



Cabinet Office

New rules about making websites and apps accessible to everyone

Consultation Information



Easy Read

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Introduction



The **EU** has some new rules about making websites and **apps** accessible to everyone.



EU is the European Union.



Apps is short for ‘mobile applications’. These are computer programmes that you can add to your computer or phone. They do different things.



These new EU rules have to be added to the law in the UK by 23 September 2018.



The UK Government has written a draft of the new rules. It wants people to look at this draft and say what they think.



They may then make some changes to the draft before it becomes a law.

There are already some rules. The new rules will be added to the old ones.



Accessibility

Accessibility is about making sure everyone can use the websites and apps, especially people with disabilities.



It is about how the website or app is:

- Designed
- Built
- Kept working well
- Kept up to date



What do you think?



We want to know:

- How you will be affected by this new law



- What help and training you may need so you can keep to this law



- How we should check that people are keeping to this new law



Please read this easy read document and then tell us what you think by answering the questions.



If you prefer you can answer the same questions on the easy read questionnaire.

When will the changes happen?

The new rules will come in 3 stages:



- New websites need to follow the new rules from 23 September 2019



- Existing websites need to be changed so they follow the new rules by 23 September 2020



- Apps need to follow the new rules from 23 June 2021

Brexit



On 23 June 2016 the people of the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union.



The Government is talking with the EU about how we leave.



Until these talks are finished:

- The UK is still a full member of the EU
- We have to keep to EU rules



Who is affected?



Public sector bodies

The new rules only apply to ‘public sector bodies’.



Public sector bodies are:

- The government, the regional government and local councils



- Any organisation that has been set up by the government or local government



- Any group of the organisations that have been set up by the government



Question 1: Do you understand what we mean by 'public sector body'?

Yes

No



Question 2: Would you like more help to understand this?

Yes

No

Don't know

Who is not affected?



Some organisations that are part of the government do not have to follow the new rules.



They are:

- The BBC and other public TV and radio companies
- Organisations that may get money from the government but do not provide services to the public
- Schools and nurseries



Question 3: Do you understand who is not affected?

- Yes No
 Don't know

Any comment





Question 4: Would your organisation be affected or not affected?

- Affected
- Not affected
- Don't know
- This doesn't apply to me

Please tell us why your organisation would not be affected or why you don't know



Question 5: Do you agree that these rules should not apply to Schools and nurseries?

- Yes No
- Don't know

Any comment

What is not affected?



It is not always possible to make sure that everything on a website and app is accessible.

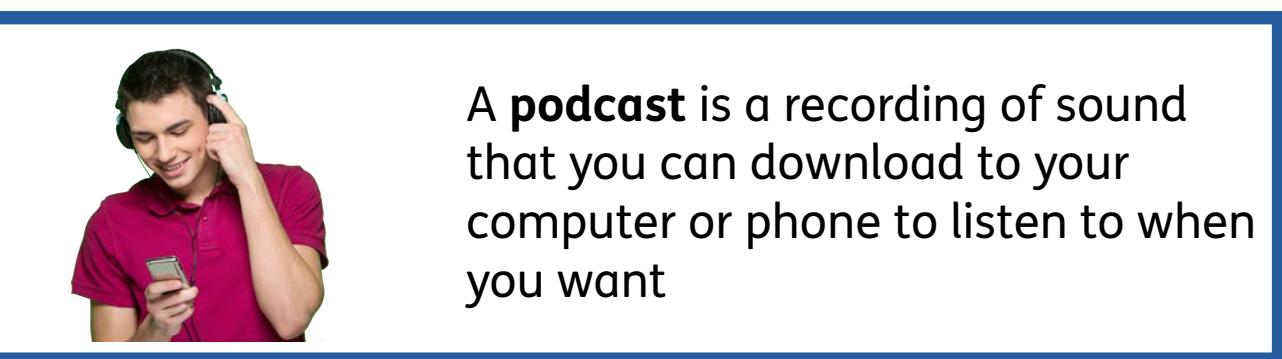


The new rules will say that certain things can be on a website but do not have to be accessible.



The things that do not have to be accessible are:

- Documents that have been put up before 23 September 2018
- Videos and **podcasts** put up before 23 September 2018



A **podcast** is a recording of sound that you can download to your computer or phone to listen to when you want



- Live video



- Online maps



- Information that has been put on the website or app by a different organisation



- Copies of older documents



- Information that has been put up on the website before 23 September 2019



- Information that is not available to the general public



Question 6: Do you understand which bits of information on your website does not have to be accessible?

 Yes No

Question 7: If you don't understand, please tell us what sort of information you would like us to give.

