

Accessibility - UK Public Sector websites.

Organizations are struggling to meet their legal obligations (accessibility) and limit online discrimination.

The false sense of security, coupled with the lack of strategic approach is damaging online experience and exposing organizations to unnecessary litigation risk.

With over 90% of websites currently non-compliant there is evidence of the need for a new approach.



The screenshot shows a website interface with two tabs: 'Summary' and 'Accessibility'. The 'Accessibility' tab is active. The main content area displays the following information:

- Rockstar of the year**
- All INDEXes
- 
- Harrogate Borough Council**
- Outstanding achievers**
- 2. North Devon Council
- 3. Marston's PLC
- 4. Orkney Islands Council
- 5. Dartford Borough Council
- 6. Daventry District Council
- 7. Richmondshire District Council
- 8. Broxtowe Borough Council
- 9. Blaby District Council
- 10. Thurrock Council

www.Sitemorse.com/INDEX

What are the Regulations?

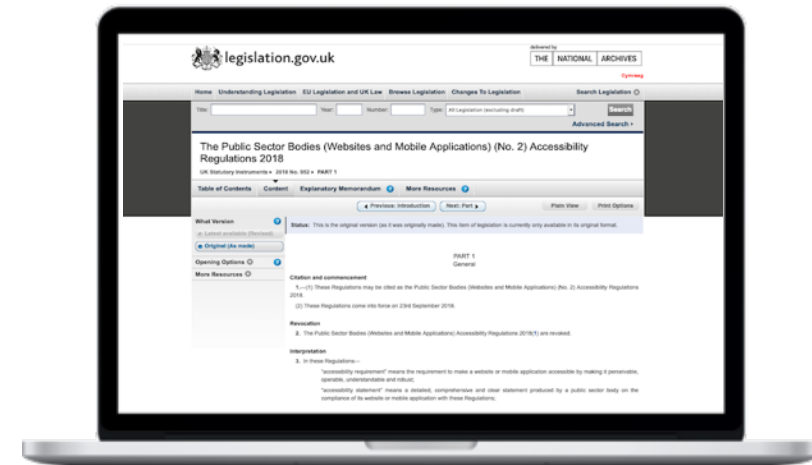
The EU Directive on the accessibility of public sector websites and mobile apps *(Directive (EU) 2016/2102 using European standard EN 301 549 V1.1.2 (2015-04)), came into force for in the UK on 23 September 2018. The aim of the regulations is to ensure public sector websites and mobile apps can be used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

Clarification from the Cabinet Office:

“...any new content published after 23 September 2019 should be in an accessible format at the time of publishing.”



Detail of the regulations can be viewed at https://sitemorse.com/blog-article/9787/free_guide_to_accessibility_and_the_Equality_Act/ and <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/eur/2012/1025/contents>

*<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/accessibility-requirements-for-public-sector-websites-and-apps>
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32016L2102>
https://www.etsi.org/deliver/etsi_en/301500_301599/301549/02_01_02_60/en_301549v020102p.pdf

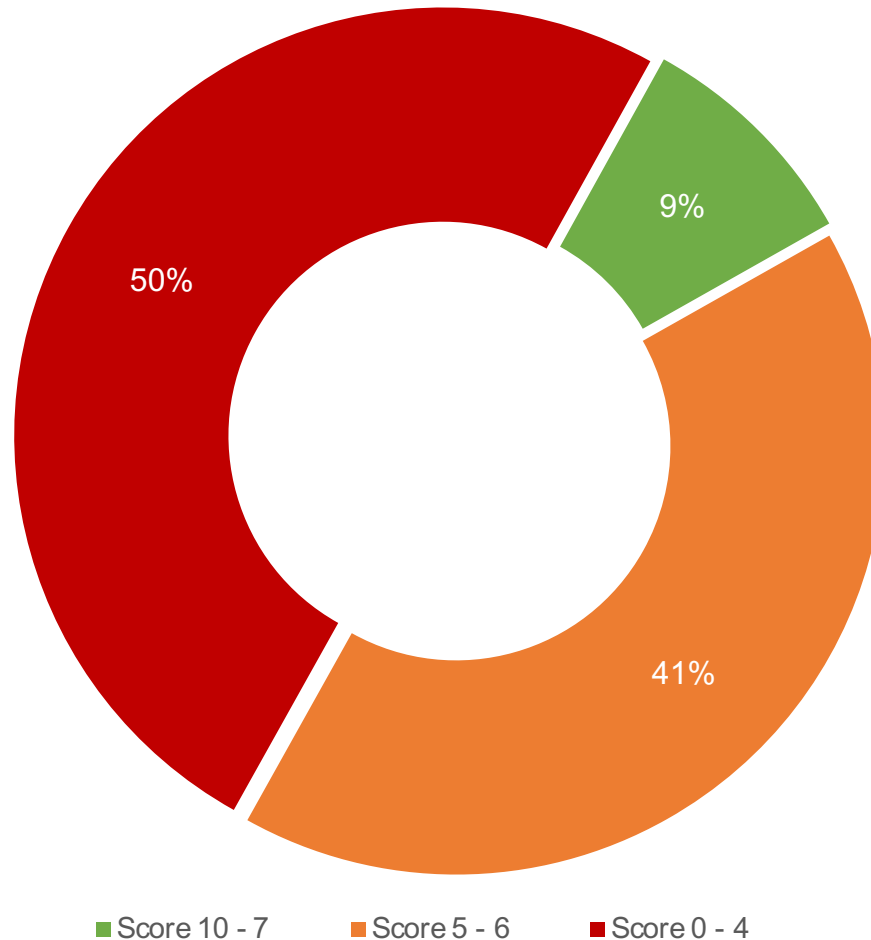
Overall Summary.

