

## **England – 2019**

In 2019, British residents took 99.1 million overnight trips in England, totalling 290 million nights away from home and expenditure of £19.4 billion, with an average trip length of 3 nights. The number of domestic trips to England was +2% higher than in 2018.

46.4 million holiday trips were taken in England in 2019. The number of holiday trips taken was 3% higher than in 2018. At 31.6 million, short breaks of 1-3 nights account for just over two-thirds of English holidays by volume. 14.8 million 4+ night holidays were taken. 14 million overnight business trips were taken in England in 2019. The number of business trips was similar to 2018. The number of VFR trips taken increased by +2% in 2019, to 36.1 million.

Overseas trips to England increased by +3% compared to 2018 to 36.1 million and spend by +7% to £24.78 billion.

During 2019, GB residents took a total of 1,390 million Tourism Day Visits to destinations in England, decreasing by -3% compared to those taken in 2018; and around £56.5 billion was spent during these trips, increasing by +7% year-on-year.

## **The South West Region – 2019**

From a regional perspective the indications are that tourism in the South West during 2019 started relatively poorly impacted heavily by unsettled weather during the January to April period. Performance was then relatively level throughout the peak period months of May to August (compared to 2018) but decreased again during the three consecutive months of September to November before finishing off more positively during the final month of the year.

The modelled regional data for 2019 which has been derived from the national surveys, although differs from published data for the South West, estimates that;

- In terms of UK staying visitors in 2019 the South West saw no change in trip volumes, a 1% decrease in nights and a 1% increase in spend.
- Overseas trips to the region increased by 3%, nights saw no change and spend increased by 4% compared to 2018.
- Day visits in the South West increased by 1% compared to 2018 and spend remained at a similar level. Visits to urban areas increased by 2%, visits to rural areas decreased by 3% whilst visits to coastal areas decreased by 8% compared to 2018. Spend in urban areas decreased by 3%, spend in rural areas increased by 4% although coastal day visit spend remained at a similar level to 2018.

## 2019 Month by Month Impacts

	<u>Weather impacts</u>	<u>Economic impacts</u>
<u>January</u>	<p>January started off dry and settled with high pressure dominant, but it was a mainly cloudy high. The high moved further away into the second week giving generally mild and less settled weather, with plenty of cloud in western areas but some sunshine especially to the east of high ground. It was often colder in the second half of the month with frequent north-westerly winds, though with occasional milder interludes, notably on the 24th to 26th, and although the weather was more unsettled, rainfall amounts were often small. Frost and snow were quite widespread between the 17th and 23rd and more especially during the last few days of the month. It continued mostly cloudy in many western parts but with plentiful sunshine at times in the east and north of Britain.</p> <p>The first half of January was generally quiet, but on the 7th and 8th, strong winds caused some disruption in the north of Scotland, including school closures, a 40 mph speed restriction on Inverness rail services, and suspended bus services in Kirkwall. Over 10,000 customers had their electricity supply interrupted, and a number of trees fell and blocked roads. Strong onshore winds and spring tides caused some coastal flooding in East Anglia.</p> <p>The third week was also mostly quiet but a cold snap on the 16th-18th caused some disruption. Snow fell on the 16th in the Isle of Lewis and the main road from Stornoway to Tarbert was blocked during the morning rush hour. Snow contributed to road closures in Scotland on the 17th including the A920, A952 and A939. There was also some disruption due to snow in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Snow fell more widely on the 22nd/23rd. There were numerous road accidents and airport delays in Scotland on the 22nd, and public transport was also affected. Rain, hail, sleet and snow resulted in accidents and school closures in Wales, and in north-west England there was disruption to Merseyrail services and some road closures. In south-east England, there were accidents and disruption around High Wycombe, the A4010 was closed due to an accident, and the M40 was affected. There were 18 closed schools in Amersham and High Wycombe. On 23rd, there were long delays on Channel Tunnel trains.</p>	<p>1 January – Regulator Ofgem introduces a new energy price cap for households in England, Scotland and Wales.</p> <p>2 January – Rail fares in England and Wales rise by an average of 3.1%. Meanwhile, ScotRail announces average rail fare increases of 2.8%.</p> <p>3 January – The bakery chain Greggs launches a meat free version of its sausage rolls.</p> <p>4 January – The engineering arm of collapsed Monarch Airlines falls into administration, with the loss of 450 jobs.</p> <p>7 January – A 10-year plan for NHS England is unveiled. As a result of Barnett consequential, a proportionate share of extra funding will be transferred to the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly and Northern Ireland Executive.</p> <p>8 January – MPs back an amendment to the Finance Bill, by 303 to 296 votes, to limit the Treasury's powers in a no-deal Brexit scenario.</p> <p>9 January – MPs back Dominic Grieve's amendment to the EU withdrawal agreement, by 308 to 297 votes, compelling the government to return to Parliament within three days if the deal is voted down the following week.</p> <p>14 January – Conservative Party whip Gareth Johnson resigns, saying he cannot support the government in the forthcoming vote on Theresa May's Brexit withdrawal agreement.</p> <p>15 January – The House of Commons rejects Theresa May's deal on the UK's withdrawal from the European Union by 432 votes to 202.<sup>[1]</sup> The 230 vote margin is the largest defeat for a government motion in 100 years.</p> <p>16 January – Theresa May's government survives a no confidence vote by 325 to 306.</p>

Strong winds overnight 26th/27th resulted in power cuts in Northern Ireland and fallen trees in Aberdeenshire. Widespread snow was again an issue during the last few days of January, particularly the 30th and 31st. In Cornwall, over 100 people were stuck on the A30 overnight. Numerous schools were closed in Wales, Cornwall and Hampshire. Southeastern and South Western Railways suffered some cancellations and delays to travel. There were a large number of road accidents, road closures and treacherous driving conditions, especially on minor roads, while major roads affected by snow included the M8 in Scotland, the A1 (M) in County Durham, and the A30 in Cornwall. Liverpool and Manchester airport runways were closed for several hours due to snow on the morning of the 30th. Freezing fog also caused delays at Stansted and Norwich airports on the 31st.

17 January - The 97-year-old Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip is involved in a car crash while driving near the Queen's Sandringham estate. He is unhurt, but very, very shocked and shaken. Japan's Hitachi announces the suspension of work on the £20bn Wylfa Newydd nuclear plant in Wales amid concerns over rising costs, putting thousands of jobs at risk.

21 January - Theresa May outlines her "plan B" Brexit plan to the House of Commons, scrapping the £65 fee EU citizens were going to have to pay to secure a right to live in the UK after Brexit.

Three separate security alerts are raised after reports of car hijackings in Derry, two days after a bomb exploded in a car outside its courthouse.

2019 Piper PA-46 Malibu crash: An aircraft carrying new Cardiff City F.C. footballer Emiliano Sala and pilot David Ibbotson *en route* from Nantes, France, to Cardiff, Wales, goes missing over the English Channel. Sala's body is recovered on February 7.

22 January - The UK café chain Patisserie Valerie collapses into administration after rescue talks with banks fail. The EU confirms it will enforce a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic in the event of a no-deal Brexit, despite the risk it would pose to peace.

24 January – Former Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond is arrested by police and charged with multiple counts of sexual assault and two of attempted rape.

25 January – The European Medicines Agency (EMA) closes its office at Canary Wharf, London, in preparation for its move to Amsterdam.

28 January – A letter from the British Retail Consortium, signed by major food retailers including Asda, McDonald's and Sainsbury's, warns of empty shelves and higher prices in the event of a no-deal Brexit.

29 January - Labour MP for Peterborough Fiona Onasanya is sentenced to three months imprisonment having earlier been found guilty of perverting the course of justice for lying about who was driving her car when caught speeding. Her imprisonment makes her the first sitting MP to be jailed in 28 years. MPs vote on a series of seven Brexit amendments. This includes a proposal to renegotiate the Irish backstop, which is passed with a majority of 16.

		<p>30 January - A High Court judge approves a £166bn (€190bn) transfer of assets by Barclays bank to its Irish division as a result of Brexit disruption. The EU's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, rejects calls to reopen the Brexit deal and says the Irish backstop will not be renegotiated, despite the UK's request.</p> <p>31 January – A report by the Society of Motor Manufacturers (SMMT) states that investment in the British car industry fell by 46.5% in 2018 as a result of Brexit uncertainty.</p>
<b>February</b>	<p>February started off cold, with snow showers for many northern and eastern areas and some more general areas of snow in southern England. In contrast, the rest of the month was very mild. It was rather mild and changeable from the 4th to 12th with westerly winds, then a southerly incursion from north Africa brought very mild and sunny weather to most parts from the 13th to 15th, although it stayed cloudy with some rain in the northwest. After another changeable spell from the 16th to 20th, the southerly type returned from the 21st to 27th bringing record-breaking temperatures and plenty of dry sunny weather by day, but frost and fog became increasingly widespread by night. The fine spell broke down from the west on the 28th.</p> <p>February began cold with widespread disruption due to snow. On the 1st, major roads including the A9 in Scotland, A1 in north-east England and roads in Wales were affected by snow and ice with traffic accidents and delays to car travel and public bus services reported. Part of the M3 was closed, and flights at Heathrow, Bristol, Gatwick and London City airports were delayed or cancelled. There was no London Overground service between Willesden Junction and Watford with reports of a problem to power supplies, and there were widespread school closures. There were reports of temporary power loss to properties in parts of mid Wales. There were reports from Luton of cancellations to bin services and to elderly transport to day care centres with alternative arrangements to check on the elderly put into place. Parts of Scotland were affected with travel disruption and school closures on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th also.</p> <p>Wet and windy weather set in on the 6th, peaking on the 8th/9th with the arrival of Storm Erik. In Scotland, a fisherman was reportedly rescued from the water in the Moray Firth after his boat capsized. Scot Rail reported significant rail delays and cancellations due to lines being blocked by trees and damage to power lines. Restrictions were placed on the Tay and Forth</p>	<p>1 February - Hundreds of schools across Wales and southern parts of England are closed due to snow and icy conditions. Leave.EU and Eldon Insurance owned by its founder Arron Banks are fined £120,000 over data law breaches. A 37-year-old mother who mutilated her three-year-old daughter becomes the first person in the UK to be found guilty of female genital mutilation (FGM).</p> <p>3 February - Apetito and Bidfood, two major suppliers to care homes and hospitals, report that they are stockpiling food in case of disruption caused by Brexit. Car manufacturer Nissan confirms that it will not be moving production of its X-Trail SUV from Japan to Sunderland, citing the falling sales of diesel cars in Europe as the reason, adding that: "While we have taken this decision for business reasons, the continued uncertainty around the UK's future relationship with the EU is not helping companies like ours to plan for the future".</p> <p>4 February – The wreckage of the PA-46 Malibu that was carrying footballer Emiliano Sala and pilot David Ibbotson is found underwater and a body is seen within it.</p> <p>5 February – HMV is acquired out of administration by Canadian retailer Sunrise Records, safeguarding the future of nearly 1,500 staff.</p> <p>7 February - The Office for National Statistics reports that knife crime in England and Wales is at its highest level since records began in 1946, with the number of fatal stabbings the previous year being the most ever reported. The Bank of England keeps interest rates on hold at 0.75%, but warns of a slowdown in economic growth during 2019, which it says could be the worst year since 2009. The British Horseracing Authority (BHA) cancels all horse racing in Great Britain until at least 13 February after an outbreak of equine influenza. A body is recovered from the wreckage of the PA-46 Malibu which vanished over the</p>

