partners, with reports from the public received by Contact Point. KCC further initiates reporting using Severe Weather Impacts System (SWIMS) to capture multi-agency resources and costs arising from severe weather incidents.

1.3 Across the county, 85,500 residential and commercial addresses are recognised to be in areas at risk from fluvial (river) or tidal (coastal) flooding. Where possible, flood vulnerable properties are offered a Flood Warning Service by the EA. An early warning of flood risk to communities (including areas outside of floodplains) is delivered by Flood Guidance Statements, Severe Weather Warnings and the activation of a multi-agency Severe Weather Advisory Group (SWAG) by Kent and Medway Resilience Forum (KMRF) partner agencies.

2. Alerts received by KCC

2.1 Flood alerts:

There were 30 alerts received between October 2025 and December 2025, with 29 Flood Alerts and 1 Flood Guidance Statement. A list of locations covered by these alerts can be found in **Appendix 1**.

A full list of flood alerts and warnings comparison to previous quarters and years can be found in **Appendix 2**. A visual representation of the flooding areas and comparison to the same quarter last year can be found in **Appendix 4**.

2.2 Weather alerts:

Between October 2025 and December 2025 there were a total of 7 Weather Alerts. These were divided in the following categories:

- Rain alert - 3 alerts
- Ice warning – 1 alert
- Wind warning - 2 alert
- Fog warning - 1 alert

2.3 Thames Barrier:

The Thames Barrier was closed on three different occasions for testing purposes on:

- 9th October 2025
- 10th November 2025
- 9th December 2025

More details on weather warnings, Thames Barrier closures and comparison with previous quarters can be found in **Appendix 3**. A full comparison with graphs of type of alerts received, and flood alert areas can be found in **Appendix 5**.

3. Recent Incident Response

3.1 Actions taken in response to flooding incidents:

During this quarter, the DEPO was only required to manage minor incidents, with the actions taken including:

- Monitoring the situation
- Liaising with other responding agencies
- Deploying additional resources, such as the Community Wardens to support the Voluntary Sector Agencies on the ground, conducting checks for the vulnerable.
- Activate Severe Weather Advisory Group (SWAG) meetings to share information with other responding agencies

3.2 Additional incidents of note:

Between October and December, Kent experienced three water supply disruption incidents, alongside one further minor event later in the year:

- The first incident occurred on 20 October 2025 , when a burst water main resulted in the loss of supply to approximately 115 properties in the Sevenoaks area.
- A second outage took place on 6 November 2025 , affecting around 30 properties across Maidstone and Tonbridge & Malling.
 - This incident raised particular concern due to its proximity to vulnerable settings, including the Heart of Kent Hospice, the Royal British Legion Village, and Appleton Lodge Care Home.
 - Kent County Council (KCC) worked closely with responding agencies to monitor any impacts on these settings and support mitigation measures.
- The most significant incident during this quarter occurred on 29 November 2025 in the Tunbridge Wells area, with disruption to 24,000 properties
 - Care and education settings were affected, along with social care clients in their own homes.
 - KCC declared a Major Incident, due to the need to put in place special arrangements to manage the impact.
 - Disruption, including loss of supply, low pressure, and a Boil Water notice continued until 9 December 2025 , requiring sustained multiagency coordination and response.-agency coordination and response.
 - KCC supported Tunbridge Wells Borough Council to lead the response.
 - A Short Focussed Inquiry will be held by KCC, covering this and other outages in the following quarter, reporting back to Scrutiny Committee in May 2026.
- In addition, one minor incident was recorded on 26 December 2025 , involving a smallscale water outage in Sevenoaks with limited impact.-scale water outage in Sevenoaks

Throughout all water supply incidents, KCC's Duty Emergency Planning Officer (DEPO) and relevant services were fully engaged in the response. Command and control strictures were established where appropriate to manage the response, ensuring that risks to vulnerable residents and critical services were identified, monitored, and managed effectively.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Members to make note of the warnings received since the last meeting of the Committee; contribute to further planning, and comply with response policy and practice through oversight and debate.

5. Contact Details

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Appendix 1: Flood Alerts and Warnings per Area

There were 26 flooding alerts across 16 areas identified for this quarter.