22 September 2020 is the date by which all UK public sector websites need to be accessible. We've taken a look across our public sector INDEXes to assess progress.

Local Government is leading in making their website accessible. Across all of the private and public sector INDEXes that we publish, local authorities comprise 9 of the top 10 scorers over the last 12 months.

17% of local government websites are in a good position, scoring at least 7 (out of 10)

Across all of the public sector this figure reduces to 9%.

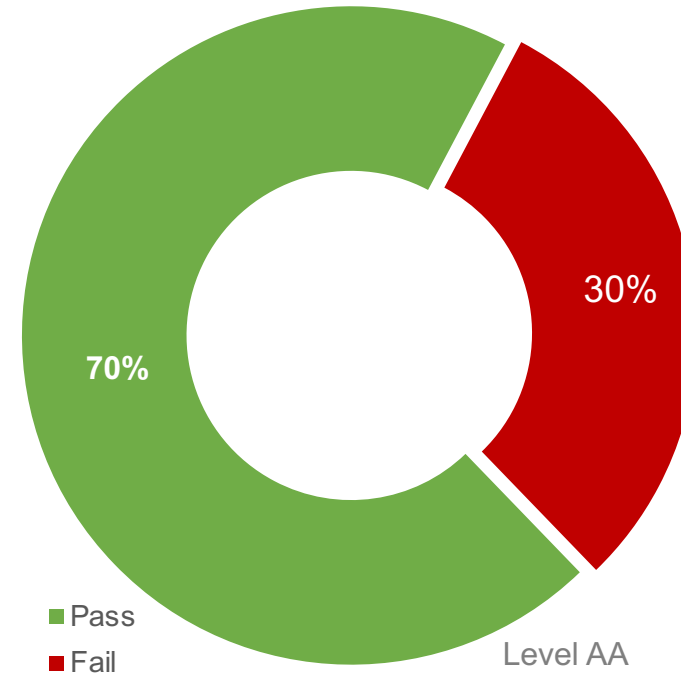
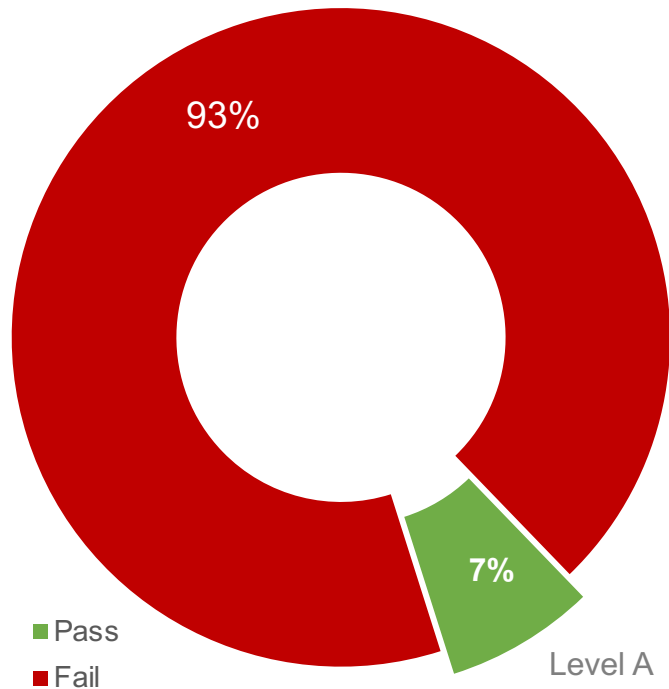


It is important to note that this score is for automated tests; there are still manual tests that need to be performed however, a score of 10 demonstrates a thorough understanding of what needs to be done and it is likely that the manual tests will pass.