Road Bridge with ferry services also disrupted. There were reports of flooding on Orkney with some tourist attractions closing due to the strong winds. In Northern Ireland, the Rathlin Island ferry was cancelled and the Foyle Bridge had restrictions to high sided vehicles. There were reports of flooding in Derry/Londonderry and Belfast with fallen trees and debris causing travel disruption. In Wales, there were reports of power outages, and some surface water flooding on roads and the rail line between Mountain Ash and Aberdare. Speed restrictions were placed on the Britannia Bridge, the old Severn Bridge and a raised section of the M4 due to the strong winds. In Carmarthenshire there were reports of a fatality following a collision between a vehicle and a fallen tree. Across the east of England there were reports of fallen trees blocking roads, power outages to a few hundred homes and the temporary closure of the Queen Elizabeth 2 Bridge. There were reports of snow causing some travel disruption across high level routes of the Peak District and some roads across the Pennines.

The second half of February was far more benign, but fog caused some disruption. There were some reports of road traffic accidents and diversions and delays to flights to and from affected airports. The Strangford Lough ferry was suspended due to fog on the 27th. On the 26th, there was a gorse fire at Arthur's Seat in Scotland, a fire in Ashdown Forest, Sussex and a large wildfire broke out on Saddleworth Moor, Peak District. During this period there were reports of a number of grass fires around Wales that got out of control after controlled burning.

English Channel on 21 January. Dorset Police later identify it as that of Emiliano Sala.

14 February – Theresa May suffers a fresh defeat in the Commons on her Brexit strategy, losing the vote by 303 to 258.

15 February – Thousands of school pupils around the UK go on strike as part of a global campaign for action on climate change.

16 February – Flybmi ceases operations and files for administration, blaming Brexit as the main cause of its collapse.

18 February - Seven MPs – Chuka Umunna, Luciana Berger, Chris Leslie, Angela Smith, Mike Gapes, Gavin Shuker and Ann Coffey – announce that they have resigned from the Labour Party to form The Independent Group. Plans by Japanese carmaker Honda to close its Swindon factory by 2022 are leaked to the press, a day before the official announcement.

19 February – MP Joan Ryan resigns from the Labour Party to join The Independent Group.

20 February - Three Conservative Party MPs – Heidi Allen, Sarah Wollaston and Anna Soubry – resign from their party to join The Independent Group. Home Secretary Sajid Javid confirms the intention to strip Shamima Begum, a teenager who left the UK to join Islamic State in Syria in 2015, of her UK citizenship.

22 February – Dudley North MP Ian Austin resigns from the Labour Party saying the party has failure to tackle antisemitism, but says he has no plans to join the Independent Group.

23 February – Roy Hodgson becomes the oldest man to manage in the Premier League, at the age of 71 years and 198 days.

25 February – A temperature of 20.3 °C (68.5 °F) is reported in Trawsgoed, Ceredigion, the UK's highest on record for the month of February.

26 February - The Shadow Brexit Secretary, Keir Starmer states that Labour will back a second EU referendum with remain on the ballot if Theresa May's deal gets through parliament. Theresa May states that MPs will be given the choice between no-deal Brexit or a Brexit delay, if they reject her plan the following

		<p>month. The UK winter temperature record is broken for a second consecutive day, as the Met Office records 21.2 °C (70.2 °F) in Kew Gardens, London. Various huge wildfires are reported, the largest being at Saddleworth Moor in West Yorkshire. The government publishes its assessment of the impact of a no-deal Brexit.</p>
<p><u>March</u></p>	<p>Until the 17th, March's weather was dominated by westerly and north-westerly winds and frequent rain belts moving in off the North Atlantic, interspersed with brighter showery weather. Named storms Freya and Gareth brought spells of particularly wet and windy weather for much of the country. It was mostly mild in the south but from the Midlands northwards it was occasionally cold enough for sleet and snow to penetrate to low levels. From the 18th onwards it turned generally mild and settled. It was often dry and cloudy until the 23rd but the last week was much sunnier for most parts of the country, and especially sunny over much of England.</p> <p>Storm Freya made its way across the UK on the 3rd and 4th. In Wales, there were reports of flooding on roads, speed restrictions and closures were placed on some bridges, and the M4 elevated section near Swansea was closed; some fallen trees blocked roads and railway lines. There were power cuts in Swansea and Llandysul. Snow closed part of the A595 in Cumbria, with other roads closed and rail disruption due to fallen trees. In south-east England also, road and rail travel was disrupted due to fallen trees, and in the south-west numerous roads were closed due to fallen trees or power cables. The M48 Severn Bridge closed for a time, with the Tamar Bridge into Cornwall also closed. On the 6th in Northern Ireland, some roads were flooded or blocked by fallen trees.</p> <p>Further notable weather systems, including Storm Gareth, crossed the UK from the 10th onwards. A gritting lorry crashed on the A76 and conditions were poor on the M77 in south-west Scotland. In Northern Ireland, trees and flooding blocked roads. Power cuts affected 400 homes in South Wales. There were reports of flooding on some roads, snow blocking roads on higher routes and speed restrictions on the M48 Severn Bridge and the A55 Britannia Bridge, with the A477 Cleddau Bridge closed. Some higher routes in north-west England were closed due to snow, with the Patterdale Mountain Rescue Team being called by Cumbria Police to help 33 people who were caught up in multiple crashes. Fallen trees blocked roads in east and south-east England. Cross-Channel ferries to Kent and the Isle of Wight</p>	<p>1 March – The UK Government announces it has paid out £33,000,000 to settle a dispute with Eurotunnel over the awarding of ferry contracts, which was led by Transport Secretary Chris Grayling, to cope with a no-deal Brexit.</p> <p>7 March - Retailer LK Bennett goes into administration. The Institute and Faculty of Actuaries reports evidence of slowing life expectancy in the UK, which first emerged in 2010–2011 and is now "a trend as opposed to a blip".</p> <p>12 March - The House of Commons rejects Theresa May's deal on the UK's withdrawal from the European Union for a second time, by 391 votes to 242. Three climbers are killed and another injured in an avalanche on Ben Nevis.</p> <p>13 March - MPs vote by 321 votes to 278 to accept an amended government motion to reject the UK leaving the European Union without a deal. Chancellor Philip Hammond says that gas heating for new houses will be banned by 2025, although gas hobs will still be allowed.</p> <p>14 March – MPs vote by 412 to 202 in favour of requesting that the UK's withdrawal from the European Union be delayed beyond 29 March.</p> <p>15 March – Thousands of school pupils around the UK go on strike as part of a global campaign for action on climate change.</p> <p>18 March – The Speaker, John Bercow, quoting a parliamentary rule dating back to 1604, declares that a third "meaningful vote" on the Brexit deal cannot proceed unless it contains substantial changes. Ministers warn of a "constitutional crisis", with just eleven days until the UK is due to leave the EU.</p> <p>20 March – Prime Minister Theresa May writes a letter to EU Council President Donald Tusk, requesting a three-month extension to Article 50.</p> <p>21 March - The TUC and CBI wrote a letter to the Prime Minister saying the UK faces a "national emergency" due to Brexit and urging May to embrace an</p>

