## GOV•UK Version Print Release Brand Guidelines







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## Introduction



## **Brand ambition**

Since our launch in 2012, GOV.UK has become one of the most recognisable and trusted online destinations in the UK.

As we increase the number of places that people meet GOV.UK, such as in people's social feeds, and launch more personalised services like the GOV.UK app, we need our brand identity to do more. It needs to be able to compete for attention in busy environments like social media, be equipped to come to life when used in formats including video, while remaining approachable and welcoming for all the people we serve.

The updated GOV.UK identity has been designed with this in mind. It builds on our recognisable and trusted foundations while introducing new elements so we can thrive in the broader range of channels that people expect from us today and tomorrow.

## A brand that can inform and inspire

The evolved brand is designed to adapt its tone, visuals and motion for different channels, formats and audiences. We call this the 'inform to inspire' scale.

On social media, we aim to capture attention and prompt action. On the web, the focus is on helping people find what they need from government services and complete tasks.

The brand can also shift depending on what we're saying. For sensitive topics, we use a more muted and reserved style. For positive content, we can look brighter and bolder.

This flexibility comes from how we use key brand elements – the wider colour palette, the dot and our motion language. What follows shows how to apply the brand in different contexts to meet the needs of people using GOV.UK every day.





## Graphic device

## 2.1 Concept2.2 Expression2.3 Dot use examples2.4 Incorrect usage



## The Dot

Our dot is the bridge between government and the UK, by the side of users to help make information and services easier and more useful.

Used within our wordmark and as a graphic device across all GOV.UK channels, the dot is a guiding hand, for life.











2

## 2.1 Concept 2.2 Expression 2.3 Dot use examples 2.4 Incorrect usage



## The dot is a guide and companion

The dot can take on different roles – guiding users through content, journeys and experiences across GOV.UK channels.

It should always serve a clear purpose.



## **Dot motion behaviours**

Motion adds energy to our brand, especially when we need to capture attention or guide the user.

The examples below show how the dot takes on different roles through motion.



## 2.1 Concept 2.2 Expression 2.3 Dot use examples 2.4 Incorrect usage



## Dot motion examples: App splash screen

The app splash screen utilises the dot in motion to represent GOV.UK bringing together government services and departments, all in one place.



## Dot motion examples: Illustration

The dot can be brought to life through animation in illustrations, adding personality and expression to moments such as app onboarding, or to tell visual stories within social.





## Using the dot within social

Within the context of social media, strong brand expression and impact are essential for capturing attention and driving engagement. With content competing for visibility, our brand needs to stand out through more impactful visuals and dynamic motion.

To ensure consistency across all content, our dot graphic language should serve as a unifying anchor, reinforcing brand recognition and cohesion.

The dot provides a distinctive, flexible visual thread that ties together different content types, ensuring our brand remains instantly recognisable across content, thumbnails and profiles.

## Dot motion examples: Social end frames

To build coherence across channels, our social end frames follow the same motion behaviour as the app splash screen.



## Video thumbnails

We can build on our dot graphic language to create engaging thumbnails that encourage user interaction.

Dot behaviours provide flexibility in how thumbnails can be created for a variety of content types, across a scale from informing to inspiring.

Thumbnails should always use the dot in a purposeful way. See examples of dot use within indicative thumbnails below.





## Static dot examples

The dot can also be used as a static graphic, adding emphasis and helping guide users through content.



## Static dot storyboard

The dot can effectively guide user attention and break down information to enhance the overall experience.





## 2.1 Concept 2.2 Expression 2.3 Dot use examples 2.4 Incorrect usage



## Incorrect dot usage

The dot has defined roles and behaviours, set out earlier in this guidance. To keep things consistent, avoid the following:



**Overuse** Do not overuse the dot



**Stroke** Do not use stroke versions of the dot



**Decorative elements** Do not use the dot in a decorative way



**Crops** Do not use abstract crops of the dot



**Distortions** Do not distort or skew the dot



**Unapproved filters and effects** Do not apply shadows or gradients



GOV.UK Brand Guidelines

Graphic Device

## Need help?

If you've got a question about the dot graphic device guidelines and how to apply them, contact the team on govuk-brand-team@dsit.gov.uk

## Logo



# 3.10verview



## The GOV.UK logo system

Our logo represents our visual identity at the very highest level and is vitally important to our brand. This guidance will give you the confidence and knowledge you need to use it correctly.

## Logo elements

There are two elements to the GOV.UK logo system; the wordmark and crown. The wordmark is our primary GOV.UK identifier, with the crown being used as a supporting element to indicate trust.

### Wordmark

Our wordmark is our primary identifier and should be used as the lead asset on touchpoints such as the app splash screen and video end frames.

### Crown

The crown must always be present but is used as a supporting asset within close proximity to the wordmark.

### Lock-up

To aid recognition the lock-up combines the crown and wordmark and is used primarily within the web channel.