Overall – Level A & AA.

Across the public sector we see that 7% web pages are passing WCAG 2.1 Level A. The situation with Level AA is better with 70% web pages passing.

However, to be compliant, web pages need to pass both the Level A and Level AA checkpoints.



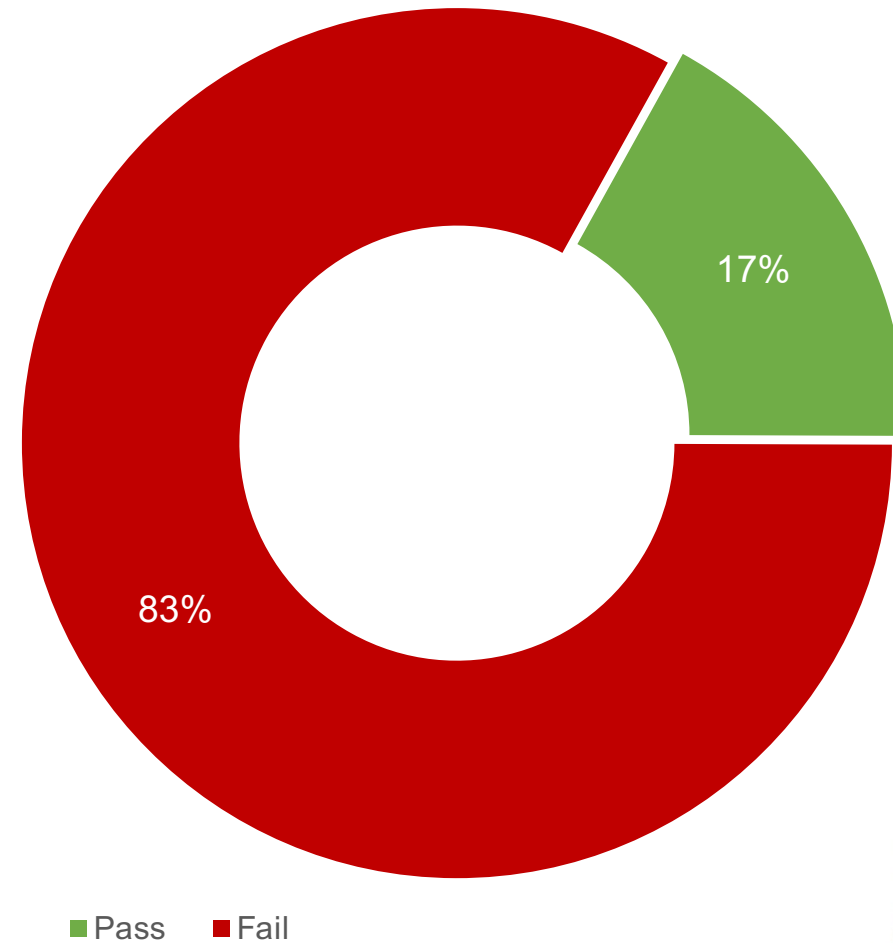
Overall - PDFs.

Along with the compliance assessment of web pages, we also audited the PDF documents from each organisation's website.

In total there were 8,283 PDF's audited of which 17% passed the automated WCAG accessibility checks.

The most common actions required to improve levels of compliance;

- Content Tagging
- Document Titles



Dania Software

Looking to improve PDF's, check accessibility at the point of production? It may be worth looking at accessibilityfixer by www.daniasoftware.com



Contact: Kim Erbo Christensen | kec@daniasoftware.com



“Initially the NHS Digital website lacked accessibility compliance.

We used Sitemorse to benchmark the NHS sector helping us understand the scale of remediation required.

Using Sitemorse’s assessments allowed us to identify all the tickets we needed to work upon to ensure our site templates and our content deliver AA compliance as well as dramatically improve content quality.

Now we lead in accessibility and continue to use Sitemorse to identify issues quickly resolve them as they come up. Impact wise, Sitemorse has been fundamental to the improvements we’ve made and the direction we’ve taken.”

