

Accessibility across UK Central Government

Introduction

Digital accessibility regulation is challenging to manage and is negatively impacting those for whom the rules should be assisting. Public sector bodies must deal with accessibility, against a timetable.

Now with a specific timeline in relation to the public sector achieving accessibility compliance for their websites, we have summarised our Q3 / 2019 results, reporting the position across the sector.

In Summary.

For the Sitemorse 2019 UK Central Government INDEX we assessed over 191 organisations' websites for adherence to WCAG 2.1. The INDEX was compiled following over 143 million tests, checks and measures across over 441,000 URLs.

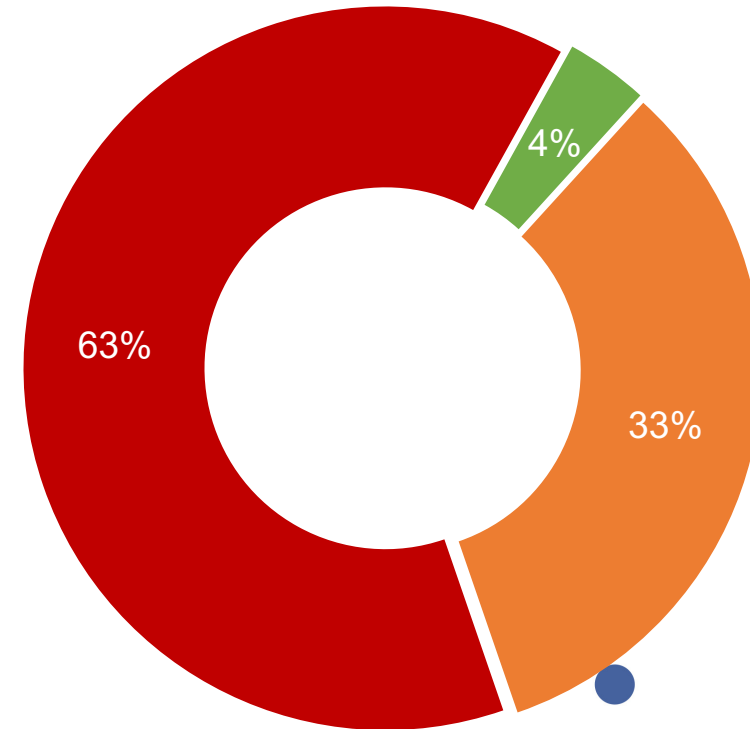
Only two organisations achieved a score of 7 or greater (out of 10) for accessibility.

It's important to note that the INDEX covers the main website of each establishment. The law applies to all websites operated, directly or on behalf of the establishments.

The target score is 7.7 out of 10.

- Pages passing accessibility level A: 76.52%
- Pages passing accessibility level AA: 2.2%
- Of the 1,607 PDF's 61.3% PDF's passed the accessibility tests.

It is important to note that this score is for automated tests; there are still manual tests that need to be performed however, a score of 10 demonstrates a thorough understanding of what needs to be done and it is highly likely that the manual tests will pass too.



■ Score 10 - 7 ■ Score 5 - 6 ■ Score 1 - 4

The Top 10.

1 Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman

<http://www.ombudsman.org.uk/>

2 Office for Nuclear Regulation

<http://www.onr.org.uk/>

3 Competition Appeal Tribunal

<http://www.catribunal.org.uk/>

4 National Lottery Commission

<http://www.natlotcomm.gov.uk/>

5 Gambling Commission

<http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/>

6 Natural Resources Wales

<http://naturalresources.wales/>

7 The Pensions Regulator

<http://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/>

8 Boundary Commission for Scotland

<http://www.bcomm-scotland.independent.gov.uk/>

9 Public services Ombudsman for Wales

<http://www.ombudsman-wales.org.uk/>

10 Planning Portal

<https://www.planningportal.co.uk/>

What are the Regulations?

The EU Directive on the accessibility of public sector websites and mobile apps *(Directive (EU) 2016/2102 using European standard EN 301 549 V1.1.2 (2015-04)), came into force for in the UK on 23 September 2018. The aim of the regulations is to ensure public sector websites and mobile apps can be used by as many people as possible.

