Accessibility across UK & IE Universities and Higher Education Establishments

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.

Sitemorse ®

In Summary.

For the Sitemorse 2019 UK & IE Universities and Higher Ed INDEX we assessed over 346 Higher Education Establishments and Universities websites for adherence to WCAG 2.1. The INDEX was compiled following over 288 million tests, checks and measures across nearly 890,000 URLs.
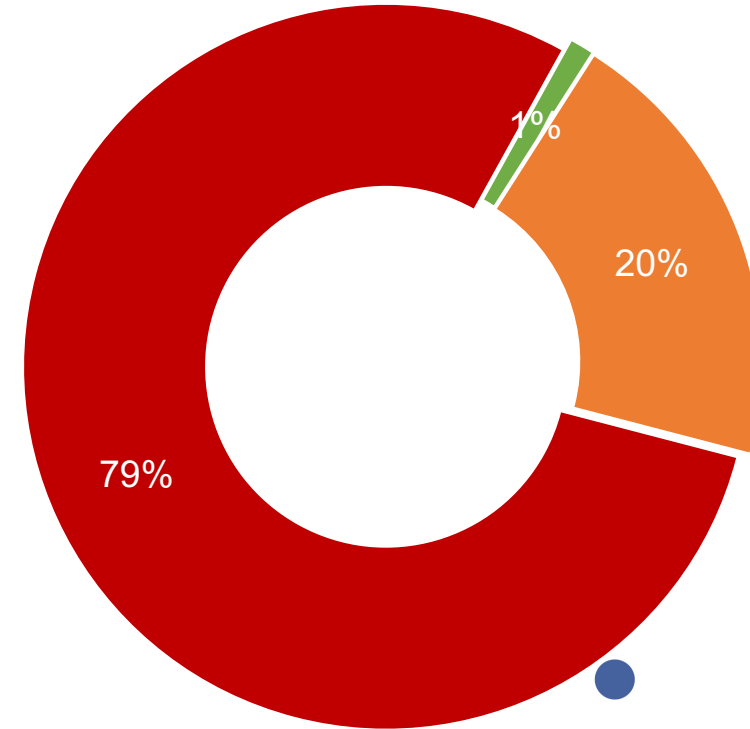
Only two establishments achieved a score of 7 or greater (out of 10) for accessibility.

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: 59.51%

- Pages passing accessibility level AA: 1.34%

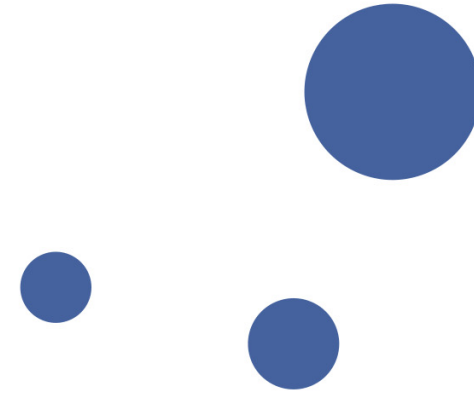- Of the 3,091 PDF's 58.8% PDF's passed the accessibility tests.

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.

1%

20%

79%

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

The Top 10.

1. **University of Derby**
   http://www.derby.ac.uk/

2. **Heriot-Watt University**
   http://www.hw.ac.uk/

3. **Trafford College**
   http://www.trafford.ac.uk/

4. **City College Norwich**
   http://www.ccn.ac.uk/

5. **Shrewsbury Colleges Group**
   https://www.scg.ac.uk/

6. **South Essex College**
   http://www.southessex.ac.u/

7. **Hull York Medical School**
   http://www.hyms.ac.uk/

8. **University of Worcester**
   http://www.worcester.ac.uk/

9. **Stockport College**
   http://www.stockport.ac.uk/

10. **University of Brighton**
    http://www.brighton.ac.uk/

The detailed listing of scores by site is provided at the end of the presentation.