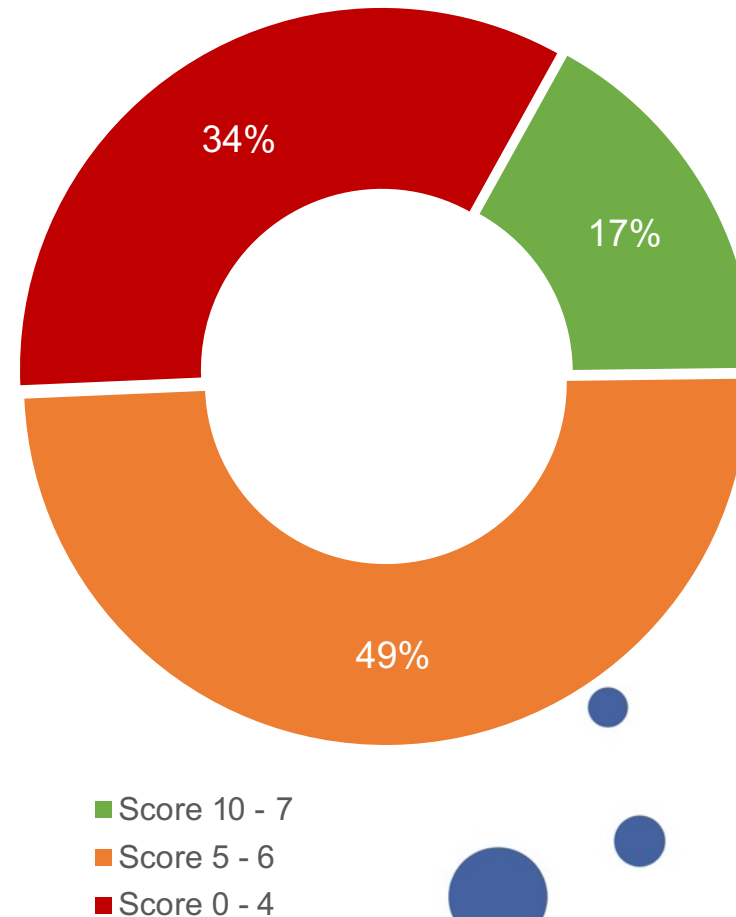
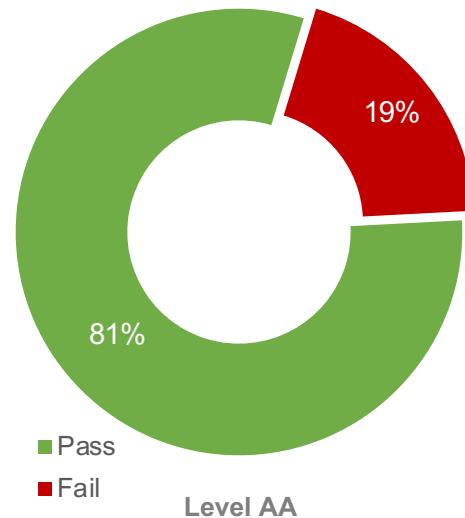
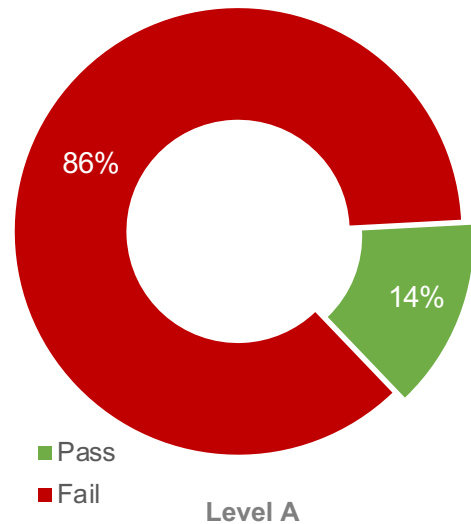


Head of Digital Services –
talking about Sitemorse.

Position - Local Government.

Local Authorities are leading the public sector in terms of having website that are compliant. There are 17% of local authority websites that are scoring over 7 (out of 10) and indeed, only 1, Harrogate Borough Council, that achieves a score of 10.