The Directive lists 3 dates for compliance to be achieved:

- 22 September 2019
 - New public sector websites (*those published after 22 September 2018*)
- 22 September 2020
 - All other public sector websites
- 22 June 2021
 - Public sector mobile apps

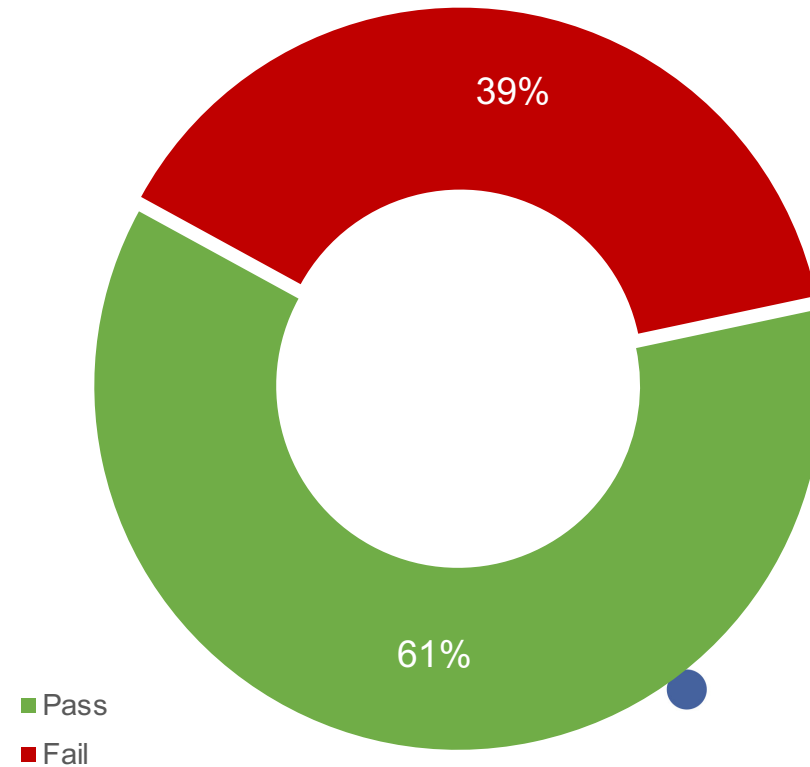
PDF documents.

Along with the compliance assessment of web pages, we also reviewed each Local Authorities Websites PDF documents.

In total there were 1,607 PDF's assessed of which 61.3% passed accessibility.

2 of the most common actions required to improve levels of compliance;

- Content Tagging
- Document Titles



Historic PDF management.

The *regulation has allowances for historic PDF documents. The full text of the regulation can be viewed online, in relation to PDF's;

Citation and commencement 1.—

(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018.

(2) These Regulations come into force on 23rd September 2018.

Revocation 2.

The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations 2018(1) are revoked.

Application 4.—

(2) These Regulations do not apply to the following content of a website or mobile application of a public sector body—

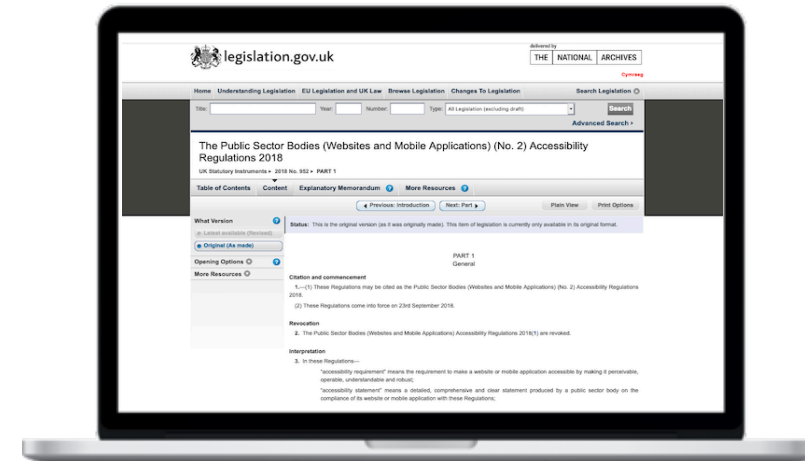
(a) office file formats published before 23rd September 2018, unless such content is needed for active administrative processes relating to the tasks performed by the public sector body;

(3) In this regulation—

- (a) “archives” means a website or mobile application which—
- (i) only contains content that is not needed for active administrative processes; and
 - (ii) is not updated or edited after 23rd September 2019;

.....

