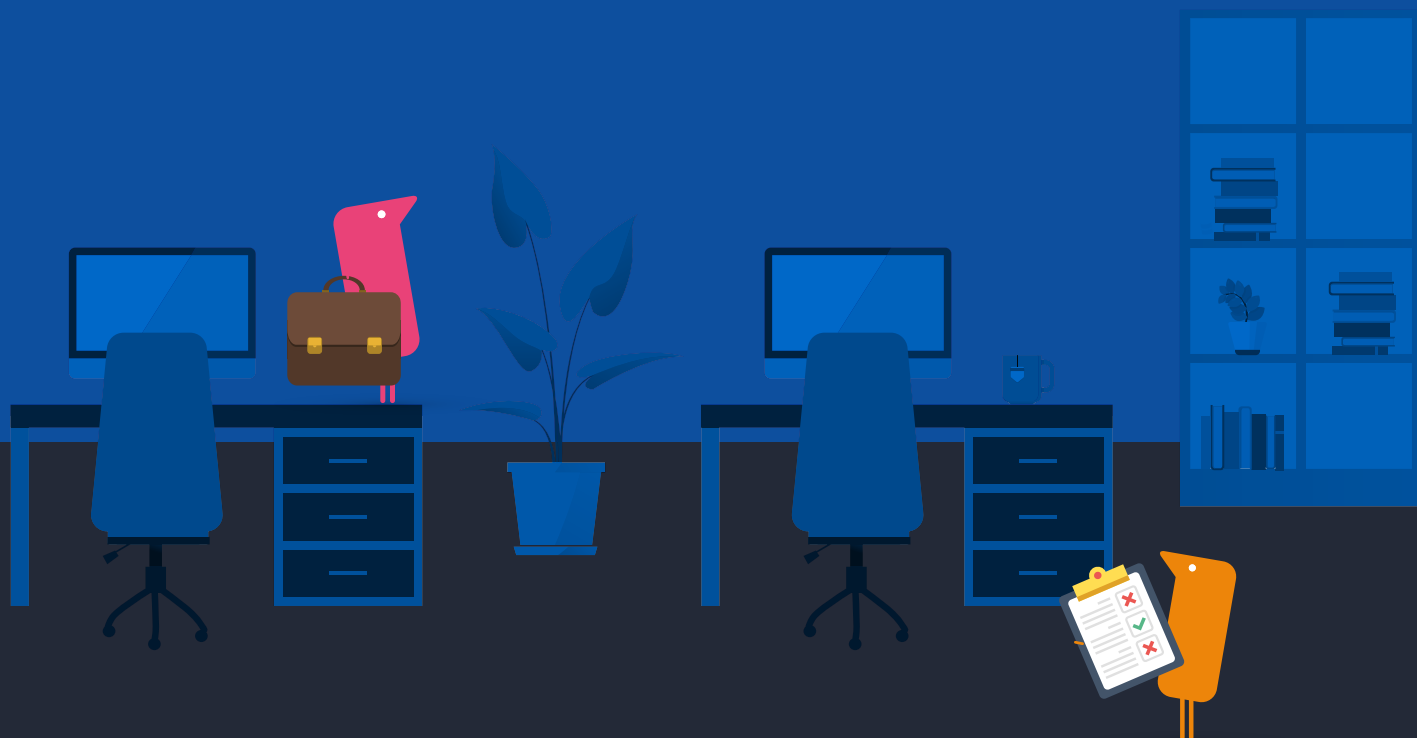




Web accessibility legislation: are you covered?

Around 15% of the world's population live with a disability. That's roughly 1 billion people. For many, the digital world isn't welcoming. Online barriers can make it hard for people with disabilities to browse, buy and access digital content.

Making sure your websites and apps are accessible matters. Not only for your online visitors. But for your organisation. In fact, did you know you could be breaking the law if they're not?



We have a legal obligation to provide equal access to people with disabilities under the...

- Equality Act 2010
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations 2018

The Public Sector Bodies Accessibility Regulations 2018

As the newest set of regulations, they place a legal obligation on public sector organisations to:

- Meet the latest version of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) to level AA
- Make sure their websites, apps and documents are perceivable, operable, understandable and robust
- Publish an accessibility statement on their websites and apps

Enforcement dates

23 September 2018

Regulations came into force.

23 September 2019

All new websites published after 23 September 2018 must be compliant.

23 September 2020

All websites published before 23 September 2018 must be compliant.

23 June 2021

All mobile applications must be compliant.




What can you do to become more accessible?


WCAG is considered the international standard for website accessibility. And under the latest legislation, public sector organisations must comply with WCAG standards. The guidelines are based on the POUR principles - Perceivable, Operable, Understandable and Robust. For a website to be truly accessible, it must meet these principles.

In this guide you'll learn what the POUR principles mean. You'll uncover some actions to take to kick start your efforts in becoming more accessible. And, you'll also discover how our tools can help you on your journey.

perceivable


Every part of a website should be able to be perceived by every visitor. This means that content should be available in multiple formats. It also considers accessible design choices. For example, good colour contrast and typography. This makes it easier for users to see and hear content.