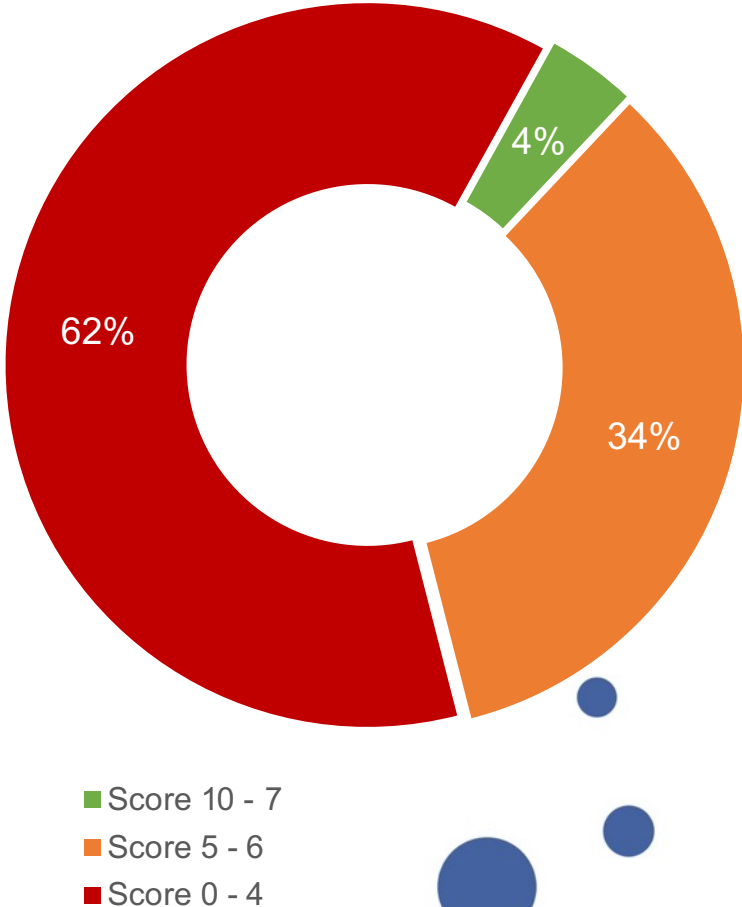
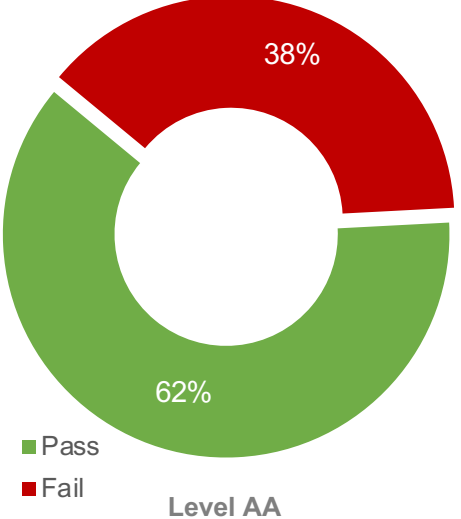
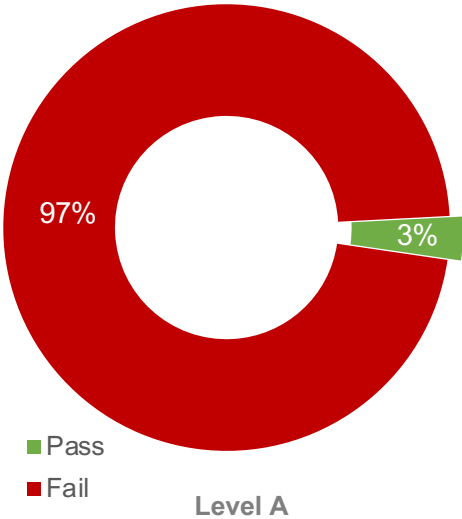
14% of webpages are passing WCAG 2.1 Level A with 81% passing Level AA



Position – Government & Public Bodies.

Government and Public Bodies still have work to do to be compliant by the September deadline. 4% of these organisation’s websites scored 7 or better (out of 10) with 62% scoring 4 or less. The highest score, of 8, was achieved by 3 organisations

