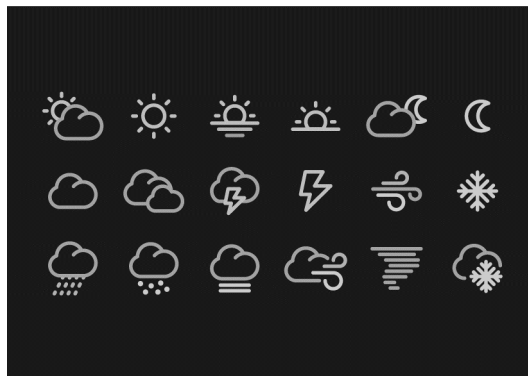


Our rotten summer

- 1 The Met Office's chief scientist Professor Dame Julia Slingo has defended its failure to foresee this summer's "pretty disappointing" weather.
- 2 Though the summer began with a hot spell, with record-breaking temperatures recorded in areas of the southeast last month, the season has been dominated by spells of heavy rains.
- 3 Dame Julia admitted that the Met Office was unsuccessful when it came to forecasting the general summer climate. However, she stressed that all the leading models around the world failed to capture the signal for unsettled weather over the UK. She added that the organisation's short-term skills have never been finer, boasting of "year-on-year and decade-by-decade improvements in forecasting skill". She wrote: "Our five-day forecast is now as accurate as our one-day forecast was when I started my career".
- 4 If domestic sun-seekers have been disappointed by recent weather, this bank holiday weekend looks set to provide scant succour. Cool conditions are expected and weather warnings have been issued for rain over southeast England on Sunday, where those attending the Notting Hill carnival and Reading festival may be hit by prolonged heavy rain and lightning. Forecasts have also warned of the potential for flooding.



adapted from *The Times*, 2015