Your action	Our solution  ReachDeck™
Provide content in multiple formats, including downloadable content too	ReachDeck makes it easy to offer your content in multiple formats. The ReachDeck Toolbar has features such as MP3 Maker. It transforms content into an audio file for offline listening.
Use metadata to provide text alternatives to images	ReachDeck's Auditor feature scans your website for errors, and identifies missing alt tags. And, helping you go a step beyond, the ReachDeck Toolbar reads alt-tags behind images. Giving oral descriptions to visually impaired visitors.
Minimise visual overload with inclusive design	Web Page Simplifier within the ReachDeck Toolbar removes distracting content. Helping users to focus on what's important.

Your action	Our solution  ReachDeck™
Use good colour contrast between text and background elements	The ReachDeck Auditor highlights WCAG errors on your site, including colour contrast. The ReachDeck Toolbar also supports visitors with colour sensitivities. Its Screen Mask feature allows visitors to apply a colour overlay to their screen.
Use a font size that's easy to read (for example a font size of 12pt/16px)	Users can enlarge text using the Magnifier feature within the ReachDeck Toolbar.


operable

Web content must be able to be accessed by every visitor. This includes people who use adaptive devices, and those who may suffer seizures or physical reactions. It must also be easy to navigate, helping users find content, and decide where they are.

Your action	Our solution  ReachDeck™
Help users to navigate and find content, including visitors using screen readers	The ReachDeck Auditor highlights errors on your website including broken links, empty headings and missing attributes. It also identifies missing field labels, send buttons on forms, and much more. Helping you to quickly identify accessibility problems across the entire user journey.
Help users to determine where they are on screen	<p>The ReachDeck Auditor identifies duplicate IDs. Helping you to make sure users of screen readers aren't directed to the wrong location on the screen.</p> <p>In addition, the ReachDeck Toolbar offers users support. When using the Text-to-speech function, users can follow along with dual colour highlighting. The Screen Mask feature also helps users to keep their focus by giving a reading pane.</p>
Optimise web code to ensure that all functionality is available from a keyboard	<p>The ReachDeck Auditor highlights obsolete markup. Helping you to use HTML that's accessible to screen readers.</p> <p>The ReachDeck Toolbar is also fully keyboard accessible. Meaning that accessibility support is available to every user.</p>
Do not use content that causes seizures	The Screen Mask feature within the ReachDeck Toolbar allows users to dim the screen. And Web Page Simplifier removes distracting content.


understandable


Content that someone can access is not necessarily accessible. It must be readable and understandable. Factors to consider are the use of language, abbreviations and pronunciations. This principle also considers how intuitive the website is. Meaning whether it acts in a way which users would expect. Additionally, where visitors are asked to input information, support should be in place. So that users can avoid and correct mistakes.

Your action	Our solution  ReachDeck™
Use language that can be understood by all site visitors	<p>With ReachDeck, you can easily improve the readability of your internal and external content. The ReachDeck Editor highlights reading age, jargon words and long sentences as employees type.</p> <p>With the ReachDeck Toolbar, visitors can also translate content into over 100 languages.</p>
Give users enough time to read and use content	<p>When using Text-to-Speech within the ReachDeck Toolbar, users can change the audio speed and voice.</p>
Be transparent, so visitors understand what actions to take on the site	<p>The ReachDeck Toolbar speaks content out loud, including alt tags and hyperlinks. Helping users to understand what actions to take.</p>
Help users to avoid and correct mistakes	<p>The ReachDeck Auditor identifies missing field labels on forms. Helping you to make sure your visitors can understand form requirements.</p> <p>The ReachDeck Toolbar allows users to hear content read out loud, including information typed into forms. This can help them to identify mistakes.</p>

robust

Each individual accesses the web using technology which suits their needs and preferences. That means your website should be compatible for use across different devices and browsers, including assistive technologies.

Your action	Our solution  ReachDeck™
Optimise your website for use with assistive technologies	<p>With the ReachDeck Auditor you can easily check website accessibility. Making it easier to make sure your website is fit for purpose for use with assistive technologies.</p>

Your action	Our solution  ReachDeck™
Maximise compatibility with current and future user tools	The ReachDeck Toolbar works across all common browsers and platforms, and is regularly updated. Its services are hosted on Amazon, to make sure its features are agile, robust and resilient.

Tell me more about ReachDeck



The ReachDeck Auditor

The ReachDeck Auditor helps to protect you from litigation. It identifies WCAG compliance errors against Level A, AA and AAA. It gives you a readability score, showcases the average reading age and highlights the total number of long sentences and jargon words.



The ReachDeck Editor

The ReachDeck Editor helps to improve the quality and accessibility of written content. As you type, grammar, spelling and readability errors are identified. Helping you to edit your content in line with best practice.



The ReachDeck Toolbar

The ReachDeck Toolbar supports your web visitors to engage with your online content in a way that suits their needs. Features include text-to-speech, reading and translation support.