3% of webpages are passing WCAG 2.1 Level A with 62% passing Level AA

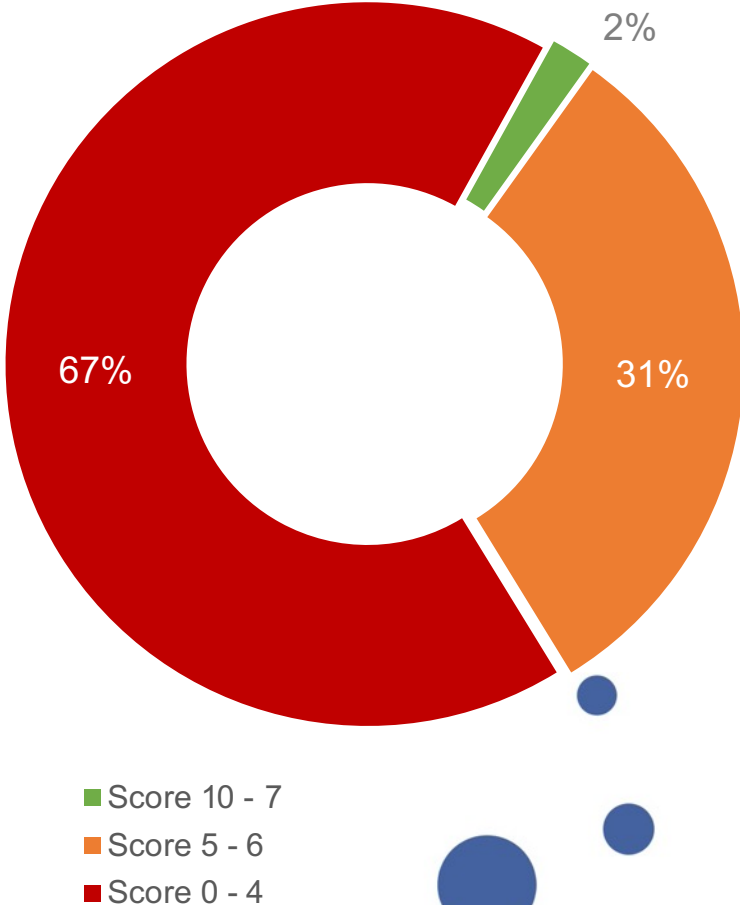
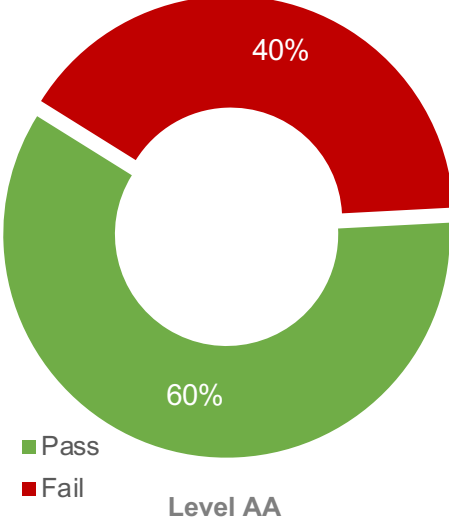
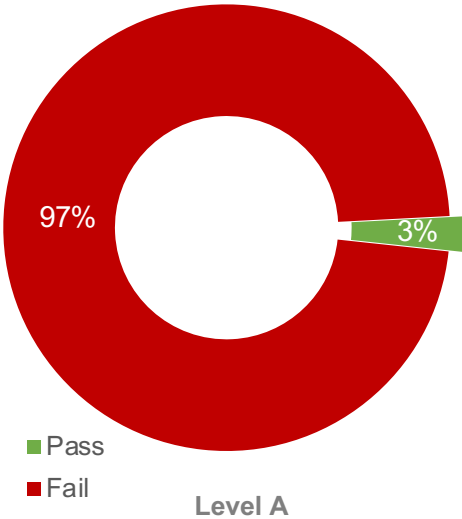


Position – Universities.

UK & IE Universities still have a lot of work to do to be compliant by the September deadline, especially with many universities looking to deliver their courses online at the start of the academic year.

2% of university websites scored 7 or better (out of 10) with 67% scoring 4 or less. The highest score, of 8, was achieved by 2 universities

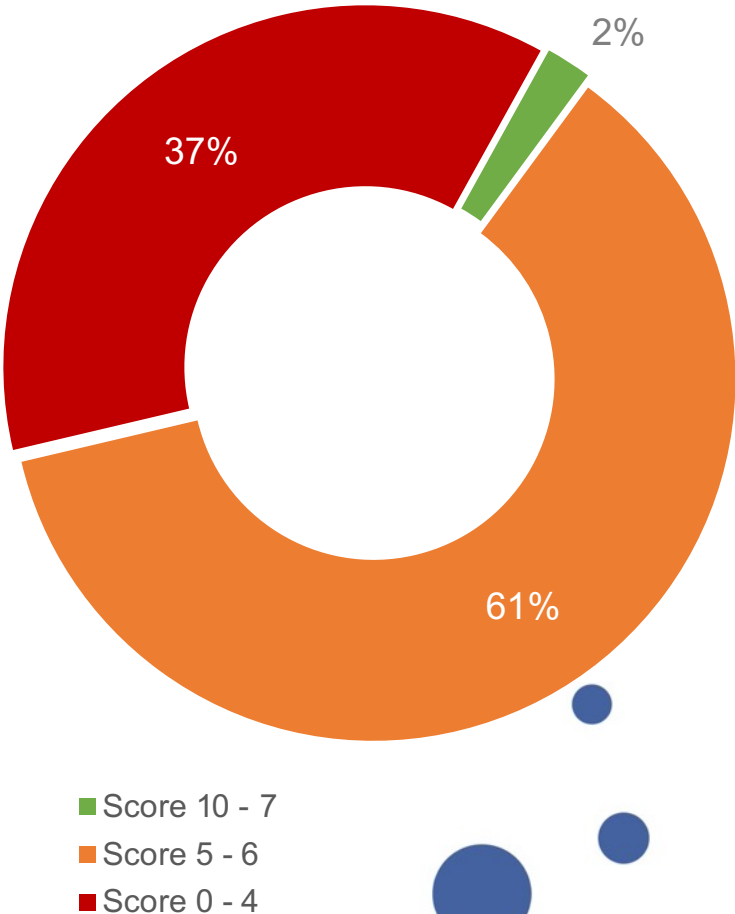
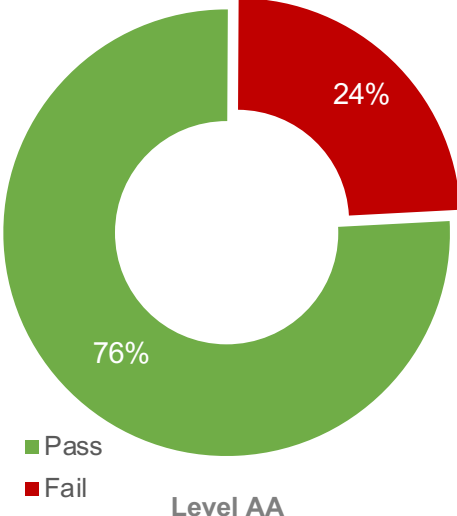
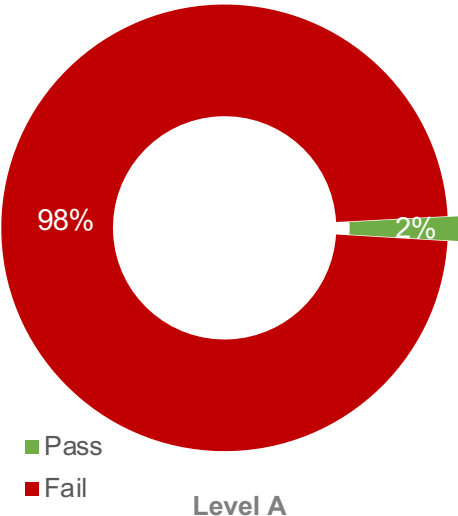
3% of webpages are passing WCAG 2.1 Level A with 60% passing Level AA



