



An assessment of the quality of near real time gridded monthly and daily rainfall products over Ireland

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Met Éireann produces gridded daily, monthly, seasonal and annual rainfall products for Ireland. These datasets are produced after all rainfall data has been received and quality controlled, typically products are not available until four months after the data are received. The vast majority of rainfall stations are operated by voluntary manual observers, where a rainfall reading is taken once a day at 0900UTC and send in by post at the end of each month, while 25 synoptic stations provide data on a real time basis. There is a growing demand for more up to date rainfall products to support customers in the hydrological community. In an effort to increase the volume of data available for near real time analysis a facility has been introduced whereby rainfall observers can transmit their daily readings by text message or email at the time the readings are taken.

To date approximately 100 observers have agreed to supply data in this manner, however the number varies from day to day. These data are combined with data from the 25 synoptic stations to produce an experimental daily gridded rainfall dataset in near real time, and a preliminary gridded monthly total at the end of each month, there is also a facility to include third party data. This paper presents an analysis of the quality of these preliminary gridded datasets compared with those generated from the full observational dataset, and suggestions to improve the quality of the preliminary datasets.