Other ways to access information

Organisations can still put information on the websites that is not accessible if they also provide a different accessible way for people to get the information.



For example, this might be by email or telephone.

Disproportionate burden assessment



A disproportionate burden assessment is where an organisation thinks that the amount of work to make a website or app accessible would not be worth it.



This may happen when only a very few disabled people are likely to use the website.



In these cases they may not have to make their website or app accessible.



Each organisation would have to:

- Show that they had checked the cost of making their website or app accessible
- Show that the benefit of making their website accessible would not be worth the cost of doing it.



They would have to explain this on the website.



Question 8: Do you understand what we mean by '**disproportionate burden assessment**'. If not have you any comments?

Yes

No

Any comment

What organisations have to do



Make websites and apps accessible

Organisations must make their websites and apps more accessible by making them:



- **Perceivable.** This means that everyone will think that the information is there



- **Operable.** This means that everyone must be able to use the things on website or app



- **Understandable.** This means that people must be able to understand the information on the website or app



- **Robust.** This means that:

- The website must be able to work well with all the devices people may use to understand a website - like a screenreader



- The website will work with new devices as they are created in the future

An accessibility statement



Organisations must have an accessibility statement.



The statement must:

- Be accessible itself

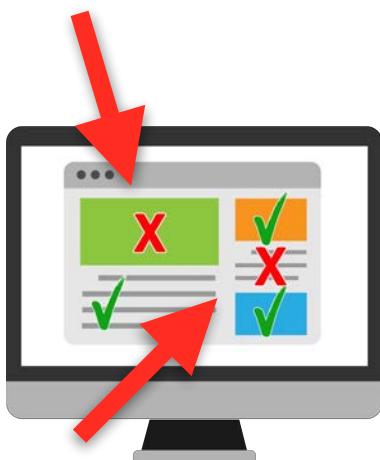


- Be updated often



- Be based on the accessibility statement which is used by the EU

The accessibility statement must include the following:



- A list of any parts of the website or app that aren't accessible with:
 - The reasons why they aren't accessible
 - Links to other accessible ways to get the information



- A way that people can tell the organisation if parts of their website are not accessible
- A link to the people who check and can force the organisation to make their website or app accessible



Accessibility information on app stores

Organisations must include information about whether their app is accessible on the app stores.



App stores are Apple App store or Google Play Store.

Question 9: Does your organisation have an accessibility statement?



- Yes No
 Don't know

Question 10: If 'Yes' what does the statement include?



Question 11: Do you think an accessibility statement will help people to access information and services?



- Yes No
 Don't know

Any comment

Checking and reporting



The new EU rules say that there must be an organisation in every country that is responsible for checking that websites and apps are accessible.



The EU will set up a way of checking websites and apps by 23 December 2018.



This will include:

- How often the websites and apps should be checked



- How much of each website needs to be looked at



- How much of the app needs to be looked at



- How to show that a website is fully accessible



- How to report on parts of the website that are not accessible



- How the checks and tests should be carried out



The government thinks that the Government Digital Service should be the organisation that checks that websites and apps are accessible.

Training and guidance



The Government must train staff who are responsible for websites.

It also has to consult people about what should be included in the training.



It has to consult:

- Organisations that speak up for disabled people and older people



- Companies that make accessible websites and apps



- Other people who are interested



Question 12: Do you think your organisation will need training or help to be able to follow the new rules?

Yes No

Don't know

Any comments

Question 13: If 'Yes' what training or help will you or your organisation need?



Making sure it happens



The government will set up a way of making sure that websites and apps become accessible.



It is setting up a way of helping organisations to make sure their websites and apps are accessible.



The Government Digital Service will be responsible for checking that websites and apps are accessible.



There are already some laws about equality and making things fair for everybody.

The government may use these laws to make sure that organisations follow the new rules.



Question 14: Do you have any comments on the way we plan to check that organisations keep to the new rules?

Yes

No

Any comments

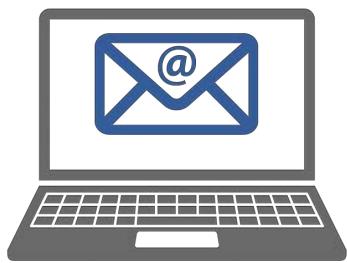


Question 15: Do you find it easy to understand the things you must do to meet the new rules?

Yes

No

Any comments



Please now send your comments back to us at:

Email: consultation-responses@digital.cabinet-office.gov.uk



Post:

**Accessibility team
7th Floor,
The White Chapel Building
Whitechapel High Street
London
E1 8QS**

For more information

If you need more information please contact us by:



Email: **consultation-
responses@digital.cabinet-
office.gov.uk**



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