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
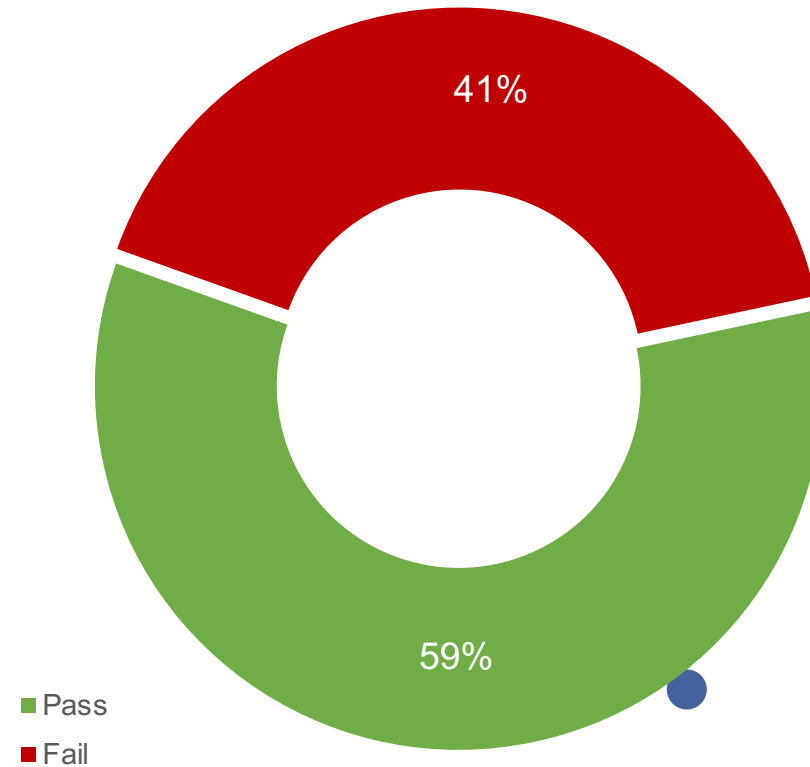- 22 June 2021
  - Public sector mobile apps

PDF documents.

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

In total there were 3,091 PDF's assessed of which 58.8% passed accessibility.

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

- Content Tagging
- Document Titles

41%

59%

- Pass
- Fail

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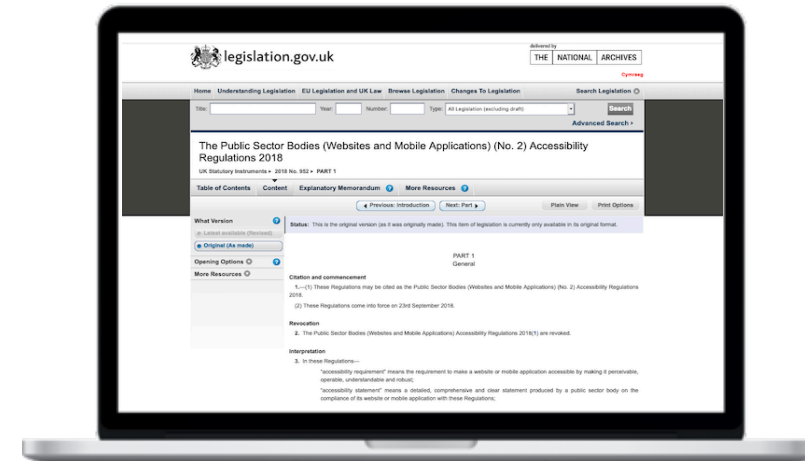   (a) office file formats published before 23rd September 2018, unless such content is needed for active administrative processes relating to the tasks performed by the public sector body;

(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 288,189,291 tests, checks and measures *(all categories)* across 886,489 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;
- Bexley College
- CECOS London College
- London Electronics College
- Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts
- Strode College
- Yorkshire Coast College of Further and Higher Education
- BPP University College Of Professional Studies Limited
- Capel Manor College
- Kensington College of Business
- Warwickshire College

The detail of individual exclusions is available on request.