## Wordmark

Our wordmark has been redrawn, elevating the dot into a position that signifies the connection between government and the UK.



## Wordmark

As our primary identifier, the GOV.UK wordmark should be used in all applications of the logo.

The exception to this rule is the GOV.UK website. See the Web Logo section (3.3) for more details.

## GOV•UK



## Crown

The crown should be used as a supporting element that indicates trust and reassurance. It should always appear in close proximity to the wordmark.

The exception to this rule is the GOV.UK website. See the Web Logo section (3.3) for more details.





Logo

## Using the crown as a supporting element

A lock-up system where we can position the crown in close proximity to the GOV.UK wordmark to offer greater flexibility when designing in a wider range of formats and channels.



## Lock-up

The elements that make up our logo lock-up are all scaled using the dot from within the crown.

The spacing between the crown and the wordmark is 3 dots, and the dot within the wordmark is 2 dots in width.

Pixel size displayed here is indicative and will vary across devices.Please refer to platform teams for exact pixel sizes.

This ensures visual balance and harmony between the elements.

## 



## Proportional scaling of the crown

In order to maintain visual hierarchy, consistency and balance between the two elements, scaling of the crown should be proportional to the wordmark.

The size of the crown can be adjusted depending on context. For example, when being used at smaller sizes such as within the app icon, the enlarged crown should be used to aid accessibility and legibility.

**Standard crown size** Scaling should follow this rule; Wordmark dot = 2x crown dot



**Enlarged crown size** Scaling should follow this rule; Wordmark dot = 1x crown dot





## **Clear space around logo elements**

Maintaining clear space around the logo is essential to ensure its visibility, impact, and legibility. By respecting clear space guidelines, we preserve the logo's integrity and ensure it remains a strong and recognisable brand asset.

The clear space area is defined by the dot size within our wordmark.



Logo





## **Minimum sizing**

Keeping the logo at its minimum size helps ensure it stays legible and accessible. If it's too small, it can lose detail and be harder for some users to read or recognise.

## GOV•UK

Minimum size:

50px



Minimum size: **10px** 



Use the small crown version for anything below the crown's minimum size, such as web favicons.


## Logo colour

### Primary Blue background

When using on a Primary Blue background, the wordmark colour should use White and Accent Teal.

# **GOV**•UK

### Light background

When using against a light background, the wordmark colour should use Black and Primary Blue.

# **GOV**•UK

### **Special use**

When using against a busy background or in print situations where colour isn't possible, white or black versions of the wordmark can be used.





## Motion

Both logo elements have a standalone animation that can be used to add dynamism to the brand.





### Incorrect logo usage

To maintain consistency across channels the logo elements should never be changed or altered.



Do not alter colour balance within the wordmark



Do not use the wordmark on overly busy or low-contrast backgrounds



Do not distort, stretch or skew the wordmark



Do not flip, mirror, or rotate the wordmark

Logo



Do not apply drop shadows or effects to the wordmark



# 3.2 Brand hierarchy



## **Brand hierarchy lock-up**

A lock-up is a fixed layout that combines GOV.UK brand elements – the crown or wordmark – with text. In most cases, the text names an ingredient brand, channel or service (you can find more on this in the brand hierarchy diagram in the introduction). Lock-ups help show the relationship between GOV.UK and the service, channel or department they support.

### We have five versions:

- 1. Horizontal
- 2. Horizontal with crown
- 3. Stacked (web)
- 4. Stacked (apps)
- 5. Stacked with crown

To keep the brand consistent, use each version exactly as shown – don't resize, reposition or remove any part.

The diagrams show how to space the wordmark and text in a lock-up. Use the width of the dot in the GOV.UK wordmark to set the spacing.

# GGOV•UK Pay

# GOV•UK Pay



GOV•UK Pay



### Lock-up system

Horizontal	Horizontal with crown	<b>Stacked</b> for web	<b>Stacked</b> for app	<b>Stacked</b> with crown
Product name spacing on horizontal and stacked lock- ups should be proportionate to the type size. On 14.2pt type should be -0.21 pixel letter spacing.	Spacing between wordmark and crown on horizontal lock-up should be 3 crown dots or 7px spacing on web.	Product name on stacked lock-ups should be aligned left to GOV.UK wordmark. Spacing between wordmark and product name should be 1 large dot or 7 pixels from the bottom of the logo to the top of the product name on web.	Product name on stacked lock-ups should be centre to GOV.UK wordmark. Spacing between wordmark and product name should be 1 large dot or 7 pixels from the bottom of the logo to the top of the product name on web.	Product name on stacked lock-ups should be aligned left to crown.
<b>GOV•UK</b> Pay	نهٔ <b>GOV•UK</b> Pay	<b>GOV∙UK</b> Pay	GOV•UK Pay	ां <b>GOV•UK</b> Pay
<b>GOV•UK</b> Notify	🎂 <b>GOV•UK</b> Notify	GOV•UK Notify	GOV•UK Notify	∰ <b>GOV∙UK</b> Notify

# 3.3 Web



### Web use lock-up

To aid recognition and trust we retain the locked-up version of the crown and wordmark.