Position – Police Forces.

1 website scored 7 or better (out of 10). However, with 37% scoring 4 or less it shows that most are at least making some progress. The highest score, of 7, was achieved by Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

2% of webpages are passing WCAG 2.1 Level A with 76% passing Level AA



Full Results – breakdown by authority.

A more detailed analysis of the results can be found in our blog.

A report showing progress over the last 10 quarters as well as the Priorities for Managers, Content Editors and Developers can be accessed for free.

A link to each organisation's report can be found by downloading the Excel Spreadsheet for the INDEX:

UK Local Government

https://sitemorse.com/media/uploads/2020_q2_local_government_accessibiity.xls

Government & Public Bodies

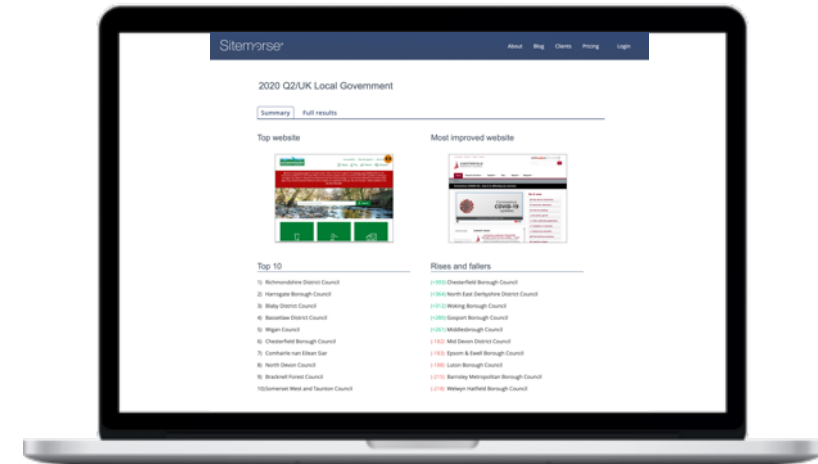
https://sitemorse.com/media/uploads/2020_q2_government_public_bodies_accessibiity.xls

UK & IE Universities:

https://sitemorse.com/media/uploads/2020_q2_universities_accessibiity.xls

UK Police Forces:

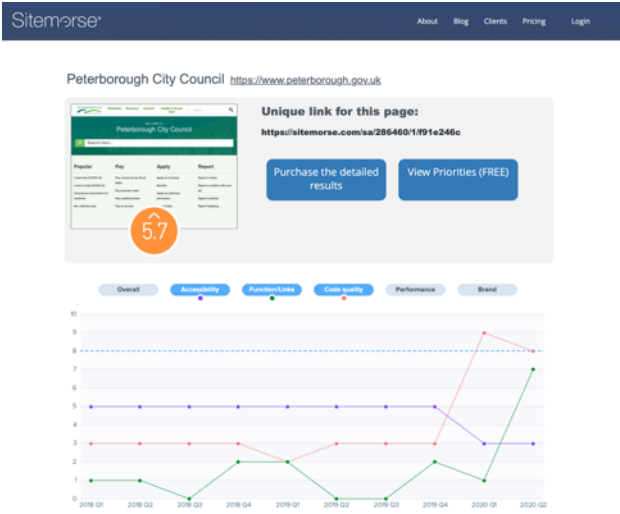
https://sitemorse.com/media/uploads/2020_q2_uk_police_accessibiity.xls