(d) “office file formats” means a document in a format that is not intended primarily for use on the web and that is included in web pages, such as Adobe Portable Document Format, Microsoft Office documents or their open-source equivalents.



“standard” has the meaning set out in Article 2(1) of **Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European standardisation

**<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/eur/2012/1025/contents>

Full Results – breakdown by establishment.

We completed the Q3 assessments in July 2019, with a total of 143,669,682 tests, checks and measures (*all categories*) across 441,932 URL's. Against each website, a min number of pages is required to allocate a score against, (which is 51) the majority of websites have scores calculated based on 125 pages (proportional).

Following sites were excluded;

- The Adjudicator's Office
- Community Development Foundation
- Higher Education Funding Council for England
- Northern Ireland Police Fund
- Office for Fair Access
- Royal Marines Museum
- West Northants Development Corporation
- House of Lords Appointments Commission
- Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure NI
- Department for Employment and Learning NI
- GCHQ
- Investors in People
- Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office
- Youth Justice NI
- Money Advice Service

The detail of individual exclusions is available on request.

Scoring (out of 10)	Percentage
10	0%
9	0%
8	1%
7	2.6%
6	18.3%
5	14.7%
4	5.2%
3	14.7%
2	5.8%
1	4.2%
0	33.5%

UK Central Government Organisations Scoring 10 (out of 10) for Accessibility

Scoring 9 (out of 10)

Scoring 8 (out of 10)

Office for Nuclear Regulation

Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman

Scoring 7 (out of 10)

The Pensions Regulator

National Lottery Commission

Natural Resources Wales

Competition Appeal Tribunal

Gambling Commission

Scoring 6 (out of 10)

Student Loans Company

Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs NI

The Northern Ireland Executive

GOV.UK

British Council

The Pensions Advisory Service

Boundary Commission for England

Health & Care Professions Council

Big Lottery Fund

NHS

Local Government Association

Public services Ombudsman for Wales

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

The Executive Office NI

Research for Development Outputs

Department of Education NI

Met Office

Boundary Commission for Wales

Information Commissioner's Office

Advisory Committee on Animal Feedstuffs

Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

UK Statistics Authority

Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)

Boundary Commission for Scotland

Science Museum Group

Ministry of Justice (MoJ)

Department of Finance NI

Judicial Appointments Commission

Royal Armouries Museum

Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals

Forestry Commission

Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food

The Corporation of Trinity House

Health and Safety Executive

Planning Portal

UK Central Government Organisations Scoring 5 (out of 10) for Accessibility

Serious Fraud Office (SFO)

Transport for London

Consumer Council for Water

The National Museum of the Royal Navy

Ofcom

Westminster Foundation for Democracy

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority

British Museum

National Audit Office

Independent Police Complaints Commission

Historic England

Sport England

Housing Ombudsman Service

Ordnance Survey

Welsh Assembly Government

Vehicle Certification Agency

Scottish Parliament

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

National Crime Agency

Security Industry Authority

Business Wales

Wilton Park Conference Centre

Equality and Human Rights Commission

The Scottish Government

Transport Focus

Financial Conduct Authority

Probation Board for Northern Ireland

Horse Race Betting Levy Board

Scoring 4 (out of 10)

Scottish National Party

Institute of Historical Research

Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)

Arts Council England

National Savings and Investments

National Forest Company

National Assembly for Wales

English Heritage

National Heritage Memorial Fund

Food and Environment Research Agency

UK Central Government Organisations Scoring 3 (out of 10) for Accessibility

Security Service (MI5)
Royal Naval Submarine Museum
The British Pharmacopoeia (BP)
National Parks
Audit Scotland
Conservative Party
Opening up government (data.gov.uk)
The Royal Parks
Criminal Justice Inspectorates
Buy With Confidence