Fluvial alerts

Warning area	Flood alerts Oct - Dec 2025	Flood warnings Oct - Dec 2025	Flood alerts & warnings Oct - Dec 2024
Upper River Stour	1	-	4
Lower River Stour	-	-	-
Tidal River Stour	-	-	-
River Darent	1	-	1
River Cray & Shuttle	-	-	1
River Rother	2	-	-
Tidal Rother	-	-	3
River Beult	-	-	1
River Teise and Lesser Teise	1	-	3
River Bourne	-	-	2
Rivers Eden and Eden Brook	2	-	4
Tidal Medway, Medway estuary	2	-	3
Lower River Medway	2	-	2
Upper River Medway	2	-	3
Middle River Medway	1	-	1
River Medway, Teise & Beult at Yalding	-	-	-
Tidal Thames (From Dartford Creek to Thames Barrier)	-	-	-
Rivers of the Isle of Sheppey	-	-	1
Pent stream	-	-	-
Kent	-	-	-
TOTAL	14	0	29

Coastal alerts

Warning area	Flood alerts Oct - Dec 2025	Flood warnings Oct - Dec 2025	Flood alerts & warnings Oct - Dec 2024
Isle of Sheppey and Coast from Kemsley to Seasalter	5	-	3
Coast from Ramsgate to Kingsdown	2	-	2
Coast from St Margaret's at Cliffe to Sandgate	2	-	3
Coast from Dartford to Allhallows	2	-	3
Coast from Whitstable to Margate	2	-	3
Coast from Sandgate to Dungeness	1	-	1
Coast from Fairlight to Dungeness (including tidal Rother)	1	-	-
Coast from Littlestone Golf Course to Dungeness	-	-	-
TOTAL	15	0	15

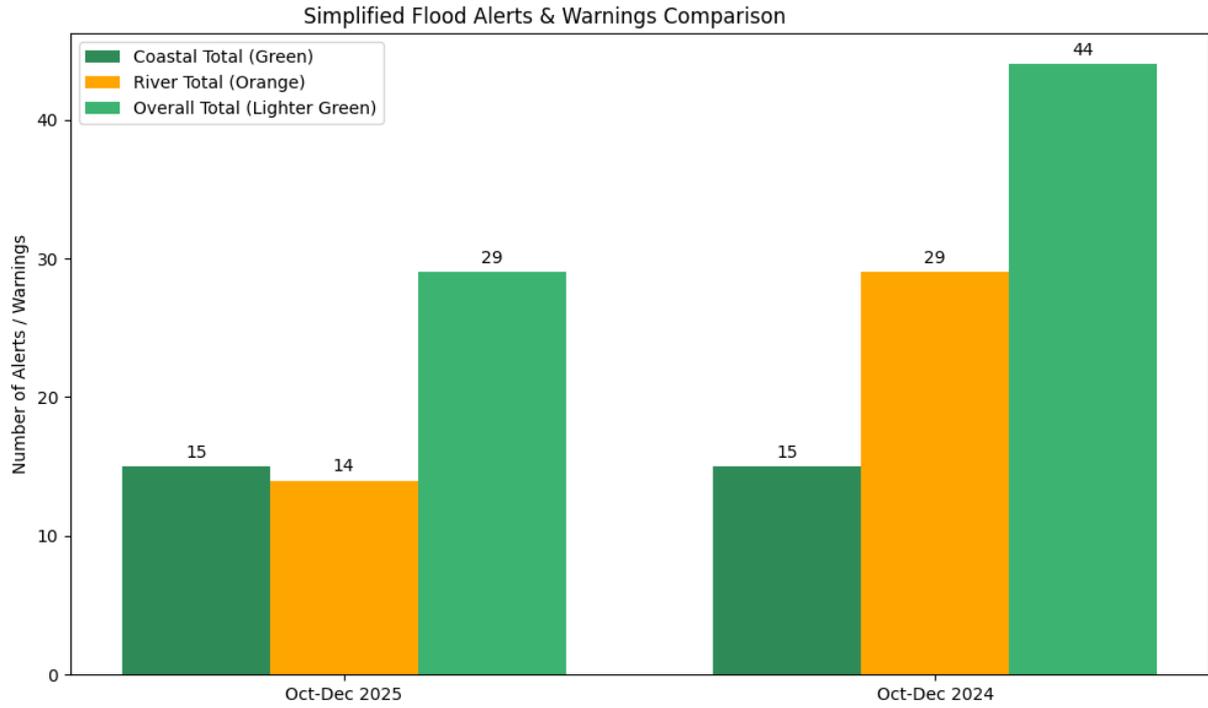
Please note, the Environment Agency has advised that minor discrepancies may appear in the data due to their transition to a new system in late October 2025. Some variation between datasets is therefore possible during this changeover period. As the EA is now fully operating within the new system, such discrepancies are not expected going forward.