	<p>were delayed, the A249 bridge at Sheppey crossing was closed for a time as was the QEII Bridge. In south-west England a fisherman was rescued after spending an hour in the water after falling overboard. Landslips were reported in Kenton and on the A386 in Bideford. There was disruption to rail and road travel due to fallen trees and some river flooding, and power cuts around Newton Abbot, Exeter, Honiton, Minehead and Bridgewater. On the 12th and 13th fallen trees caused disruption to some ScotRail services. A number of ferries were disrupted and cancelled and roads were blocked due to fallen trees and flooding, with snow adding to the difficult driving conditions. Three climbers were killed on Ben Nevis with a fourth injured due to an avalanche. In Northern Ireland, a number of roads were closed, with various other services disrupted. In Wales, there were road closures due to flooding and fallen trees. Across the north of England some roads suffered flooding or fallen trees, with snow temporarily closing the Snake Pass as well as causing difficult driving conditions across north-east England. Eastern and south-east England also saw some disruption due to fallen trees, heavy rain and strong winds. In the south-west a fisherman was airlifted from a trawler off Land's End. There were reports of fallen trees, power cables and power cuts in Bristol, Martock and Teignmouth, and a cliff fall at West Bay closed the coastal path.</p> <p>On the 16th there were road accidents in Scotland due to poor road conditions caused by flooding and snow. Some trunk roads in North Wales were flooded, and trains disrupted: part of the rail line at Llanrwst was washed away. Some motorists were rescued in North Wales after becoming stranded in flood water, and a landslide closed the A470. There were reports of flooding in Manchester city centre with a number of roads around Manchester flooded. In the Yorkshire Dales, some villages were cut off and a number of rivers burst their banks. Further south, Clacton Pier was closed, as was the Orwell Bridge, with some railways flooded too. In the south-west there were delays to rail services, disruption and cancellations to ferry services in Plymouth and St Mawes, and the M48 Severn Bridge was closed for a time. The rest of March was largely settled. A large wildfire developed near Betwys-y-Coed, North Wales, covering 100 hectares on the 29th.</p>	<p>alternative plan. The EU agrees to delay Brexit until 22 May 2019, if MPs approve a withdrawal deal; or to 12 April if they do not.</p> <p>23 March – Hundreds of thousands of protesters flock to London for the second People's Vote march, asking the UK Government for a second referendum on leaving the EU and to permanently revoke Article 50.</p> <p>24 March – An online e-petition calling on the government to revoke Article 50 reaches 5,000,000 signatures.</p> <p>25 March – MPs defeat the government by 329 to 302 as they vote in favour of an amendment by Oliver Letwin, giving Parliament the option to hold a series of "indicative votes" on Brexit.</p> <p>26 March – The European Parliament votes by 348 to 278 in favour of the controversial Article 13 of the European Union Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market, which expands legal liability for websites.</p> <p>27 March - The Department for Transport says that the United Kingdom will adopt speed limiting technology that will become mandatory for all new vehicles sold in Europe from 2022, after new rules were provisionally agreed by the European Union. MPs back the statutory instrument changing the Brexit date in the EU Withdrawal Act by 441 votes to 105, a majority of 336. None of MPs' eight proposed options (indicative votes) for Brexit gains a majority following a House of Commons vote.</p> <p>29 March - The recently formed Independent Group applies to become a political party with the name "Change UK – The Independent Group" and names Heidi Allen as interim leader. MPs reject Theresa May's EU withdrawal agreement for a third time, by 344 votes to 286. A motion of no confidence against pro-EU Conservative MP Dominic Grieve is carried by his local party, 182 votes to 131.</p> <p>31 March – The e-petition calling on the UK Government to revoke Article 50 reaches 6,000,000 signatures, doing so a day before it is due to be debated by parliament.</p>
<p><b>April</b></p>	<p>April started off cool with showers and longer spells of rain, bringing sleet and snow to some places especially on high ground. Easterly winds</p>	<p>1 April - The UK's National Living Wage rises from £7.83 to £8.21, an increase of 4.9%. London Liverpool Street, London King's Cross and Edinburgh Waverley</p>

prevailed from the 5th to 18th, and between the 5th and 9th it turned generally warmer, though still quite unsettled. It turned colder with widespread overnight frosts between the 10th and 16th, though often dry and sunny. The weather turned settled and very warm with plenty of sunshine for most between the 17th and 23rd, with the warmest and sunniest weather coinciding with the Easter weekend, producing a new record high temperature for Easter Sunday. It turned more unsettled during the last week with strong winds on the 26th and 27th associated with Storm Hannah.

On the 3rd, a mixture of rain, sleet and snow led to difficult driving conditions across Scotland, notably between Aviemore and Inverness. There were road traffic accidents on the M74, the A9 was closed for a time at Slochd, and Dulnain Bridge suffered power outages. Traffic delays were widespread in the higher parts of Cumbria and in north-east England, where there was a multivehicle crash on the A1231. In Essex and Suffolk, hailstorms were followed by road traffic accidents on the A12 and A14. On the 4th, traffic disruption and school closures affected the higher parts of mid- and south Wales.

The weather turned mostly settled for the next two weeks but the dry weather increased the risk of fires. A large wildfire was reported near Loch Don in south-west Scotland on the 14th, and homes were evacuated in Sutherland as a wildfire spread close to properties. In Wales, several grass fires broke out in the mountains over the Easter period (19th-22nd). A large moorland fire broke out on Ilkley Moor in West Yorkshire over the Easter weekend, destroying 700 acres of moorland. There were also reports of a fire on Bodmin Moor. The settled weather broke down on the 24th, when lightning damaged the railway signalling system between Leeds and York and there were incidences of flooding around Manchester.

On the 26th and 27th Storm Hannah brought wet and windy weather to most of the country. In Wales strong winds led to the closure of the M48 Severn Bridge, A548 Flintshire Bridge and the A55 in Holyhead. There were fallen trees on some roads and railways with bus replacement services put in place on the Conwy Valley line. Over 2000 properties experienced power outages with the worst affected areas in Builth Wells and Haverfordwest. In north-west England, J16 on the M6 and J14 on the M60 were closed due to flooding. There were delays and some cancellations to bus and rail services due to flooding, fallen trees and damage to overhead electric wires. The 21:00 P&O sailing between Liverpool and Dublin was cancelled.

become the last of Network Rail's stations to abolish charges to their public toilets. For the second time, none of four proposed options (indicative votes) for Brexit gain a majority following a House of Commons vote. A customs union with the EU, a "Common Market 2.0", a second referendum and a vote on whether to revoke Article 50 all fail to win clear backing from MPs. Immediately following the indicative votes on Brexit, MP Nick Boles quits the Conservative party, with a speech criticising his former colleagues for refusing to compromise on the options.<sup>[90]</sup>

2 April – In a statement following a Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Theresa May announces her intention to extend Article 50 again and work with Opposition Leader Jeremy Corbyn on a plan, but keep the withdrawal agreement as part of her deal.

3 April - Prosecutors seek a retrial in the case of the match commander at the Hillsborough disaster David Duckenfield, after a jury fails to reach a verdict. A bill by Labour MP Yvette Cooper to force the Prime Minister to ask the EU for an extension to Article 50, in order to avoid a no-deal Brexit, passes the House of Commons by 313 votes to 312.

5 April – Theresa May writes to the EU requesting a Brexit extension until 30 June 2019.<sup>[95]</sup> EU ministers respond by saying the letter is too vague to justify an extension being offered.

6 April – Tiger Roll wins the 2019 Grand National, the second consecutive year the horse has won the race.

8 April - Jaguar Land Rover shuts down production for a week because of uncertainties around Brexit. London's Ultra-Low Emission Zone comes into effect.

9 April – Department store Debenhams goes into administration, after a last-ditch rescue offer from Mike Ashley's Sports Direct was rejected.

10 April – The UK and the EU agree an Article 50 extension to 31 October 2019. No reopening of the withdrawal agreement negotiations is allowed and the UK "must hold the elections to the European Parliament" on 23 May, or it will be forced to leave on 1 June 2019.



The east, south-east and southwest of England were affected by fallen trees and cancelled outdoor events, and the Isle of Wight ferry service was suspended. In Northern Ireland, rain on the 27th led to some transient minor road flooding.

11 April – WikiLeaks co-founder Julian Assange is arrested after seven years of living in the Ecuadorian embassy in London.

12 April – Former UKIP leader Nigel Farage launches the Brexit Party.

15–22 April – Demonstrations by the climate change activist group Extinction Rebellion cause disruption in central London, blocking roads and resulting in over 1,000 arrests, with 53 people charged for various offences. A "pause" in the protest is announced on 21 April, although the group continues to base itself in Marble Arch.

17 April – The UK Government announces it will introduce an age verification system designed to stop internet users under the age of eighteen from viewing pornographic websites, which will come into force on 15 July.

18 April – 29-year-old journalist and author Lyra McKee is shot dead amid rioting in Derry, Northern Ireland, with police treating it as a "terrorist incident" and suspecting the New IRA.

22 April - Leaders from 70 local Conservative Associations sign a petition calling for a vote of no confidence in Theresa May. The non-binding vote, to be determined by 800 of the party's senior officials, would be the first time such an instance has occurred. The hottest Easter Monday on record in all four nations of the UK is confirmed by the Met Office, with 25 °C (77 °F) reported at Heathrow, Northolt and Wisley.

24 April – The Conservative Party's 1922 Committee votes against changing the party's rules regarding leadership challenges, but asks for clarity on when Prime Minister Theresa May will step down from office.

25 April – The government announces it will launch a formal inquiry into the leaking of discussions about Chinese telecommunications firm Huawei at the National Security Council after the *Daily Telegraph* published details of a meeting concerning plans to use the firm to help build the 5G network. The Foreign Office warns against all but essential travel to Sri Lanka following the Easter Sunday bombings in which eight Britons were among the dead.