Natural Environment Research Council
National Gallery
Pensions Ombudsman
Strategic Investment Board
Crown Estate (CE)
Electoral Commission
UK Hydrographic Office
UK Sport
AHDB Potatoes

Chemicals Regulation Directorate
Northern Lighthouse Board
Sustainable Development Commission
Construction Industry Training Board
DisabledGo
Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission
Water Industry Commission for Scotland
UK Legislation
AHDB Horticulture

Scoring 2 (out of 10)

The Royal Society
Tate
Liberal Democrat Party
Scottish Government Health and Social Care Directorates

Imperial War Museum
Royal Museums Greenwich
Education Scotland
The Higher Education Academy

National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre
Office of the Children's Commissioner for England

Scoring 1 (out of 10)

Investigatory Powers Tribunal
Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross Foundation
British Library

Valuation Tribunal Service
Human Tissue Authority
Government Art Collection

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Natural History Museum

UK Central Government Organisations Scoring 0 (out of 10) for Accessibility

Gangmasters Licensing Authority
Committee of Advertising Practice Ltd
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council
Joint Nature Conservation Committee
British Institute of Technology & E-Commerce
Arts and Humanities Research Council
Wallace Collection
Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission
Horniman Public Museum and Public Park Trust
Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service
Chartered Trading Standards Institute
The Fire Service College
The Northern Ireland Assembly
London Councils
Engineering Construction Industry Training Board
Public Lending Right
Drinking Water Inspectorate
National Museums Scotland
National Portrait Gallery
Office for Budget Responsibility
Royal Mint
Get Safe Online

Utility Regulator Northern Ireland
Civil Aviation Authority
Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)
Sports Frounds Safety Authority
Royal Air Force Museum
Financial Ombudsman Service
The Parades Commission
Legal Ombudsman
UK Debt Management Office
Alcohol Research UK
Engineering & Physical Science Research Council
Business Gateway
AHDB Dairy
LEASE (The Leasehold Advisory Service)
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
The Royal Family
Economic and Social Research Council
European Consumer Centre for Services
National Joint Registry (NJR)
Science and Technology Facilities Council
British Transport Police Authority

Sir John Soane's Museum
The Houses of Parliament
Food Standards Agency
Museum of London
National Army Museum
National Museums Liverpool
Medical Research Council
Office of Rail and Road
Victoria and Albert Museum
Care Quality Commission
Prospects - Graduate Careers
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
Churches Conservation Trust
National Historic Ships
NI Business Info
Plaid Cymru
The National Archives
Labour Party
VisitBritain
Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat)
National Institute for Biological Standards and Control

More information?

We run 3 webinars, every Tuesday:

- The INDEX – an introduction to the Sitemorse INDEX
- Pragmatic Accessibility
- Making Compliance Achievable with Sitemorse.

Webinars	Time	October	November	December
The INDEX	12:30am	15, 29	12, 26	10
	4pm	22	5, 19	3, 17
Pragmatic Accessibility	2pm	15, 29	12, 26	10
	10am	22	5, 19	3, 17
Making Compliance Achievable	3pm	15, 29	12, 26	10
	11am	22	5, 19	3, 17



To reserve your place
please email to Adam Turner
aturner@Sitemorse.com

About Sitemorse

Sitemorse is a UK-registered company and is 100% privately owned, with no external investors. The only shareholders are staff. There is no bank borrowing, overdraft or external funding. Although UK based, we have clients around the world.

We built, and own, the software and are not answerable to any venture capital firm or similar, in terms of the operation and management of the company. The founders of the business remain part and parcel of the running of the company, today – and it is probably the first company to bring automation to the digital governance market (with our first services running nearly 15 years ago and our oldest current client joining us 13 years ago).

Sitemorse owns its own Intellectual Property (IP), has no reliance on third-party licensed products or services, and all development and investment costs are fully paid. Against the Sitemorse Service Level Agreement, the company has achieved 99.82% uptime against a target of 99.7% over the last 10 years.

Sitemorse provides content QA & digital governance software, along with being the first to introduce Data Science and Machine intelligence capabilities.

Sitemorse®



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