

Category	Description	Criteria
6	Disastrous floods	<p><i>Events must meet the following two criteria plus ≥2 criteria from Category 5</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multiple structural breaches of defences - ≥1 fatality caused by drowning in ≥1 locations
5	Severe floods: severely threatens life and/or results in considerable damage to infrastructure and property	<p><i>Events must: (1) meet ≥1 of the following criteria, or be associated with ≥1 fatality during the event or aftermath, and (2) meet ALL Category 2 criteria AND ≥1 criteria from Category 4</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Substantial institutional response during or after the event (e.g. emergency Cabinet Office meeting, all-day media coverage) - Reliable evidence that multiple fatalities were prevented by defences and/or flood warnings
4	Major floods: Impacts reported in monetary terms but no known loss of life	<p><i>Events must meet ALL of the Category 2 criteria, and 1 of the following</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Descriptions of deep and/or fast-flowing water in ≥1 location, and/or statements to the effect of the “worst flooding in [x number of] years”, or the “worst flooding since [reference event]” - Serious damage to residential properties (e.g. loss of contents), and/or residential properties made uninhabitable due to coastal erosion - Economic damages reported - Damage to major infrastructure (e.g. port, key railway line, power station, motorway)
3	Moderate floods: Multiple impacts across affected areas (can be minor to quite severe)	<p><i>Events must meet ≥3 of Category 2 criteria</i></p>
2	Minor floods: Impacts known of, although full consequences may still be unclear	<p><i>Events must contain <3 of these criteria, or otherwise reports of several properties flooded</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any reference to flooded property or agricultural land and livestock - Disruption to services (e.g. branch railway line, power substation), including transport networks - Descriptions of inundation including words such as "extensive", "deep", "serious", "widespread", "cut off", "severe" - Damage to sea defences beyond limited overtopping
1	Nuisance floods: localised or unknown due to lack of information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Terms appear (with reference to flooding) in reports including: "localised" or explicit statements that the impacts were limited e.g. few local roads, quayside areas - No reports of flooded properties - Insufficient information available to determine severity of consequences