



How does the UK Met Office National Climate Information Centre provide a UK climate service?

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The observations annex to the Global Framework for Climate Services states “For effective climate services to be delivered, observations of appropriate types and of adequate quality and quantity must be made, and these observations must be available at the right place and at the right time.” As an authoritative source of UK climate statistics, the Met Office National Climate Information Centre (NCIC) is a key component of the UK’s national ‘climate service’. A core activity of NCIC is the maintenance of UK historical climate records and gridded datasets to provide a long-term homogeneous record of national-scale climate variability. However a key measure of our success is not only the observations and statistics, but how effectively products and services derived from these observations are made available to those who need them. This latter activity is essential to ensure the government, public, and private sector can understand the potential impacts of climate variability and change.

To this end we will discuss the challenges faced and examples of how the NCIC at the Met Office, in collaboration with others, work to produce and disseminate a range of climate products. These include: timely, up-to-date climate monitoring information; the latest evidence for changes in UK climate; climatological context for developing extreme events; and working in partnerships to enable the UK to manage and respond to natural hazards. This will draw on a number of recent examples following a particularly interesting sequence of climate events affecting the UK in recent years.