Appendix 2: Flood Alerts and Warnings Quarter comparison

Table Comparison of Floods Alerts and Warnings

Time period	Coastal alerts	Coastal warning	Total Coastal	River Alerts	River Warnings	River Total	Kent wide	Overall total
Current quarter (Oct – Dec 2025)	15	0	15	14	0	14	0	29
Previous quarter (Jul – Sep 2025)	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	3
Quarter (Apr – Jun 2025)	0	0	0	3	0	3	2	5
Quarter (Jan – Mar 2025)	11	1	12	32	5	37	3	52
Quarter (Oct – Dec 2024)	15	0	15	29	0	29	0	44
Quarter (Jul – Sep 2024)	1	0	1	14	3	17	0	18
Apr – Jun 2024	18	1	19	10	1	11	0	30
Jan – Mar 2024	5	0	5	84	5	89	0	94
Previous year (Jan – Dec 2024)	79	2	81	144	9	153	0	234
Jan – Dec 2023	39	0	39	74	2	76	0	115
Jan – Dec 2022	41	1	42	68	11	79	0	121

Graph Comparison of Flood Alerts and Warnings October – December 2024 & 2025



Appendix 3: Weather Warnings and Thames Barrier Closures

Weather Warnings - Jul to Sep 2025 compared with previous quarters

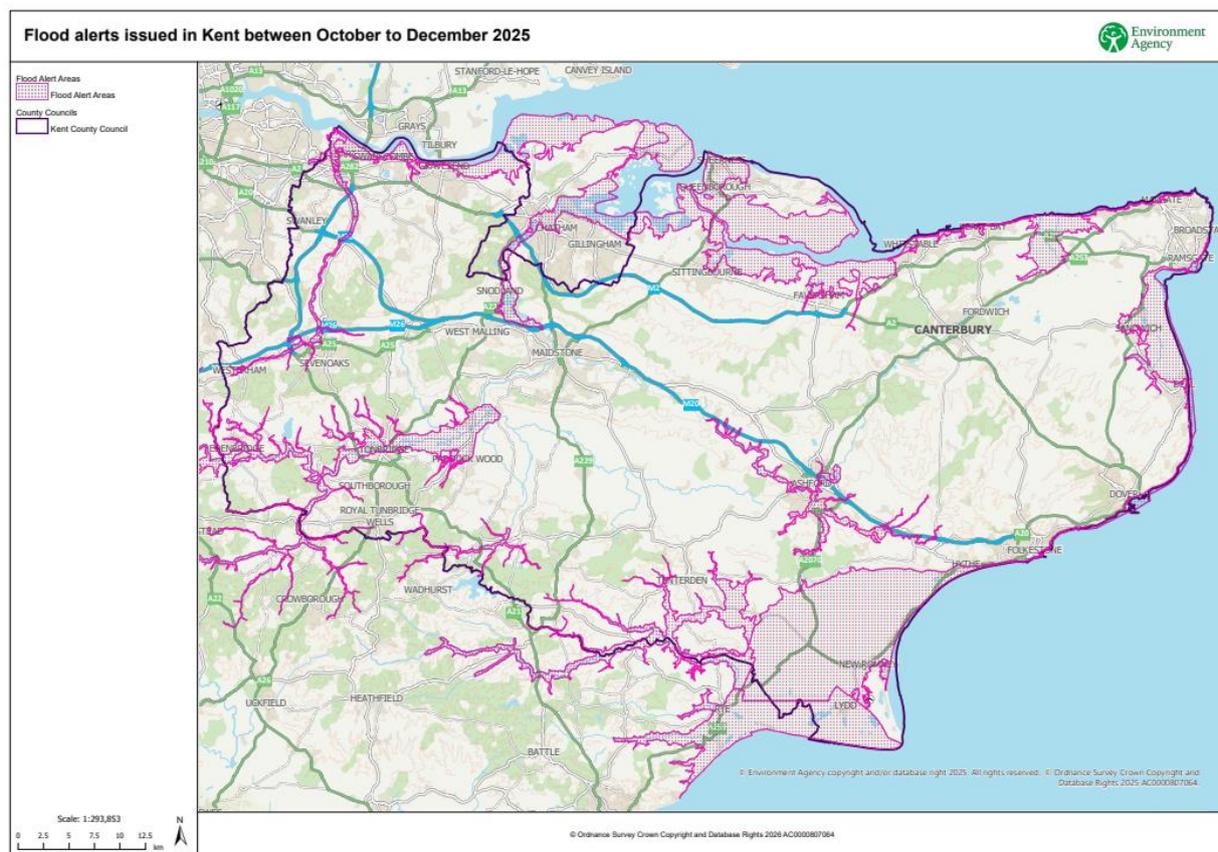
Weather	Number of Warnings	Number of Events
Current quarter Oct – Dec 2025		
Severe weather - yellow	5	-
Thunderstorm	-	-
Rain	2	-
Fog	-	-
Ice	-	-
Wind	-	-
Heath-health	-	-
Cold-health	-	-
Last year quarter Oct - Dec 2024		
Severe weather yellow	8	-
Thunderstorm	-	-
Rain	-	-
Fog	-	-
Ice	-	-
Wind	-	-
Heath-health	-	-
Cold-health	3	-

