

# Accessibility

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## Making online public services accessible


New regulations mean that public sector organisations have a legal duty to make their websites and mobile apps accessible by making them perceivable, operable, understandable and robust. The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 became UK law in September 2018 and aim to make online public services accessible for everyone, including those with disabilities.

There are three key compliance dates for the regulations:  
23 September **2019**: 'new' websites (published on or after 23 September 2018) must be compliant;  
23 September **2020**: any other website of a public sector body must be compliant; and  
23 June **2021**: mobile applications of public sector bodies must be compliant

Public sector websites must now be accessible and publish an accessibility statement. Mobile apps must meet accessibility requirements by 23 June 2021. Any intranets, extranets or employee-facing websites that are published or undergo significant change on or after 23 September 2019 must meet the requirements too.

## What organisations must do:

There are four steps public sector organisations must take to ensure they are compliant with the regulations:

- 1 Understand how the regulations will impact them
  - 2 Check the accessibility of their websites
  - 3 Make a plan to fix any problems they find
  - 4 Publish an accessibility statement
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## How you can help

Central Digital and Data Office (CDDO) has published guidance to support public sector organisations in meeting their legal obligations, which is available at [GOV.UK/accessibility-regulations](https://gov.uk/accessibility-regulations). We would appreciate your help in ensuring your audiences are aware of their responsibilities and where they can find guidance, by sharing campaign materials and signposting to the campaign website.

Use the hashtag [#AccessibilityRegulations](https://twitter.com/AccessibilityRegulations) in your social media posts so we can track the reach of messaging.

## More support

Although CDDO will continue to provide guidance for public sector bodies, organisations must interpret the regulations and guidance themselves, seeking legal advice where required.

There are also a number of accessibility community groups for knowledge-sharing:  
[www.gov.uk/service-manual/communities/accessibility-community](https://www.gov.uk/service-manual/communities/accessibility-community).

Organisations and individuals interested in taking part in user testing can register their interest by emailing:  
[accessibility-user-research@digital.cabinet-office.gov.uk](mailto:accessibility-user-research@digital.cabinet-office.gov.uk).

The full regulations can be found at  
[www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/952/contents/made](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/952/contents/made).