26 April – Prime Minister Theresa May and Irish Taoiseach Leo Varadkar issue a joint statement setting out a new process of talks designed to restore devolution

		to Northern Ireland, to begin on 7 May. Department store Debenhams announces plans to close 22 branches in 2019.
<u>May</u>	<p>May began with shallow low pressure and weak fronts, bringing rather cloudy and showery weather to most parts. A northerly outbreak on the 3rd/4th brought widespread frosts, and wintry showers penetrated locally to low levels in some northern and eastern regions. Cloudy and unsettled weather persisted until the 9th, but then high pressure built close to the country bringing generally warm, dry and sunny weather around midmonth. The weather remained fairly quiet until the 24th, but generally cooler, with more in the way of rain or showers. It turned changeable from the 25th onwards but the last two days were very warm in the south and east.</p> <p>May was a benign month with few significant impacts. Dry sunny weather mid-month may have contributed to a wildfire near Melvich (Highland) between the 14th and 17th, which affected electricity supplies to 800 homes. On the 19th and 20th heavy showers caused some travel disruption in the West Country, notably on the A35.</p>	<p>1 May - Peterborough Member of Parliament Fiona Onasanya becomes the first MP to be removed by a recall petition after 19,261 of her constituents voted for her to be removed from office. Onasanya's recall petition had been automatically triggered as a result of her conviction for perverting the course of justice, an offence for which she was imprisoned in January. WikiLeaks co-founder Julian Assange is sentenced to 50 weeks in jail for breaching bail conditions. Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson is sacked, after a leak from a National Security Council meeting, in which plans by Chinese firm Huawei to contribute to the UK's 5G network were discussed. He is replaced by Penny Mordaunt.</p> <p>2 May – 2019 United Kingdom local elections: The Lib Dems, Greens and independents make gains in the local elections at the expense of the Conservatives, while Labour and UKIP also suffer losses.</p> <p>4 May – The Metropolitan Police says that the National Security Council leak about Huawei "did not amount to a criminal offence".</p> <p>6 May - The Duchess of Sussex gives birth to a son, Archie Mountbatten-Windsor. The World Snooker Championship concludes with Judd Trump defeating John Higgins 18–9 in the final to win his first world title.</p> <p>8 May – A British teenager, Isabelle Holdaway, 17, is reported to be the first patient to receive a genetically modified phage therapy to treat a drug-resistant infection.</p> <p>9 May – Broadcaster Danny Baker is fired from BBC Radio 5 Live after tweeting a "royal baby" image of a chimpanzee.</p> <p>13 May – The Jeremy Kyle Show is suspended indefinitely following the death of a participant, shortly after appearing on an unbroadcast programme. The show is axed by ITV two days later.</p> <p>16 May - Boris Johnson confirms that he will run for the Conservative Party leadership after Theresa May stands down.</p>

17 May - Brexit talks between Labour and the Conservatives end without agreement, following six weeks of cross-party debate, with Jeremy Corbyn saying negotiations have "gone as far as they can." The Ministry of Justice announces plans to introduce "Helen's Law", which would require a person convicted of murder without the presence of a body to reveal the location of their victim's remains before being considered for parole.

18 May – Eurovision Song Contest 2019: The United Kingdom finishes in last place, with a score of 11.

21 May – Jamie Oliver's restaurant group collapses into administration, putting 1,300 jobs at risk.

22 May - British Steel Limited enters insolvency, putting 5,000 UK jobs directly at risk and a further 20,000 in the supply chain, following a breakdown in rescue talks between the government and the company's owner, Greybull. Andrea Leadsom resigns as Leader of the House of Commons, saying she no longer believes the government's approach will deliver Brexit. She is replaced the following day by Mel Stride.

23 May – Elections to the European Parliament are held.

24 May – Prime Minister Theresa May announces her resignation as Conservative Party leader, effective 7 June.

26 May – The first black female Oxbridge master, Sonia Alleyne, is appointed to lead Jesus College, Cambridge, from October.

28 May - Alastair Campbell, the former communications chief to Tony Blair, is expelled from the Labour Party, after publicly stating that he voted for the Liberal Democrats during the European Parliamentary elections. The Speaker, John Bercow announces that he plans to possibly stay on as Speaker of the House until 2022, saying it is not "sensible to vacate the chair" while there are major issues before parliament.

29 May – In the first all-English UEFA Cup/Europa League final since 1972 and the tournament's first final between teams from the same city, Chelsea defeat Arsenal 4–1 at the Olympic Stadium in Baku, Azerbaijan. This is Chelsea's second Europa League title.

		<p>30 May – The UK's first 5G mobile network becomes operational, initially covering parts of six cities: Belfast, Birmingham, Cardiff, Edinburgh, London and Manchester.</p>
<p><u>June</u></p>	<p>June started with a ridge of high pressure which brought warm dry sunny weather to much of the south and south-east, hot for a time in East Anglia, but it was cloudier with rain further north. From the 3rd to 9th a westerly flow brought spells of rain interspersed with brighter showery weather. It turned unseasonably cool, and very wet in places, especially Lincolnshire, between the 10th and 13th, with north-easterly winds. The 14th to 20th was generally warmer but continued unsettled, and thunderstorms affected the south-east overnight 18th/19th. The last third of the month was often warm and humid, with further rain at times and some thundery outbreaks especially in the north, but also some dry sunny weather especially between the 26th and 29th, and the 29th was a very hot day in many areas with temperatures as high as 34 °C in the London area.</p> <p>Rain caused some localised flooding in Northern Ireland on the 5th, and on the 7th there was flooding in Plymouth and in parts of Weston-super-Mare. On the 10th, persistent rain contributed to flooding in the north-west and north-east of England, leading to road closures and blocked railway lines, including the line between Carlisle and Wetheral and on the Tyne and Wear Metro. In the Midlands a number of fallen trees also blocked roads. Lincolnshire was especially affected, where the Steeping River at Wainfleet broke its banks and flooding caused over 300 properties to be evacuated, and the railway line between Boston and Skegness was closed for a time. There were also impacts in the south-east with flooding and sink holes causing numerous lane and road closures, and a landslide was reported on the B2110. Lightning damage also occurred locally in Devon. The rain moved northwards on the 12th and 13th and in south-east Scotland river levels rose with emergency plans having to be activated to prevent flooding.</p> <p>On the 18th and 19th thunderstorms tracked north-north-east through the east of England, where lightning strikes caused disruption, there were power outages, and a number of buildings were struck by lightning. Thunderstorms were associated with some low-impact issues for parts of England and Wales between the 20th and 26th.</p>	<p>1 June – In the first all-English UEFA Champions League final since 2008, Liverpool defeat Tottenham Hotspur 2–0 at the Metropolitano Stadium in Madrid, Spain. This is Liverpool's sixth European Cup title.</p> <p>3 June – U.S. President Donald Trump begins a three-day state visit to the UK.</p> <p>4 June – Six Change UK MPs – Luciana Berger, Gavin Shuker, Angela Smith, Chuka Umunna, Sarah Wollaston and interim party leader Heidi Allen – announce their resignation from the party. The remaining five MPs, remain in the party, with Brexit and Justice spokeswoman Anna Soubry becoming leader.</p> <p>6 June - American carmaker <u>Ford</u> announces the closure of its Ford Bridgend Engine Plant in September 2020, with the loss of 1,700 jobs. Peterborough by election: Labour retains the seat, with the Brexit Party finishing in second place and the Conservatives in third.<sup>[154]</sup> The by-election was held because of the previous Labour MP having been removed as the result of a recall petition.</p> <p>7 June – Prime Minister Theresa May resigns as Leader of the Conservative Party, paving the way for a leadership contest.</p> <p>10 June – The BBC announces that, from June 2020, it will stop providing free television licences for over-75s who do not receive pension credit.</p> <p>12 June - Theresa May announces a new legally binding target to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, making the United Kingdom the first major industrialised nation to propose this goal. In a vote of 309–298, MPs reject a plan by Labour to take control of Parliament's timetable, which would have enabled the tabling of legislation to prevent a no-deal Brexit on 31 October.</p> <p>13 June – Former Labour MP, then-Change UK MP, then Independent MP, Chuka Umunna, defects to the Liberal Democrats.</p> <p>18 June – Heathrow Airport publishes a masterplan for construction of a third runway by 2026 and completion of the airport's expansion by 2050.</p>

	<p>On the 29th flooding and lightning caused issues across Northern Ireland and Scotland. In Northern Ireland around 10,000 customers were affected by power outages due to lightning strikes. The worst hit areas were the Craigavon and Newry areas. Road, rail, tram and airport services were disrupted in Edinburgh. In Stirling, a number of roads were closed due to flooding, including the M9. Power outages were reported across Tayside, Aberdeen and Dundee, and in Dumfries and Galloway lightning strikes locally caused house fires.</p>	<p>19 June - Tendai Muswere becomes the first person in the UK to be convicted of illegally manufacturing a firearm using a <u>3D printer</u>. The Isle of Wight is awarded "Biosphere Reserve" status by UNESCO, becoming the seventh UK location to receive this designation.</p> <p>20 June – In a case brought by Campaign Against Arms Trade, the Court of Appeal rules that UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia are unlawful.</p> <p>21 June - Conservative Party MP Chris Davies loses his seat after a recall petition in response to his conviction for submitting false expenses claims. This forces a by-election in Brecon and Radnorshire. Conservative Party MP Mark Field is suspended as a Minister after video footage shows him grabbing and pushing a female activist who interrupted Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond's Mansion House Speech.</p> <p>29 June – The Met Office records some of the hottest UK temperatures for June in 40 years, with Heathrow and Northolt in west London reaching 34C (93.2F).</p>
<p><u>July</u></p>	<p>July began with a cool, showery north-westerly flow over the UK, but for most of the first half of the month high pressure was close to the south and west and this brought mostly dry weather with plentiful sunshine for much of England, especially the south-west, and also south Wales, but elsewhere cloud was more variable. The second half was generally more unsettled with frequent westerly and south-westerly winds, but with an exceptionally hot spell from the 22nd to 26th which saw record-breaking temperatures in many parts of the country, including a new record for the UK as a whole, and also widespread thunderstorms.</p> <p>After a quiet start to the month, during the second week some heavy showers and thunderstorms caused impacts. On the 11th, there was significant surface water flooding in Dingwall, with fire crews pumping water out of the town, and in Manchester surface water flooding disrupted transport. On the 12th, lightning strikes caused disruption on the rail lines between Perth and Inverness and hundreds were left without power in the Scottish Highlands.</p> <p>On the 19th, rain in south Wales caused disruption, with flooding on the M4 between J43 and J42 and also on the A494, and difficult driving conditions on the A470. Floodwater also caused disruption in Aberdeen,</p>	<p>2 July – FIFA Women's World Cup: The most-watched British television broadcast of the year, 11.7 million viewers watch the England football team's 1–2 defeat to USA in the semi final in Parc Olympique Lyonnais (Stade de Lyon) in Lyon, France.</p> <p>5 July - Eight gang members who ran the biggest modern-day slavery network ever exposed in the UK, involving more than 400 victims in the West Midlands, are jailed with sentences ranging from three to 11 years. Ex-English Defence League leader Tommy Robinson is found guilty of contempt of court over a Facebook broadcast. Secretary of State for Justice David Gauke confirms that "Helen's Law" will be adopted in England and Wales.</p> <p>7 July – The Trump administration is labelled "inept", "insecure" and "incompetent" in leaked emails from the British Ambassador to the United States, Sir Kim Darroch.</p> <p>9 July – MPs vote by 294 to 293 in favour of a bid to require ministers to give fortnightly updates on the situation in Northern Ireland. The plan, drawn up by Dominic Grieve, is designed to make it harder for the next Prime Minister to suspend Parliament and cause a no-deal Brexit.</p>

notably on the A90, and in the Manchester area and in Cumbria. There was a suspected tornado in the Mobberley/Hale area of Cheshire, resulting in a tree blocking the rail line at Mobberley and disruption to power supplies.