3.2 Thames Barrier Closures - July to September 2025 comparison with equivalent quarter previous year

	Current quarter Oct - Dec 2025	Previous year for respective quarter Oct - Dec 2024
Operational closures	-	-
Test closures	3	3

Appendix 4: Map of flooding areas across Kent

Current quarter (Oct - Dec 2025) map of alerts and warnings



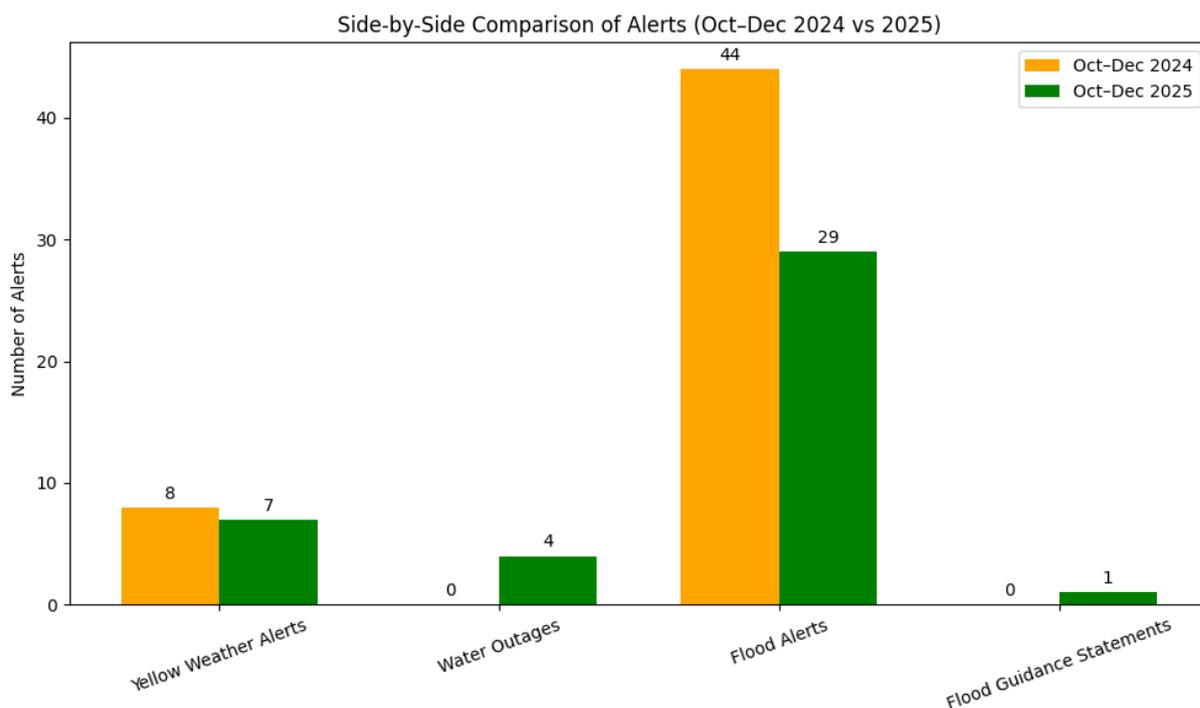
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Appendix 5: Type and number of alerts received between the current quarter (October to December 2025), and previous year equivalent quarter (October to December 2024) – Table 1.