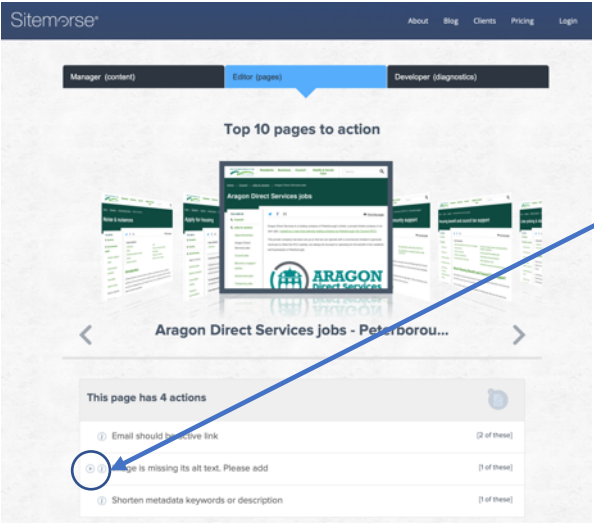
https://sitemorse.com/blog-article/9793/uk_public_sector_website_accessibility/

Access Results – breakdown by organisation.

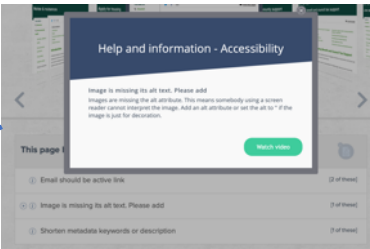
The link in the spreadsheet will take your results page



You can view the priority actions for the Managers, Editors and Developers



Actions are explained in simple language and for many there are supporting videos



Links to results can be found at:

https://sitemorse.com/blog-article/9793/uk_public_sector_website_accessibility/

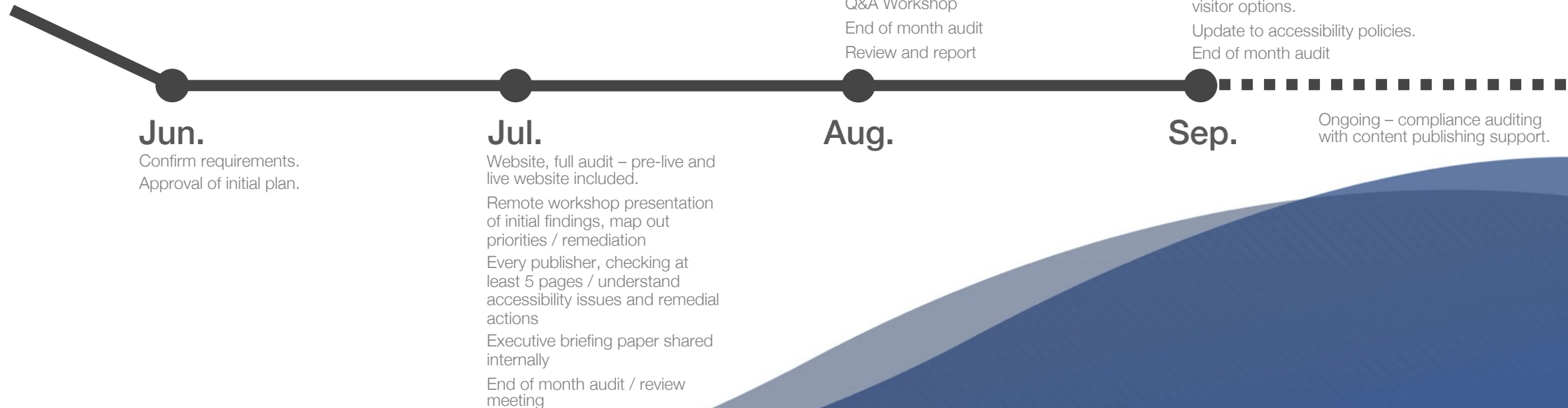
Accessibility Accelerator.

We offer a fixed price service, against proven improvement principles. The accelerator is a cost-effective solution to delivering accessibility compliance.

Delivered against your main website, unlimited usage until the end of 2020, private online workshops and support - £7,500 (excl VAT)



For details of the Accessibility Accelerator please email sales@Sitemorse.com



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