Thunderstorms and record-breaking temperatures were associated with numerous impacts from the 24th onwards. On the 24th, lightning caused delays to rail services between Inverness and Perth and there were power outages in Penicuik on the 25th. Also on the 24th, heavy rain and lightning brought disruption in Wales, northern England and southern Scotland, with thousands without power in north-east England. The heat led to numerous rail delays and cancellations, especially in the east and south-east of England and around Manchester. Part of the A11 had to be closed due to the road surface melting. On the 25th, UK Power Networks reported that 10 to 20,000 properties had power cuts due to thunderstorms, and some buildings were struck by lightning; also a number of large field and gorse fires arose.

On the 28th, heavy rain continued in the north of England and in southern Scotland. The A77 and various local roads were closed due to flooding; in Edinburgh damage was caused to the National Records of Scotland building and some public events were cancelled due to flooding. The heavy and persistent rain resulted in surface water and some minor river flooding in Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Bradford with some properties flooded and travel disruption.

10 July - Sir Kim Darroch resigns as UK ambassador to the US, amid the ongoing row over leaked emails critical of the Trump administration. Formula One and Silverstone agree a new five-year deal to keep the British Grand Prix on the calendar following two years of renegotiations between Liberty Media and the BRDC.

11 July – Tommy Robinson, having been found guilty of contempt of court on 5 July, is sentenced at the Old Bailey to nine months in prison.

12 July - The first fatal collision involving an e-scooter in Britain occurs, killing TV presenter and YouTube star Emily Hartridge in Battersea, London. Former Blue Peter presenter John Leslie is charged with sexually assaulting a 30-year-old woman in Westminster in December 2008.

14 July – "Super Sunday" in sport: England win the Cricket World Cup final (played at Lord's) for the first time, beating New Zealand on boundary count after a tied match; British driver Lewis Hamilton wins a record sixth Formula 1 British Grand Prix at Silverstone; and in the 2019 Wimbledon Championships – Men's Singles tennis, Novak Djokovic (Serbia) beats Roger Federer (Switzerland) in the longest ever final at four hours 57 minutes.

18 July – MPs vote again in favour of amendments to stop the next Prime Minister proroguing Parliament in the autumn to facilitate a no-deal Brexit.

19 July – The Iranian Navy of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps captures British tanker Stena Impero and temporarily seizes British-operated and Liberian-flagged tanker Mesdar in the Persian Gulf. The [Foreign Secretary](#), Jeremy Hunt, warns there will be "serious consequences" if Iran does not release the tanker.

22 July - Conservative MP for Dover, Charlie Elphicke, is charged with three counts of sexual assault against two women.

Carl Beech is found guilty of making false allegations of murder and child sexual abuse against UK public figures.<sup>[187]</sup> He is sentenced to 18 years in prison on 26 July.

		<p>Jo Swinson is elected by party members as the new leader of the Liberal Democrats, succeeding Sir Vince Cable. She becomes both the first woman to lead the party and its youngest ever leader at age 39.</p> <p>23 July – Boris Johnson is chosen as the new Conservative Party leader in a ballot of party members, beating Jeremy Hunt by 92,153 votes to 46,656.</p> <p>24 July - Theresa May formally tenders her resignation as Prime Minister to the Queen and is succeeded by Boris Johnson. Boris Johnson subsequently begins to form his cabinet, with Sajid Javid appointed as Chancellor of the Exchequer, Priti Patel as Home Secretary, and Dominic Raab as Foreign Secretary and First Secretary of State.</p> <p>25 July – The UK experiences its hottest day on record, with a temperature of 38.7 °C (101.7 °F) at Cambridge, beating the previous high of 38.5 °C (101.3 °F) in Faversham, Kent, on 10 August 2003.</p>
<p><b>August</b></p>	<p>August opened with a weak ridge of high pressure, which brought some warm sunshine but also some scattered thundery showers in some places. The weather then turned more unsettled and breezier with some showers and longer spells of rain, and deep depressions brought bouts of wet and windy weather especially to Scotland on the 9th, 14th and 16th. There was a hot sunny spell in most central and southern areas between the 21st and 27th, which extended to most of the country between the 24th and 26th, setting new record temperatures for the late August bank holiday. A thundery breakdown followed, and the last few days were cooler with some heavy persistent rain over much of Scotland and Cumbria.</p> <p>After heavy rain at the end of July, early August had lingering impacts relating to flooding, exacerbated in places by thundery showers in early August. On the 1st, there was flooding on the rail line between Manchester Piccadilly, Manchester Airport and Wilmslow, with flooding also on the M60. The dam holding the Toddbrook reservoir at Whaley Bridge was in danger of collapsing and this led to the evacuation of Whaley Bridge and operations to reduce the water level in the reservoir. On the 2nd, manhole covers were lifted due to heavy rain in Nottingham. In Scotland, the rail line between Tyndrum and Dalmlally was closed, the A82 was closed in both directions between Crianlarich and Tarbet due to a rockfall, and there were delays on the A9 due to flooding.</p>	<p>1 August - Parts of the Derbyshire towns of Whaley Bridge, Furness Vale and New Mills are evacuated, with 1,500 residents being moved as a precaution, after concrete slabs on the dam spillway of the Toddbrook Reservoir partially collapse. The government announces an extra £2.1bn of funding to prepare for a no-deal Brexit, doubling the amount of money it has set aside for 2019, taking the total since June 2016 to £6.3bn. Liberal Democrat MP Jane Dodds wins the 2019 Brecon and Radnorshire by-election, beating the incumbent Conservative Chris Davies and leaving the Tories with a Commons working majority of just one.</p> <p>5 August – The historic shipyard Harland and Wolff, which built the <i>RMS Titanic</i> and other well-known ships, ceases trading.</p> <p>9 August - Data from the Office for National Statistics shows that the UK economy shrank by 0.2% in the second quarter of 2019, its first contraction since 2012. A major power blackout hits parts of England and Wales, affecting nearly a million people and causing widespread travel disruption.</p> <p>10 August – Richard Braine is elected as leader of the UK Independence Party, succeeding Gerard Batten.</p>

On the 5th, a rail landslip at Tyndrum resulted in the line being closed, and there was temporary flooding at Craigendoran. On the 6th, in Northern Ireland there was flooding on both sides of the Bangor to Newtownards road. There was also some flooding in South Wales. On the 7th, in Scotland there was widespread flooding in Moray, the railway between Aviemore and Inverness was closed, with disruption on other roads and railways as well as reports of floods and landslides.

Strong winds and heavy rain caused widespread disruption on the 10th, resulting in sporting event cancellations and flooding to roads and rail lines in many parts of the UK. Roads on Arran were closed, fallen trees on the A92 and Bishopton rail line caused delays to travel, and there was a landslip on the rail line near Arrochar & Tarbet with another on the A7. Lightning caused a railway signal outage at Blackpool North. At Dover some ferries were delayed due to high winds with one ferry stuck at sea, and there were some delays at the London airports due to strong winds.

On the 30th and 31st, in Scotland some sporting fixtures and public events were cancelled or postponed due to strong winds and heavy rain. Both the Tay Road Bridge and Forth Road Bridge were closed to double-decker buses and speed restrictions were put in place. The rail line between Inverness and Aviemore was closed for a time, while some roads were affected by flooding causing travel disruption in Perth, Kinross and Ayrshire.

15 August – Former Conservative and Change UK MP Sarah Wollaston joins the Liberal Democrats, saying it is the best way for her to fight to keep Britain in the European Union.

16 August – The Turkish Armed Forces Assistance Fund (known as Oyak) announces that it plans to take over British Steel by the end of the year.

18 August - Reports emerge that the British–Canadian Muslim convert Jack Letts, alleged to be a member of ISIL and nicknamed "Jihadi Jack" by the media, has had his British citizenship revoked by the Home Office. More than 100 MPs write to Prime Minister Boris Johnson calling for a recall of Parliament to debate concerns that the UK faces "a national emergency" over Brexit. The three remaining cooling towers at Didcot power station, a focal point of the Oxfordshire skyline for 50 years, are demolished. An electricity pole is damaged in the collapse, leaving at least 40,000 homes without power.

22 August – Boris Johnson meets French president Emmanuel Macron in Paris, insisting that the Brexit impasse can be broken "with energy and creativity". Macron reiterates that the Republic of Ireland–Northern Ireland backstop plan is "indispensable" to preserving political stability and the single market.

23 August – Boris Johnson and Jeremy Corbyn express concern over major fires in the Amazon rainforest, ahead of the latest G7 summit. A spokesperson for the Department for International Trade states: "The UK remains committed to protecting the world's rainforests and will continue to do so in Brazil through our international climate finance programmes."

