

The Health Resort Scheme

The Health Resort Scheme helps to publicise holiday resorts via the national newspapers. Some of these sites are particularly valuable, as they are in data-sparse areas. The observation is made each day at 5 p.m. and is a summary of the weather at your station.

Note: 5 p.m. refers to actual clock time, regardless of whether BST or UTC is operating.

Send your observation in the Evening Coded Message (ECM) format, as follows.

ii MMMSS mmsss RRRdd rrrTT DDD

The symbols represent the following variables

ii	Station Identification Number for the Health Resort Scheme
MMM	Maximum air temperature (°C and tenths) read at 5 p.m. today. Add 50 to the absolute value for negative temperatures, e.g. -1.0 is coded 510
SS	Amount of sunshine between 5 p.m. and sunset yesterday (hours and tenths)
mm	Minimum air temperature read at 0900 UTC today (°C). Add 50 to the absolute value for negative temperatures, e.g. -5 °C is coded 55

Note: when the temperature reading is exactly halfway between two whole numbers, round it to the odd number (e.g. 2.5 °C and 3.5 °C are both coded 3 °C)

sss Amount of sunshine between sunrise and 5 p.m. today (hours and tenths), e.g. 2.4 hours is 024; 12.4 hours is 124

RRR Amount of rainfall between 5 p.m. yesterday and 0900 UTC today (mm and tenths), e.g. 3.2 mm is shown as 032; 35.0 mm as 350; trace is reported as 999

dd Used to describe extra features of the day's weather from the list, but use 00 if none apply

rrr Amount of rainfall between 0900 UTC and 5 p.m. today (mm and tenths)

TT Dry-bulb temperature at 5 p.m. today (whole °C)

DDD The first D is a code number to indicate when the weather reported in the second and third D occurred, i.e. 1 = AM (8 a.m. — noon), 2 = PM (noon — 5 p.m.), 3 = ALL DAY; the second and third Ds are a code chosen from the list to describe today's weather

Weather description: coding dd and DD

The aim is to give a reasonably accurate picture of today's weather as experienced by anyone outdoors between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Choose a code from the list below — normally in decreasing order of priority — according to the guidance on page 3.

Code	Weather description
01	THUNDER
02	SNOW
03	HAIL
04	SLEET
05	SHOWERS
06	RAIN
07	GALE
08	SUNNY
09	FOG
10	DRIZZLE
11	BRIGHT
12	DULL
13	CLOUDY

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- ✓ Code 01–05 will normally require AM or PM to be added.
Code 06–11 will often require AM or PM to be added.
Only use 12 or 13 when they apply for the whole day.
 - ✓ You must have a good reason to ignore the codes provided. For example, if there has been just an hour of rain in the morning while the rest of the day has been sunny, use SUNNY (perhaps SUNNY PM). If there were just a couple of light rain showers and the rest of the day was bright, use BRIGHT.
 - ✓ If there has been any thunder, snow or hail, however briefly, ALWAYS use codes 01, 02 or 03 (in that order of priority).
 - ✓ Sometimes it is difficult to make a clear-cut decision, such as a wet morning and sunny afternoon. Use your discretion as to which seems more noteworthy, remembering that an '8 a.m. to 5 p.m. day' means p.m. is one hour longer than a.m.

These terms have specific meanings in the ECM

- ✓ SHOWERS can describe both 'sunshine and showers' and 'dull weather with rain on and off'. However, if the rain is persistent/semi-persistent, then RAIN should be used.
- ✓ BRIGHT is used when the sun is in and out of the clouds; SUNNY would be rather overstating the conditions.
- ✓ DULL is used for a gloomy, overcast day.
- ✓ CLOUDY is used when a little brightness occurs every now and again.
- ✓ Both DULL and CLOUDY should only be used when no other description applies. Ignore a few spots of rain or any fog observed in just the first hour of the morning.

Sometimes you may feel that you really need two words to describe the day's weather. Follow the above guidance to define one part of the weather in 'DD', then use the number representing the other part of the weather in 'dd'.

Measuring sunshine at 5 p.m. (clock time)

These notes apply if you change your sunshine cards at 5 p.m. clock time for the ECM.

- ✓ If the sun is shining when you change the card, draw a vertical pencil line across the card through the image of the sun. If the sun is not shining, then draw a vertical pencil line across the card at the same position as the line on the card for the previous day. This pencil line divides the sunshine measurements for sunrise to 5 p.m. today from those for 5 p.m. to sunset yesterday.

Note: The sunshine recorder shows Local Apparent Time; the pencil line will usually coincide with a particular hour line on the card.

- ✓ Write the duration of the burn from sunrise to the pencil line on the front of the card, together with the date on which the card was removed from the sunshine recorder. This represents today's sunshine — sss — in the ECM.
- ✓ Write the duration of the burn from the pencil line to sunset on the front of the card, together with the date when the card was put into the sunshine recorder. This represents yesterday's sunshine — SS — in the ECM.

Sending your ECM by telephone

- ✓ Prepare your coded report to send as soon as possible after 5 p.m. clock time.

Dial the system (here is an example)

System: "Welcome to the Met Office data-capture system. Please enter your station identification number."

Press the appropriate keys on your telephone, e.g. '02'.

System: "Thank you. Please enter the maximum temperature group."

Key in the first five-figure coded group, e.g. '07200'.

System: "The maximum temperature has been entered as zero seven two zero zero. Key '1' if this is correct, or any other number to try again."

If the group is not correct, press any key except '1' on the keypad to try again, or press '1' to confirm.

System: "Please enter the maximum temperature group."

Key in the first five-figure coded group again, e.g. '07200'.

The system voice will read the five figures back to you. If the group is correct this time, press '1' on the keypad. The dialogue will continue as follows.

System: "Please enter the sunshine group."

Key in the second five-figure coded group, e.g. '04012'.

System: "The sunshine has been entered as zero four zero one two. Key '1' if this is correct, or any other number to try again."

If it is correct key, '1' and continue, or key any other number to put the group in correctly.

The system will continue by asking for the remaining two five-figure groups – the 'night rainfall' and 'day rainfall' groups. When you have entered these, you will hear the following. →



System: "Please enter the weather group."

Key in the three-figure weather word group, e.g. '306'
(RAIN ALL DAY).

System: "The weather group has been entered
as three zero six."

Key '1' if this is correct, or any other number to try
again.

When all the groups are keyed in to the system, you will
hear:

System: "Thank you for calling the Met Office
data-capture system."

The system will then disconnect your call automatically.

✓ Please remember the following points

- Only one '#', even though there may be three digits missing, e.g. if you are unable to report the maximum temperature, you should key in '#00' — no temperature, no sunshine, previous evening. Similarly, if you cannot measure the sunshine today, you should key in '04#' — minimum 4.0 °C, no sunshine.
- For the first few times, the call will probably take about two minutes. However, you will find that, once you are familiar with the system, the time will reduce. For example, when the system asks you to confirm that the group is correct, you can interrupt the voice at any time before it gets to the end of the statement by pressing a key. It will go straight to the next group. Also, if you know which group is next, you can key it in immediately. But you must hear the digits being read back to you; do not interrupt that sequence!

What if you can't get through?

- When you dial the system number, there is no ringing tone. There are about 10 to 15 seconds of silence, then the line connects with an audible click and the system responds with the voice welcome.
- If there is no connection after 30 seconds, replace the receiver and redial the number. If you have three failures to connect to the system, dial the stand-by number, available at your station.
- When there are system problems rather than communication problems, an announcement will be put on the line, asking you to call a different number.