Scoring (out of 10)	Percentage
10	0%
9	0.5%
8	0%
7	0.5%
6	6%
5	14%
4	5%
3	17%
2	10%
1	9%
0	38%

***http://www.sitemorse.com/rt/1594/73bbdb42

UK & IE Universities and Higher Education Establishments Scoring 10 (out of 10) **for Accessibility**

Scoring 9 (out of 10)
University of Derby

Scoring 8 (out of 10)

Scoring 7 (out of 10)
Heriot-Watt University

Scoring 6 (out of 10)

University of Glasgow	Shrewsbury Colleges Group	University of South Wales
Regent's University London,	City College Norwich	Hull York Medical School
University of Worcester	Brighton and Sussex Medical School	Heythrop College
Oxford Brookes University	The University of Manchester	Keele University
University of Brighton	Stockport College	Trafford College
University of Wales	South Essex College of Further & Higher Education	University of Greenwich
Pearson College		

UK & IE Universities and Higher Education Establishments Scoring 5 (out of 10) for Accessibility

Plymouth University

The University of Stirling

University of Sunderland,,

University Campus Suffolk (UCS)

University of the West of England

Aston University, Birmingham

University of Lincoln

Lancaster University

Craven College

Southampton Solent University

Roehampton University

Nottingham Trent University

The Open University

The University of Birmingham

York St John University

Harper Adams University College

West Herts College

University of Southampton

London South Bank University

Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)

John Ruskin College

Bristol, Bath Spa University

The Glasgow School of Art

Goldsmiths University of London

The University of Sheffield

The University of Edinburgh

Newman University, Birkbeck

Grimsby Institute of Further and Higher Education

The University of Aberdeen

Tameside College

University of Bristol

Middlesex University

University of Hertfordshire

Petroc

Guildford College

Goodenough College

Lewisham & Southwark College

University of London

King's College London

Imperial College London

Cardiff University

Myerscough College

University of London

University of Bath

Bournemouth University

Trinity College Dublin

MidKent College,

University of Sussex

University of Hertfordshire

Scoring 4 (out of 10)

The University of West London

Sir George Monoux Sixth Form College

Edge Hill University

University of Ulster

Loughborough University

South Gloucestershire and Stroud College

New College Nottingham

 University of Wolverhampton

University of Portsmouth

Northumberland College

South Thames College

Central School of Speech and Drama

Central College Nottingham

The University of Warwick

Birmingham City University

University of Kent

London School of Economics and Political Science

ifs School of Finance

UK & IE Universities and Higher Education Establishments Scoring 3 (out of 10) for Accessibility

The University of York	Leeds College of Music	Colchester Institute
Anglia Ruskin University	Central Bedfordshire College	The College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland	Glyndwr University	Sunderland College
University of the Highlands and Islands	Cranfield University	University of Central Lancashire
Liverpool Hope University	The Sixth Form College Solihull	Royal Agricultural University
Liverpool John Moores University	Bradford College: An Associate of Leeds Metropolitan University	Royal Veterinary College (University of London)
Sheffield Hallam University	University of Dundee	Cass Business School
University of Exeter	Cardiff Metropolitan University	The University of Salford
Carshalton College	Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama	Staffordshire University
British College of Osteopathic Medicine	The University of Nottingham	Somerset College of Arts and Technology
Ravensbourne	The University of Gloucestershire	Oxford University
University of Chichester	City and Islington College	Guildhall School of Music and Drama
Barton Peveril Sixth Form College	University of St Mark & St John	Doncaster College
Truro and Penwith College	University of Leeds	Royal Holloway, University of London
Buckinghamshire New University	Bournemouth and Poole College	Brunel University
St George's, University of London	Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts	The London College, UCK
College of Teachers	University of Northampton	Moulton College
Fareham College	St Helens College	South Tyneside College
Royal Northern College of Music	Bishop Burton College	Norwich University Of The Arts
London School of Commerce	Nazarene Theological College	Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance

UK & IE Universities and Higher Education Establishments Scoring 2 (out of 10) for Accessibility

The University of Reading	South Devon College	University College Falmouth
Leeds Metropolitan University	University for the Creative Arts	The University of Liverpool
Courtauld Institute of Art (University of London)	City of Bristol College	Barnfield College
Jisc	The University of Essex	University of St Andrews
West Nottinghamshire College	The Institute of Cancer Research	Glasgow Caledonian University
Anglo European College of Chiropractic	University of Limerick	Wakefield College
New College Telford	York College	Rose Bruford College
Cambria College	University of Wales Trinity Saint David	Bedford College
Wirral Metropolitan College	Grwp Llandrillo Menai	Runshaw College
Cliff College	Bridgwater College	South Leicestershire College
North Warwickshire and Hinckley College	Leeds Trinity University	London South East Colleges
Richmond, The American International University in London	Hereford College of Arts	

