

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



 **Digital Conference**

 **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2026**



## Key Speakers



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

 **Met Office**

Dan Suri



**NFCC**  
National Fire  
Chiefs Council

Alex Woodman



Caroline Douglass



Summer Wyatt-Buchan



Jon Vangorh

## 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.

This winter alone, 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.

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
10:10 AM	<b>Keynote Address:</b> <b>Adapting to the 'New Normal' of Extreme Weather – The National Picture</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Delivering the ambitions of the <i>Resilience Action Plan</i> in response to escalating climate risks</li><li>➤ Strengthening Local Resilience Forum capability and national consistency</li><li>➤ Embedding accountability and measurable progress across the resilience system</li><li>➤ Scaling up a whole-of-society approach to preparedness</li><li>➤ Looking to the future – Building a more adaptive, anticipatory and resilient UK</li></ul>
10:30 AM	<b>Keynote Address: Questions and Discussion</b>
10:50 AM	<b>Comfort Break</b>
11:00 AM	<b>Panel Session One:</b> <b>Critical Systems and Climate Risk: Future-Proofing Infrastructure Resilience</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Assessing evolving projections for heat, flooding and severe weather, including the impact of prolonged and record rainfall</li><li>➤ Translating climate risk into long-term adaptation priorities within national and local resilience planning</li><li>➤ Strengthening critical national infrastructure resilience across transport, energy, water and digital systems</li><li>➤ Aligning investment — including nature-based and place-based solutions — with projected flood and heat risk</li><li>➤ Examining the role of the <i>Floods Resilience Taskforce</i> in accelerating delivery and improving national coordination</li></ul>
11:50 AM	<b>Panel Session One: Questions and Discussion</b>
12:15 PM	<b>Comfort Break</b>

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<p><b>1:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Programme Cont'd</b></p> <p><b>Panel Session Two: Command, Coordination and Communication: Strengthening the Multi-Agency Response to Extreme Weather Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Enhancing multi-agency coordination across emergency services, local government, public health, transport and voluntary and private sector partners</li> <li>➤ Embedding core joint response principles — shared situational awareness, coordinated communication and timely decision-making during complex and prolonged incidents</li> <li>➤ Delivering timely warnings and clear public messaging throughout fast-moving and extended extreme weather events</li> <li>➤ Safeguarding essential services, critical supply chains and business continuity</li> <li>➤ Ensuring an effective transition from response to recovery, capturing lessons to strengthen future resilience</li> </ul>
<p><b>1:50 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Panel Session Two: Questions and Discussion</b></p>
<p><b>2:10 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Comfort Break</b></p>
<p><b>2:20 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Panel Session Three: Scaling Up Whole-of-Society Resilience: Transforming Rhetoric into Reality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Embedding a genuine whole-of-society approach to resilience by clarifying roles and responsibilities across government, infrastructure providers, businesses and communities</li> <li>➤ Strengthening public risk literacy and preparedness during extreme weather events</li> <li>➤ Protecting communities disproportionately affected by heat, flooding and prolonged disruption</li> <li>➤ Co-producing locally grounded resilience strategies with community and voluntary sector partners</li> <li>➤ Building sustainable local capacity beyond emergency response to support long-term societal resilience</li> </ul>
<p><b>3:10 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Panel Session Three: Questions and Discussion</b></p>
<p><b>3:30 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Final Questions and Chair's Summary &amp; Closing Comments</b></p>
<p><b>3:40 PM</b></p>	<p><b>End of Online Conference</b></p>



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## DELEGATE REGISTRATION FORM

DELEGATE FEES [price per place]						
BOOKING & PAYMENT OPTIONS:	1 PLACE		2-4 PLACES		5+ PLACES	
Online Registration with Card Payment – <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 245 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 215 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 175 + vat
Offline Registration with Card Payment – Complete form below	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 245 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 215 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 175 + vat
Register by Phone with Card Payment – Tel: 01753 373096	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 245 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 215 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 175 + vat
Raise Purchase Order / Pay by Invoice – Complete form below	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 295 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 265 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 225 + vat

Delegate Name:	Job Title:	Email Address:
1.		
2.		
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6.		
<b>Total no. places:</b>		

### Invoicing Details:

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

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Government Procurement Card (GPC) <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard	<input type="checkbox"/> VISA / VISA Debit
Cardholder:	Postcode:	Total Amount: £ ..... + VAT (at 20%)
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Date:	Signature:	

### Other Payment Methods:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Please Invoice my organisation £ ..... + VAT (at 20%) quoting Purchase Order No. ....
<input type="checkbox"/>	Electronic / BACS Remittance of £ ..... + VAT (at 20%) to Nat West Bank Plc, Sort Code: 60-24-12 Account No: 88880419 Please email remittance advice to <a href="mailto:accounts@policyforesight.com">accounts@policyforesight.com</a> or fax to 020 3633 5766
<input type="checkbox"/>	I enclose a cheque in the sum of £ ..... + VAT (at 20%) made payable to <b>Policy Foresight Ltd</b> Please send cheque quoting event code 260429 to Policy Foresight Ltd, Castle Hill House, 12 Castle Hill, Windsor, SL4 1PD A VAT invoice will be issued on receipt of payment. VAT No: 295 4260 81

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