

Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) 2017 Northern Ireland - Health and Wellbeing



The UK CCRA 2017 identifies a number of areas where stronger action and further research are needed for Northern Ireland in the next five years.

Climate change poses risks to wellbeing, communities and the healthcare system. There are potential health benefits from warmer winters in Northern Ireland, but more action is needed to manage current risks to people from cold temperatures through addressing fuel poverty. There are several risks that might be important for Northern Ireland but there is not enough evidence to assess to what extent adaptation action is already underway to manage the risks. Such areas include risks to communities from flooding and sea level rise, extreme weather impacts on the healthcare system, and risks to health from overheating buildings, poor air quality and pathogens. For these risks, more research in Northern Ireland is urgently needed.

The [Northern Ireland Evidence Report](#) from the UK Committee on Climate Change breaks these risks down in greater detail:

Risk/Opportunity	Urgency Score
Potential benefits to health and wellbeing from reduced cold	More action needed
Risks to health and wellbeing from high temperatures	Research priority
Risks to people, communities and buildings from flooding	
Risks to the viability of coastal communities from sea level rise	
Risks to health and social care delivery	
Risks to health from changes in air quality	
Risks to health from vector-borne pathogens	

Next steps

See [here](#) for further information on the evidence report and [here](#) for the government response.

The evidence outlined above will be a basis for further evidence gathering for development of the second Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme, to be published in 2019.

If you would like to discuss the findings of this report, please email stephenjones@climatenorthernireland.org.uk.