

# EXACTAWEATHER



## **Exacta Weather UK & Ireland – Winter Weather Forecast 2016/17**

### **Mixed Winter Pattern With Some 'Very Potent' Cold/Snowy/Icy Blasts!**

#### **Preliminary Winter 2016/17 Outlook/Summary**

The upcoming 2016/17 winter period for the UK and Ireland is likely to deliver a mixed pattern of alternating weather types from near normal/mild temperatures to cold/very cold temperature swings. However, as with in recent years of the more mild and stormy weather dominating proceedings, we are expecting some sort of a reversal to a more dominant theme from the colder weather this time around, in particular, in the northern half of the country.

Even some southern parts and the capital should have some winter weather to actually talk about this year, and despite being much milder at times in these parts. Some uncertainty remains as to the southern half of the country and as to whether more near normal temperatures may prevail over above-average this year, and this could change the outlook to something of more of a wintry and colder nature at a later point in the forecasting period for these parts. However, we do fully expect an above-average amount of wintry and icy blasts throughout this winter, and they are likely to be of some considerable potency to anything we have experienced in recent years.

Our forecasting analysis and the stage of solar activity we are at also favour a more negative trending Arctic Oscillation (AO) and North Atlantic (NAO) for the upcoming winter period, and an early indication of things going to plan should be visible in the well above normal snow cover in Eurasia this autumn. These factors will also contribute to a blocking pattern that will allow easterly and north easterly winds to dominate with numerous snow events throughout December and January of this winter. A notable snowy period for the diary includes the second half of December on current indications – however, some damp and very unsettled spells of weather could make for some soggy conditions at times either side of this cold period. A

white/cold Christmas period could be on the cards?

January is favoured for many a cold blast and coverings of snow for many this year on current indications and some southern areas may also see some of their heaviest and notable falls of snow in years after Christmas. Further north and the conditions will be far more treacherous at times and many school closings and travel problems could occur with some lying snow on the ground for at least several days on end at certain times. Snow drifts of at least several feet could also become a problem in many northern and western areas within this period, and they are also likely to produce some newsworthy events. We place over a 50% chance that this period could be similar in nature to that of December 2010 or March 2013. Interestingly February is likely to be somewhat milder than the January period, but it could still be on the cold side in terms of a number of potential ice storms as ice Siberian winds struggle to shift and further widespread snow events could occur across the country throughout the month.

Although we do expect a mix of milder or near normal temperatures at times throughout this winter, we don't expect them to be totally dominant and we therefore favour a colder than average winter for the northern half of the country. However, as we explained with the uncertainty for more southern areas in terms of their temperature, we currently favour more near to above-average temperatures for these parts, and this is where the Central England Temperature (CET) is a more dominant feature. This could technically make things look very different this winter on the basis of this key statistic (CET) and not in actual reality to what occurs within areas further north and ample widespread snow events for the whole of the country. We also use this statistic (CET) within all our seasonal and month ahead reports as it is the oldest recorded dataset in the world. Finally, we also favour a more near to below-average winter in terms of overall rainfall amounts (drier than average for most) and we expect sunshine amounts to come in at more near to above-average overall.

### **December**

Mixed them of near normal to mild conditions and cold to very cold spell in the second half of the month that could bring a white festive period and an icy end to the new year. Rain and snow in the mix from the alternating conditions and gradually more later.

### **January**

Much colder than December and much more wintry – widespread and frequent snow events for many including southern parts of the UK and Ireland (possibly heaviest in years). Blizzards and snow drifts further north and a quite cold month overall.

### **February**

Milder than January but with a continuation of some wintry and snow events as cold Siberian air slowly filters back away from our shores to let in some milder and damp/rainy conditions.



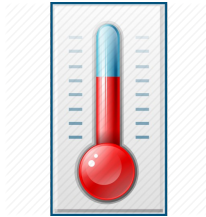
Scotland – Colder than average winter with LOTS/above normal snow events this year

Northern Ireland – Near to below-average winter with near to above normal snow events

Ireland – Near-average winter with above normal snow events

Wales –Near to below-average winter with above normal snow events

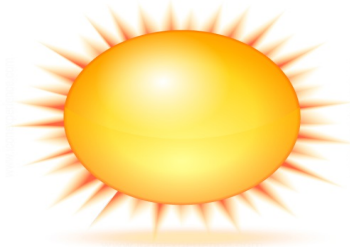
England – Near to below-average – significant NORTHERN and SOUTHERN half divide in temperatures



**Temperatures (CET) – More near to below-average (significant north/south divide)**



**Rainfall – Near to below-average**



**Sunshine Amounts – Near to above-average**

**Please also allow for deviations in exact timing for certain weather events and note that the TV forecasts often don't pick up on these until the last minute!**

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