24 August – After video footage emerges of himself at Jeffrey Epstein's mansion in 2010,<sup>[213]</sup> Prince Andrew defends his former friendship with the convicted sex offender, saying "at no stage" did he "see or suspect" any criminal behaviour.

25 August – The UK experiences its hottest late August bank holiday weekend on record, with temperatures reaching 33.3 °C (91.9 °F) in west London.<sup>[215]</sup> The record for August bank holiday Monday is also broken the following day.

26 August – The UK's biggest ever fracking-related tremor is recorded, with a magnitude of 2.9 reported at a Cuadrilla site near Blackpool.

27 August - Opposition MPs gather in Church House, Westminster, where they agree to form "an alternative parliament" if Boris Johnson attempts to force a



		<p>no-deal Brexit by prorogation. They sign a declaration, calling this threat "an undemocratic outrage at such a crucial moment for our country, and a historic constitutional crisis". Downing Street accuses the MPs of trying to sabotage negotiations with the EU. Bury F.C. are expelled from the English Football League after a takeover bid collapses.</p> <p>28 August – Boris Johnson asks the Queen to suspend Parliament from early September until 14 October. Following precedent, she approves the request. While many Brexit supporters welcome the move, the action receives widespread condemnation from those in favour of the UK remaining in the EU, triggering protests both in London and around the country.</p> <p>29 August – Ruth Davidson resigns as leader of the Scottish Conservatives.</p> <p>31 August – Demonstrations are held across the UK in protest at Boris Johnson's decision to suspend parliament.</p>
<p><b><u>September</u></b></p>	<p>The first few days of September saw a westerly type, with a succession of fronts bringing rainfall to much of the country. It then became rather quieter for a time, and some days were pleasantly warm, with particularly high temperatures around 19th-24th. Rainfall was below average up until the 20th, but after that a much more unsettled spell of weather set in, with 25-50 mm of rain within 24 hours reported at various stations on certain days. Thus by the end of the month the UK had easily exceeded its September average rainfall; it was also quite a sunny month, with some pleasant early-autumn days during the middle third of the month.</p> <p>On the 9th a thunderstorm warning was issued for some southern areas, but the only impact reported was localised flooding in Ottery St Mary, Devon. The weather was then more settled for the next two weeks.</p> <p>There were numerous warnings and impacts during a much more unsettled period in the last ten days of the month. In Northern Ireland on the 22nd, around 30 properties were flooded, some roads in Sion Mills and Lisnaskea were closed, and a landslide was reported in the area. On the 23rd, Wales suffered poor driving conditions and flooding on roads, with a landslide on the A4107. In north-west England there were blocked roads due to flooding, including the B5192 and the A5058 in Merseyside. In London, four central stations were affected by flooding resulting in delays to rail</p>	<p>2 September – In a speech outside 10 Downing Street, Boris Johnson states his opposition to calling a general election and urges MPs not to vote for "another pointless delay" to Brexit.</p> <p>3 September - Pound sterling falls below \$1.20, its lowest level since October 2016, before recovering the day's losses. The government loses its majority in the House of Commons after Conservative MP Phillip Lee crosses the floor to join the Liberal Democrats. MPs opposed to a No-deal Brexit take control of House of Commons business by 328 votes to 301. Johnson responds by telling MPs he will now push for an October general election. Boris Johnson withdraws the whip from 21 Conservative MPs who voted against the government, including several former Cabinet Ministers. Notable among them are Father of The House, Ken Clarke, who had served as an MP since the 1970 general election, and Sir Nicholas Soames, grandson of former UK Prime Minister Winston Churchill.</p> <p>4 September - A bill intended to block the possibility of the UK leaving the EU without a deal passes its first Commons vote by 329 to 300. A Scottish judge rejects a call by 75 parliamentarians to have the government's postponement of parliament declared illegal. The judge rules that it is for politicians and voters to judge, and not the courts. MPs reject Boris Johnson's motion to call a snap general election for October, failing to achieve the two-thirds Commons majority</p>

services. Liverpool Street station saw water pouring in through the roof, and some platforms were closed as well as the eastbound Metropolitan, Hammersmith and City and Circle lines being closed for a time also. British Airways cancelled several flights due to the weather. In other areas some flooding on roads caused travel disruption, with some properties flooded too.

Renewed heavy rain affected parts of England and Wales from the 28th onwards. A number of roads and bridges were closed in Mid and South Wales. Trains in the Machynlleth area were disrupted due to flooding, while a landslide blocked the A490. In North Yorkshire, a cycling race was cut short as heavy rain made conditions very difficult. Roads and some rail lines were flooded in West Yorkshire, with the railway line at Harrogate flooded also. The Debenhams store in Norwich was closed due to flooding. On the 29th, in South-west England, some campers on Dartmoor had to be rescued overnight due to the severe weather; the Trelissick Ferry was cancelled due to poor sea conditions, a fallen tree blocked the B3212, and the A30 at Innis Down was closed due to flooding. The Severn Bridge had a 40mph speed restriction, while some events were cancelled or curtailed due to the weather. Further rain on the 30th affected all of Wales and western/northern areas of England. There was flooding in York; the River Ouse burst its banks but, thanks to Environment Agency flood warnings, property and land were able to be protected. There were also delays and flooded roads in Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire.

needed under the Fixed-term Parliaments Act, in a vote of 298 to 56. Labour MPs abstain from the vote.

5 September - Former Labour and Change UK MP Luciana Berger joins the Liberal Democrats. Jo Johnson, brother of Boris Johnson, resigns as an MP and minister, stating he is "torn between family and national interest".

6 September - The bill designed to prevent a no deal Brexit is passed by the House of Lords. Opposition parties agree not to back any further government calls for a general election in mid-October. The High Court rejects a case brought by anti-Brexit campaigner Gina Miller over the suspension of parliament, ruling that it is lawful.

7 September - Work and Pensions Secretary Amber Rudd resigns from the Cabinet and surrenders the Conservative Party whip, saying she cannot "stand by" while "loyal moderate Conservatives are expelled". Former Labour and Change UK MP Angela Smith joins the Liberal Democrats.

9 September - John Bercow announces that he will stand down as Speaker of the House of Commons on 31 October, or at the next general election, depending on which comes first. The Benn bill, intended to stop Britain leaving the EU without a deal, is granted royal assent. By a vote of 311 to 302, MPs back a motion calling for the publication of all government communications relating to no-deal Brexit planning and the suspension of Parliament. A second government motion calling for an early general election fails to achieve the required super-majority, with 293 MPs voting in favour of it.

10 September – Parliament is prorogued amid unprecedented protests in the House of Commons from opposition MPs, with some holding up signs saying "silenced".

11 September - Three judges at Scotland's highest civil court rule that the government's prorogation of the UK Parliament is unlawful "and is thus null and of no effect." The UK's Supreme Court in London is to hear the government's appeal against the ruling next week. Around 40 MPs return to work in Parliament, in protest at its suspension and to show their support for the Scottish ruling that the government's decision to prorogue is illegal. In response to a motion passed by MPs on 9 September to force its release, the government publish a five-page document covering the no-deal contingency plan, Operation Yellowhammer. Ministers block the publication of personal communications

about Parliament's prorogation, which were also covered by the motion. Downing Street rules out the possibility of an electoral pact between the Conservatives and the Brexit Party.

12 September – The High Court in Belfast rejects a legal challenge against a no-deal Brexit that was brought on the argument it breaches the Good Friday Agreement.

13 September – Former English Defence League leader Tommy Robinson is released from prison after nine weeks.

14 September - Ex-Conservative MP Sam Gyimah, one of the 21 rebels who had the whip removed on 3 September, joins the Liberal Democrats. Facebook removes a Conservative Party advertisement saying it "misused" their advertising platform in the way it presented figures from a BBC News story about the amount of money being invested in schools.

15 September – At their annual party conference in Bournemouth, members of the Liberal Democrats vote to scrap Brexit without a second referendum if they win the next general election.

17 September – The hearing of the prorogation of Parliament appeal begins at the Supreme Court in London, to decide whether the act of suspending Parliament is justiciable and lawful.

19 September – The Supreme Court hearing of the prorogation appeal concludes after three days and a decision is expected to be given early in the next week.

20 September - Some of the largest climate change protests ever seen are held in towns and cities across the UK as part of a worldwide day of strikes and protests, led by young people and adults, to demand action on carbon emissions. An American woman says she had sex with Prince Andrew as a 17-year-old and was "trafficked" to the prince. The Duke of York denies having "any form of sexual contact or relationship" with her.

22 September – An article in the *Sunday Times* accuses Prime Minister Boris Johnson of misconduct in office while Mayor of London, alleging that US businesswoman Jennifer Arcuri received favourable treatment with the awarding of grants to her company because of her friendship with Johnson.

23 September – Travel company Thomas Cook collapses after 178 years in business, triggering the largest ever peacetime repatriation as 150,000 holidaymakers are left stranded.

24 September – The 11 justices of the Supreme Court rule unanimously that the prorogation brought forward by Boris Johnson is both justiciable and unlawful, and therefore null and of no effect.

25 September – MPs return to Parliament after the ending of prorogation. Amid furious scenes in the Commons, opposition politicians accuse the Prime Minister Boris Johnson of using inflammatory language. Johnson, who described the law seeking to block a no-deal Brexit as "the surrender bill", defends his actions, later saying that "tempers need to come down" in Parliament.

26 September - A government motion for a mini-recess the following week for the Conservative Party Conference is lost by 306 votes to 289. A 36-year-old man is arrested outside the office of Labour MP Jess Phillips after she tabled an urgent question in the Commons on inflammatory language. The man is said to have tried to smash windows and kick a door open while shouting "fascist". Buckingham Palace announces the engagement of Princess Beatrice and Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi.

27 September – Prime Minister Boris Johnson is referred to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) accused of misconduct in office while Mayor of London, an office with responsibility for overseeing policing in London.

