



12 July 2018

Sent by email:

Dear Ms Creagh,

Thank you for your letter of 05 July about the current heatwave.

As you will recall, heat health alerts are issued when there is a probability of temperatures exceeding a regional threshold for a period of at least two days and the night in between. Public Health England and the UK Meteorological Office (Met Office) issued a level two hot weather alert (60% probability of meeting heatwave temperature thresholds) on 26 June for four regions of England. Level two alerts have since been issued at different times and for different durations in all regions of England, reflecting the regional variation in temperatures. Level three alerts (90% probability of meeting heatwave threshold temperatures) have so far been issued only for the southeast and southwest for the period 02 to 03 July.

We are monitoring death registration data for any evidence of impact on mortality for the current heatwave. Based on weekly death registration data from the Office for National Statistics, no significant excess above death rates expected for this time of year has been seen up to the week ending 01 July 2018.

Our real-time syndromic surveillance systems allow a rapid measure of calls to NHS 111 and consultations with GPs. These services have seen increases in calls and consultations for a range of conditions including sunburn, heat/sun stroke and insect bites. This is in line with that expected in any heatwave and similar to the peak seen during the hot weather in May of this year. A summary of these systems is published every Thursday and today's bulletin is appended for your reference. Overall, calls and consultations by over 75 year olds are currently within levels expected for the current weather conditions. We will be monitoring this as we progress through the heatwave.

Yours sincerely,

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