Scoring 1 (out of 10)

The University of Bradford	Uxbridge College	University of Bolton
Middlesbrough College	University of Abertay Dundee	The University of Hull
University of Westminster	Ruskin College Oxford	University College Birmingham
Cornwall College	Duchy College	Croydon College
Glasgow Kelvin College	Canterbury Christ Church University	The University of Buckingham
University of Cumbria	The Manchester Metropolitan University	Technological University Dublin
University of Cambridge	University College of Osteopathy	University College Dublin
Teesside University	College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London	Northbrook College Sussex
Stephenson College Coalville	Basingstoke College of Technology	New College of Humanities
University College Cork	Writtle College	Newcastle University

UK & IE Universities and Higher Education Establishments Scoring 0 (out of 10) for Accessibility

Chichester College	Robert Gordon University	Manchester School of Architecture
Hull College	Dudley College	Birmingham Metropolitan College
Gower College Swansea	The Manchester College	Leo Baeck College
Swansea University	South Downs College	Coventry College
Heart of Worcestershire College	Leicester College	British Institute of Technology & E-commerce
Blackburn College	Newcastle-Under-Lyme College	St Mary's University College, Twickenham
Warrington Collegiate	Exeter College	Herefordshire College of Technology
Royal National College For The Blind	South & City College Birmingham	Neath Port Talbot College
Wigan and Leigh College	Hopwood Hall College	University of London Institute in Paris
Queen Mary, University of London	University College Isle of Man	Tyne Metropolitan College
Liverpool Community College	West Thames College	Aberystwyth University
Bangor University	New College Durham	Wiltshire College
Cambridge Judge Business School	LCA Business School, London	University of Bedfordshire
Lakes College - West Cumbria	Sandwell College	Sheffield College
De Montfort University	University of East London	East Riding College
Newham College of Further Education	Durham University	Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College
Askham Bryan College	The University of Huddersfield	Coventry University
Leeds City College	Swindon College	University of Leicester
Highbury College	Farnborough College of Technology	Pembrokeshire College (Accredited College of University of Glamorgan)
Russell Group	European School of Osteopathy	Chesterfield College
Brooklands College	Weymouth College	School of Oriental and African Studies (University of London)
University of Winchester	University of East Anglia	London Metropolitan University
National University of Ireland Galway	Coleg Sir Gar / Carmarthenshire College	Hertford Regional College
Institute of Education	The University of Law	FutureLearn
The Academy of Contemporary Music	University of the West of Scotland	East Surrey College (incorporating Reigate School of Art, Design and Media)
Queen's University Belfast	SAE Institute	London Business School
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	Sparsholt College Hampshire	New College Stamford
Walsall College	The School of Pharmacy (University of London)	University of Surrey

UK & IE Universities and Higher Education Establishments Scoring 0 (out of 10) for Accessibility, cont'd

Leeds College of Art	NESCOT, Surrey	Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh
Northumbria University	Brooksby Melton College	Southport College
The University of Strathclyde	European School of Economics	Rotherham College of Arts and Technology
Royal Academy of Music	Blackpool and The Fylde College An Associate College of Lancaster University	Kingston University
GSM London	Activate Learning	Solihull College
Plymouth College of Art (formerly Plymouth College of Art and Design)	University of Chester	Loughborough College
Peterborough Regional College	Gloucestershire College	Royal College of Music
Dearne Valley College	Lincoln College	University of the Arts London
City of Bath College	Westminster Kingsway College	Norton Radstock College
Accrington & Rossendale College	Stranmillis University College: A College of Queen's University Belfast	Cleveland College of Art and Design
Stratford upon Avon College	Edinburgh Napier University	University College London (University of London)
Bishop Grosseteste University College Lincoln	Islamic College for Advanced Studies	Arts University Bournemouth
Cheshire College - South & West	Dublin City University	Royal Academy of Dance
Easton College	Newcastle College	Kirklees College
Havering College of Further and Higher Education	North Lindsey College	Barking and Dagenham College
Royal College of Art	London School of Science and Technology	City University London
College of West Anglia		

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	10:30am	15, 29	12, 26	10
	2pm	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.