28 September – Downing Street dismisses Johnson's IOPC referral as 'politically motivated'.

29 September - *The Sunday Times* carries fresh allegations about the relationship between Boris Johnson and Jennifer Arcuri, alleging the two were engaged in an affair; Johnson denies any conflict of interest. Downing Street denies an allegation from a female journalist that Johnson squeezed her thigh, and that of another woman, at a lunch in 1999.

30 September – Following a meeting of opposition party leaders chaired by Jeremy Corbyn, the Labour leader says he will back a motion of no confidence in Boris Johnson "at a point we can win it and take no-deal off the table".

October

October began with a warm showery day in the south, and while colder air quickly spread from the north followed by a transient ridge of high pressure, low pressure and associated fronts returned by the 4th. Until the 20th the weather was unsettled with frequent low pressure systems and rain belts crossing the country, and the jet stream was further south than normal, resulting in frontal systems often especially affecting the south and east of England. There was a quieter interlude from the 21st to 23rd, and then after a very wet spell on the 24th to 26th. The weather turned cold, dry and sunny for most of the country from the 27th to 30th, although the far south-west remained very wet at times.

Following a very wet end to September, October began with a number of weather impacts due to flooding. These included the closure of the rail lines connecting Carlisle to Newcastle and Barrow, and a number of road and school closures in north-west England and the west Midlands. There was some disruption to roads in the east and southeast of England due to flooding and a lighthouse bungalow collapsed into the sea at Orfordness lighthouse.

On the 6th, further heavy rain contributed to flooding of properties in Felixstowe, Beccles, Adleburgh, Wrentham, Lowestoft and Cromer. There were reports of damage to infrastructure and road closures, where some roads were damaged by fast flowing water through drainage networks

During the subsequent unsettled weather there were scattered reports of weather impacts. On the 13th there was flooding on the rail line between Linlithgow and Edinburgh Park which caused disruption and delays on other Edinburgh routes. Parts of the A1 in Scotland were closed on the 19th due to flooding.

On the 25th, heavy rain resulted in a number of impacts. In Wales many minor and trunk roads were flooded, and water rescues were carried out on stranded vehicles, and rail lines were impacted by flooding. There was flooding of farm land, and some reports of property flooding in Monmouthshire. There were delays and disruption on road and rail lines due to flooding in northern England and the West Midlands. Northern England also saw some property flooding. Staffordshire and Hertfordshire town centres were flooded, and there was property flooding in Stoke on Trent with rescues from houses and stranded vehicles.

1 October - The Office for National Statistics reports that 726 homeless people died in England and Wales in 2018, a 22% rise from 2017 and the highest increase since records began. Torrential rain brings flooding to many parts of Great Britain with dozens of warnings issued by the Environment Agency. Some areas in the Midlands, Wales and southern England are hit by a week's rain in just one hour.

2 October - Johnson publishes his Brexit plan, which includes proposals to replace the Irish backstop. It would create an "all-island regulatory zone", meaning that Northern Ireland essentially stays in the European Single Market for agricultural and industrial goods. The government announces fresh plans to prorogue parliament, from 8–14 October to allow them to bring the current parliamentary session to an end and introduce a new Queen's Speech.

4 October - The government assures the highest civil court in Scotland that Boris Johnson will send a letter to the EU seeking an extension to Article 50 as required by the Benn Act. Prince Harry begins legal action against the owners of *The Sun* and the *Daily Mirror*, in relation to alleged phone-hacking.

5 October - 2019 Totnes bus crash: More than fifty people are injured after a double-decker bus crashes and overturns on the A385 between Totnes and Paignton in Devon. Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab says he has called the US ambassador to the United Kingdom to express his "disappointment" that a US diplomat's wife who is the subject of a police investigation following a fatal road crash has left the UK. Lucia Lucas becomes the first transgender singer to perform with the English National Opera in London.

6 October - Essex Police confirm that a 32-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of murder after three men were found dead at an address in Colchester the previous evening. Flights repatriating the final 4,800 Thomas Cook holidaymakers stranded abroad following the company's collapse take off, bringing to an end Operation Mattethorn, the largest peacetime repatriation operation that has seen more than 150,000 people brought back to the UK.

8 October - A Downing Street source says that a Brexit deal is now "essentially impossible" after a phone call between the Prime Minister and German chancellor Angela Merkel. The Brexit spokesman for Angela Merkel's CDU

parliamentary group says the unattributable remark "does not ring true". Parliament is prorogued until 14 October.

9 October - The Government announces plans for a special Saturday sitting of Parliament for 19 October to discuss Brexit options. Welsh Assembly AMs vote 43–13 to rename the legislature with a bilingual name, calling it both Senedd Cymru and the Welsh Parliament.

10 October – Boris Johnson and his Irish counterpart, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar hold talks at Thornton Manor in north west England aimed at reaching an agreement over Northern Ireland's status after Brexit.

11 October - The Arndale Centre in Manchester is evacuated after a number of stabbings, in which four people are injured. A man in his 40s is arrested on suspicion of planning an act of terrorism. The pound has its biggest rally against the dollar since the Brexit vote, amid hopes that a deal could be reached before the deadline on 31 October.

13 October - Canonisation of John Henry Newman: Cardinal John Henry Newman (d. 1890) is canonised by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square, Vatican City, in the presence of Prince Charles and representatives of the Anglican church, making Newman the first English person who has lived since the 17th century to be recognised officially as a saint by the Roman Catholic Church. Convicted serial sex offender Richard Huckle is stabbed to death in his cell at HMP Full Sutton.

14 October - The Queen's Speech during Parliament's State Opening sets out 26 bills, including the plans for Brexit. Extinction Rebellion protests are banned across London by the Metropolitan Police.

17 October – The UK and EU agree a new Brexit withdrawal agreement, but the DUP confirm they will not support its passage through Parliament.

18 October – Sainsbury's becomes the first major supermarket to stop selling fireworks at its 2,300 stores across the UK.

19 October - A special Saturday sitting of Parliament is held to debate the revised European Union withdrawal agreement. MPs pass an amendment 322 to 306 that withholds Parliament's approval until legislation implementing the deal has been passed, and forces the Government to request a delay to Brexit

until 31 January 2020. 10 Downing Street confirms that Boris Johnson will send a letter to the EU requesting an extension to Article 50, but will not sign it. EU Council President Donald Tusk subsequently confirms receipt of the letter; in addition, Johnson sends a second letter describing any further delay to Brexit as a mistake. Another People's Vote march is held through London, matching the size of the previous one on 23 March 2019, in which hundreds of thousands attended.

21 October - Waitrose and John Lewis announce they are to stop selling Christmas crackers containing plastic toys from 2020, as part of plans to cut down on single-use plastic. Speaker of the House John Bercow refuses to allow a 'meaningful vote' on the latest Brexit deal, stating that "the motion will not be debated today as it would be repetitive and disorderly to do so."

22 October - Abortion is decriminalised in Northern Ireland. MPs allow the government's new withdrawal agreement bill to pass to the next stage of the parliamentary process, by 329 votes to 299; a majority of 30. However, the proposed timetable of three days is rejected by 322 votes to 308; a majority of 14.

23 October – The bodies of 38 adults and a teenager are found in a lorry container in Essex. A 25-year-old man from Northern Ireland is arrested on suspicion of murder.

28 October - Operation Brock, a plan to manage traffic congestion on the M20 in Kent, comes into force in preparation for a no-deal Brexit. EU leaders agree in principle to move the deadline for a Brexit with an agreement from 31 October 2019 to 31 January 2020. MPs reject a motion for a 12 December general election, with only 299 votes in favour, which is 135 votes short of the two-thirds majority needed. 70 MPs vote against the motion. Johnson says he will table a new bill after losing this motion.

29 October - Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn announces that he and his party will now support a general election. MPs vote by 438 to 20 in favour of a general election, scheduled for Thursday 12 December 2019, by passing the Early Parliamentary General Election Bill.

30 October - An inquiry into the Clutha helicopter crash of November 2013 finds that the pilot "took a chance" and ignored low fuel warnings. Survivors and bereaved relatives of the Grenfell Tower fire call for London Fire Brigade chief