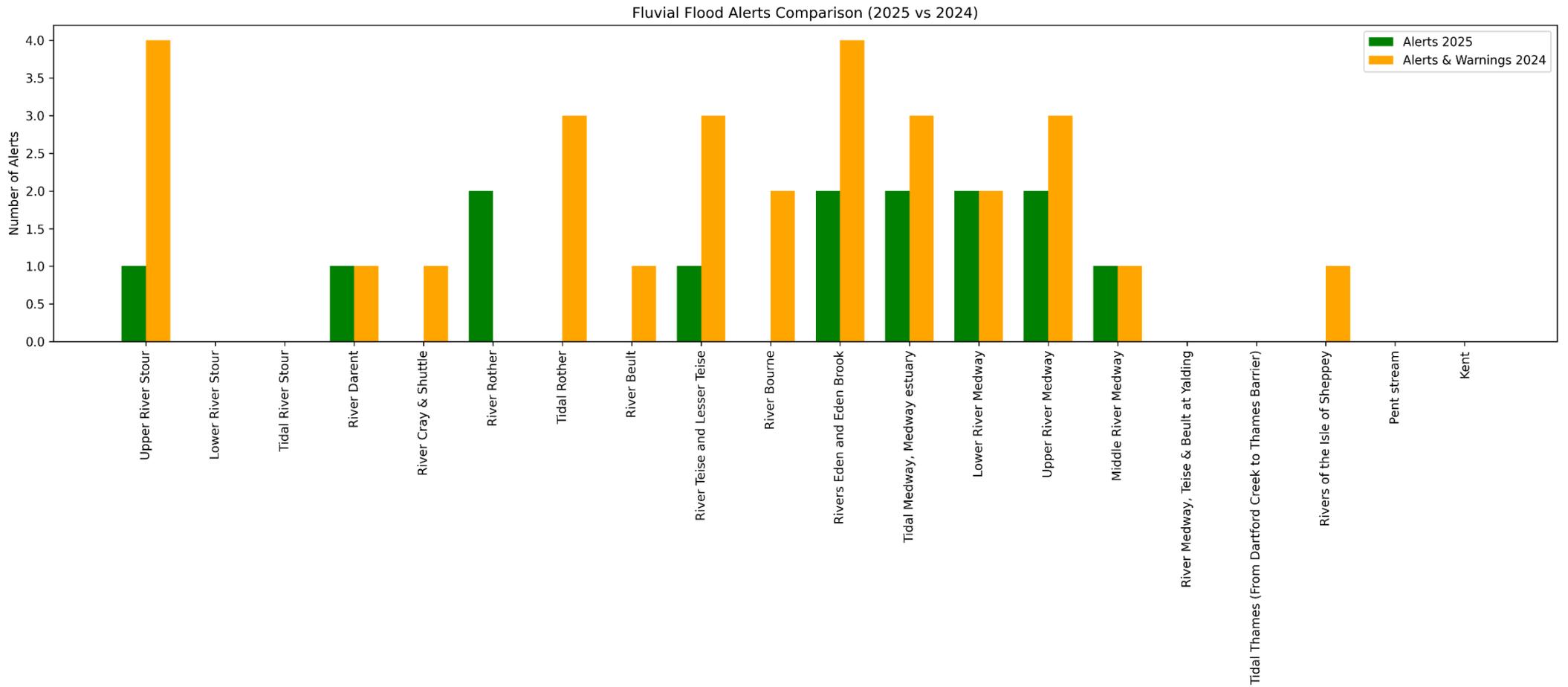
Table 1

Alert type	Alerts Oct - Dec 2025	Received from	Alerts previous year Oct – Dec 2024
Weather Alert	7	Met Office	8
Weather Warning	-	Met Office	-
Severe Weather Warning	-	Met Office	-
Alert type	Alerts Oct - Dec 2025	Received from	Alerts previous year Oct - Dec 2024
Water outages	4	SE Water, KMRF, KCC	-
Flood alerts	29	Environment Agency	44
Flood warnings	-	Environment Agency	-
Severe flood warnings	-	Environment Agency	-
Flood Guidance Statement	1	Flood Forecasting Centre	-

Graph Comparison of Type of Alerts Received



Graph Illustrating Flood Alerts Areas: Fluvial



Coastal

Coastal Flood Alerts Comparison (2025 vs 2024)