		Dany Cotton to resign, after a highly critical report from the inquiry into the blaze. The last Prime Minister's Question Time before the general election is held.
<b><u>November</u></b>	<p>November began with low pressure close to the west of Britain, giving mild and wet weather. It continued unsettled until the 14th, and turned colder after the first few days, with sleet and snow falling quite widely on high ground and locally to low levels on the 8th/9th and 13th/14th. There was a quieter interlude from the 15th to 20th in most areas with temperatures remaining below average, followed by a milder, wet spell from the 21st to 27th. The month ended with a northerly outbreak which brought colder brighter weather. The jet stream was frequently further south than usual which meant that north-west Scotland tended to be relatively dry and sunny.</p> <p>November started with unsettled weather across the UK. In Scotland, the North Highland railway was closed for a time due to flooding, and a number of roads in east Sutherland suffered minor damage with some flooding. In Wales, there was flooding on the M4 at junction 46 and on the A487, and a tree blocked the railway between Rhoose (Cardiff) and Llantwit Major. Across the south of England strong winds caused disruption, with a car trapped under a fallen tree in Worthing, and delays to rail and ferry services with Brittany and Condor Ferries cancelling some sailings from Portsmouth and Poole. Fallen trees blocked some roads including the A27 and the A35. Gatwick Express services were suspended for a time, and trains were unable to run between Bognor Regis and Barnham. A woman died when a tree fell onto her car in Ringwood, Hants. Hundreds of trees were blown down, causing disruption to both rail and road networks, and in Devon hundreds of consumers were without power. In Dorset, cars were damaged after scaffolding collapsed in strong winds.</p> <p>Heavy rain in Scotland on the 4th caused flooding on various routes including the M876, the M9, and the A92.</p> <p>Parts of north-east England, much of Yorkshire and the Humber, and the north-east Midlands saw heavy rain on the 7th and 8th, including the eastern Pennines. There were a lot of impacts across Yorkshire and Humberside. Further west, flooding caused disruption on a number of roads including the M60, the M53 and the A571. Trains were disrupted between Todmorden and Rochdale, between Eccles and Earlestown, and</p>	<p>1 November – Following a report from the Oil and Gas Authority, the government calls a halt to all fracking in the UK "with immediate effect" and warns shale gas companies that it will not support future projects.</p> <p>3 November – Conservative MP Ross Thomson announces he will not stand at the next election following an accusation that he sexually assaulted Labour MP Paul Sweeney.</p> <p>4 November - The UK terrorism threat level is reduced from "severe" to "substantial" for the first time since 2014. Sir Lindsay Hoyle, Member of Parliament for Chorley, is elected Speaker of the House, replacing John Bercow who stepped down after 10 years in the role. 18 female members of Parliament of the United Kingdom say they will not seek reelection due to threats and abuse.</p> <p>5 November – Mothercare collapses into administration, putting 2,500 UK jobs at risk.</p> <p>6 November - At 00:01, the 57th parliament is dissolved in preparation for the general election on 12 December 2019. Extinction Rebellion wins a High Court challenge against the Metropolitan Police over a London-wide ban on protests that came into force on 14 October. Alun Cairns resigns as Secretary of State for Wales over allegations that he was aware of the role of a former aide in the "sabotage" of a rape trial. Labour's Tom Watson announces he will step down as an MP at the 2019 election, and vacate his post as <u>deputy leader</u> of Labour for personal reasons.</p> <p>7 November – <i>The Times</i> reports that Downing Street is suspected by unnamed sources of suppressing a parliamentary report into Russian interference because it contains "embarrassing" disclosures about the Kremlin links of wealthy Russian donors to the Conservative Party.</p> <p>8 November – More than 100 flood warnings are issued across the Midlands and northern England, with some areas receiving a month's worth of rainfall in 24</p>



between Chester and Crewe. In Yorkshire vehicles became stranded in parts of Sheffield, while trains and buses were delayed or cancelled in Sheffield, Rotherham, Doncaster and Barnsley. There were flooded lanes and severe disruption on the M1 in South and West Yorkshire. The River Don bursts its banks on the afternoon of the 7th which affected the M1 at junction 34, and not far from there the Environment Agency used high-volume pumps to move water away from homes. Many rescues were carried out by the fire service in Doncaster, and on the 8th a major incident was declared with hundreds of homes being evacuated. In Derbyshire, a woman died after being swept away in flood water, and in Mansfield a number of properties were evacuated after a mudslide. Numerous schools were closed due to the threat of flooding in the East Midlands, with flooding also causing disruption to roads and railways in Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Rutland, and Nottinghamshire.

Heavy rain in south-east England on the 9th caused flooding on the A3 near Putney, with minor flooding elsewhere across the region. A landslip blocked one line out of four on the railway between Fleet and Basingstoke. Northern Ireland also saw heavy rain on the 9th, with delays to trains south of Belfast and flooding on some roads around Lisburn, Newcastle and Ballyclare.

The first ice and snow warnings were issued from the 9th but no impacts were reported until the 18th with a minor bus crash in Wick but no injuries.

The end of the month was again unsettled, with rain warnings for southern and central parts of England and Wales. In Wales surface water caused some disruption but impacts were minimal.

hours. The torrential downpours, described as "almost biblical", led to the death of a former Derbyshire High Sheriff, Annie Hall.

16 November – Prince Andrew, Duke of York, in a TV interview with Emily Maitlis, denies having sex with Virginia Roberts (now Virginia Giuffre) when she was a teenager, and expresses regret at having met convicted child sex offender Jeffrey Epstein in 2010. He is widely criticised for the interview.

19 November – Boris Johnson and Jeremy Corbyn appear on ITV in a head-to-head election debate. The Conservatives attract controversy as CCHQ's press office alters the brand and imagery of their Twitter profile (@CCHQPress) during the live broadcast so it appears as "factcheckUK", and posts pro-Conservative responses attacking Corbyn. Conservative Party chairman James Cleverly defends it as "calling out when the Labour Party put what they know to be complete fabrications in the public domain". The Electoral Commission calls on all campaigners to act "responsibly", fact-checking body Full Fact criticises this behaviour as "inappropriate and misleading" and a spokesperson from Twitter says that they would take "decisive corrective action" if there were "further attempts to mislead people".

20 November – Prince Andrew says he is stepping down from public duties for the foreseeable future after being engulfed in the Jeffrey Epstein scandal, which has become a "major disruption" to the Royal Family.

23 November – Five teenagers, including a 13-year-old girl, are arrested following a brawl at Vue Cinema in the Star City complex in Birmingham, before the screening of the film Blue Story. It is reported that the arrested were armed with machetes and the police had to draw tasers. Vue subsequently ban screenings of the film – amid much controversy – at all their 91 chains across UK and Ireland. Showcase Cinemas (UK) initially ban the film as well but later reverse this decision.

28 November – Former South Yorkshire police chief, David Duckenfield, is found not guilty of manslaughter in the Hillsborough disaster trial.

29 November - The Daily Mail and General Trust buys the "i" newspaper and website from JPIMedia for £49.6 million. 2019 London Bridge incident: A mass stabbing at a London Bridge venue results in two victims killed and at least five people injured. The suspect, wearing a hoax explosive device, is shot by police and dies at the scene. The attack is considered terror-related.

**December**

December began with transient high pressure close to the UK, but by the 4th low pressure and the regular passage of frontal systems resumed, with some very large daily rainfall totals during the next three weeks. The final week brought rather drier weather to most areas, and became particularly mild at times. The month overall was rather mild, with only limited colder interludes and fewer frosts than average.

December started cold, frosty and foggy and there were numerous road traffic accidents in Wales due to icy conditions. The weather turned milder as Atlantic fronts started to cross the country by the end of the first week, and wet and windy weather on the 5th and 7th brought flooding on the M74, A82, A83 and A9 and led to the temporary closure of the West Highland Main Line. In south-west England, 5500 customers were left without power due to strong winds.

Further wet weather on the 10th led to flooding on the M77, M8 and M80, with trees and debris blocking other main roads. Rail services between Gleneagles and Perth were disrupted due to flooding, and a village on the Isle of Skye was cut off due to a landslide. In Northern Ireland the Rathlin Island ferry was cancelled, with some disruption along the Portaferry Road and to rail services between Dublin and Belfast. In North-west England, there was flooding on roads and power cuts to around 700 customers. In south-west England, strong winds led to disruption to roads and local ferry services and the Skybus service to the Isles of Scilly was delayed. Around the 15th/16th, colder weather led to some roads becoming impassable due to snow, with cars stranded on the A59 between Kesgill and Blubberhouses. In the south-east, the main line between Epsom and Motspur Park was blocked due to a landslide.

Between the 18th and 21st, frequent rain caused some disruption. In Northern Ireland the Department for Infrastructure reported 74 high-priority incidents on the roads, mostly fallen branches, and some flooding. Difficult driving conditions were experienced in Wales, and some sheep had to be rescued in Monmouthshire. In the West Midlands, there were some road closures and water rescues by the fire service. There were delays to trains between Derby and Nottingham, and disruption in Leicestershire. Flooding caused disruption in Suffolk and a landslide at Woodbridge blocked some rail lines. In the south-east of England there were a number of reports of flooded roads, and traffic accidents. Rail lines were impacted by flooding and/or landslips, and the line between Fareham

7 December – Virgin Trains cease operations on the West Coast Main Line after running trains on the line since 9 March 1997. They are replaced the following day by Avanti West Coast.

12 December – In the general election, the Conservative Party, led by Boris Johnson, achieves a majority of 80 seats in the House of Commons, while the Labour Party, led by Jeremy Corbyn, suffers major losses resulting in their lowest proportion of seats since 1935. The Scottish National Party wins a landslide in Scotland, winning 48 of the 59 seats.

13 December – Jeremy Corbyn says he will not lead Labour into a future general election. Jo Swinson resigns as Leader of the Liberal Democrats after losing her constituency seat to the Scottish National Party.

17 December – Boris Johnson announces that he plans to rule out (legally) any extension to the transition period after the UK leaves the EU.

19 December - The High Court rules that the Home Office's £1,012 child citizenship fee is unlawful. Change UK is dissolved.

20 December - MPs vote in favour of the Brexit withdrawal agreement by 358 to 234, paving the way for the UK's exit from the EU on 31 January 2020. Andrew Bailey is appointed as Governor of the Bank of England, effective from February 2020.

22 December – Tesco halts production of Christmas cards made in China after a girl in south London finds a card with a hand-written note asking for help. The writer claims to be a foreign prisoner being forced to work.

26 December – The RSPCA begins an investigation after a prominent lawyer, Jolyon Maugham, says that he killed an urban fox with a baseball bat.

28 December - The Cabinet Office apologises after the addresses of more than 1,000 2020 New Year Honours recipients, including senior police and political figures, are accidentally published online.

	<p>and Eastleigh was blocked. There was a tornado in Chertsey on the 21st, causing some local damage.</p> <p>Heavy rain and thunderstorms caused disruption in parts of Wales and southern England on the 24th. There was disruption to roads and railways in Wales, Essex and Sussex. There was a landslip on the A470 in Wales, delays to trains between Barking and West Ham in Essex due to flooding, and delays near Redhill caused by a landslip.</p>	<p>31 December – The first opposite-sex couples are granted civil partnerships in England and Wales by amended legislation under the Civil Partnerships, Marriages and Deaths (Registration etc.) Act of 26 March.</p>
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**Data sources:**

GBTS/IPS/GBDVS Surveys 2019

ONS

Met Office monthly summary reports

News sites including BBC/Guardian