### Web header

The lock-up combining the crown and wordmark is for use throughout the web experience, in moments such as the web header and footer.







### Web header





### Web footer

### Transparency documents

Data, Freedom of Information releases and corporate reports

### 

### Services and information

<u>Benefits</u>	Education and learning	<u>Departments</u>
Births, death, marriages and care	Employing people	News
Business and self-employed	Environment and countryside	Guidance and regulation
Childcare and parenting	Housing and local services	Research and statistics
Citizenship and living in the UK	Money and tax	Policy papers and consultations
Crime, justice and the law	Passports, travel and living abroad	Transparency
Disabled people	Visas and immigration	How government works
Driving and transport	Working, jobs and pensions	Get involved

>

HelpPrivacyCookiesAccessibility statementContactTerms and conditionsRhestr o Wasanaethau CymraegGovernment Digital Service

### OGL

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**Government activity** 

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### Favicon

In line with minimum size guidance, within web favicons we use the simplified crown. This is to retain legibility and brand recognition and small sizes.



Indicative examples for illustrative purposes only.

# 3.4 App



### App primary logo system

In GOV.UK apps we follow the primary logo system, using the wordmark as the main identifier whilst incorporating the crown as a supporting element to aid trust and recognition.

An exception to this principle includes other GOV.UK apps, where the symbol or identifier may be used instead of the crown within the app icon. For more guidance on this see the 'App icon suite' page within section 3.4.





### Logo elements within the app

We always lead with the wordmark as our primary brand identifier, placed in a prominent position.

We use the crown as a supporting element that sits below or at the end of content.

App splash screen with biometric unlock





3

# App icon

The GOV.UK app icon should follow the same principle, leading with the wordmark and using the crown as a supporting element.

As this is a small use application of the logo elements, we use the enlarged crown size to maximise legibility and recognition.





9:41	.ul 🗢 🔲		
Search GOV-UK بطیعیات	GOV.UK Governme GET	nt Digital Serv	rice
1.1K RATINGS <b>4.8</b> ★★★★☆	AGE <b>1</b> Years Old	CHART No.86 Utilities	DE\ Horr
What's New Version no. - Bug fixes and pe	Version History 1w ago erformance improvements.		
Preview			

# App icon suite

As the family of GOV.UK applications grows, the need for a consistent approach to app icon design is necessary.

The suite of icons should follow the same principles, leading with the GOV.UK wordmark for recognition, with the symbol below, replacing the crown.

Example of the GOV.UK One Login app as shown here.



# 3.5 Social



### Social logo system

Within GOV.UK social channels we follow the primary logo system, using the wordmark as the main identifier whilst incorporating the crown as a supporting element to aid trust and recognition.





### Logo elements within social

We always lead with the wordmark as our primary brand identifier – positioning it in a prominent position.

We use the crown as a supporting element that sits below or to the right of the wordmark, or at the end of content.





### Social end frames

Social end frames can be used at the end of animated or filmed content.

# They incorporate both the wordmark and crown and act as a branded sign off.



## Adaptive dot colour

At times, our social content will need greater impact. One of the ways this can be achieved is through the use of colour. Our logo follows the adaptive dot colour principle, which allows the dot to change colour depending on the background. This must always follow the tonal range of a colour.

The adaptive dot colour should be reserved for moments where the brand requires more expression, and should not be used in communications that require a more sombre or serious tone.

For example, if using **Purple Shade 50%** as a background, the dot colour would become the **Accent Purple**.

This can be applied within the live artwork files using the relevant swatches. Always consider accessibility when making these changes.

To aid brand recognition and coherency, adaptive dot colour should not be used within video end frames.





### Incorrect adaptive dot colour usage

**Do not** use colour combinations that are not accessible. **Do not** use colour combinations that lack contrast between the wordmark and dot. **Do not** use colour combinations that are not from the same tonal range.



### Need help?

If you've got a question about the GOV.UK logo guidelines, contact the team on govuk-brand-team@dsit.gov.uk



4.1 Overview



# Introduction

Our colour palette is designed with accessibility in mind. It's flexible enough to work across all GOV.UK channels.

This section explains how to apply colour so it meets accessibility standards and helps everyone understand information clearly.

Always use the GOV.UK colour palette alongside other accessibility principles. This includes using accessible colour combinations and ensuring meaning is never conveyed by colour alone.



### Master palette overview

Our palette consists of 4 tiers; Primary, Tints, Shades and Accents.

### Primary

Primary colours form the foundation of the brand palette, with blue as the core colour that anchors the visual identity. The additional primary colours are complementary and can be used to express tone, emphasis, or differentiation while maintaining brand cohesion. These colours should be applied thoughtfully to reinforce consistency and clarity across all communications.

### Tints

Tints are lighter variations of the primary colours, created by adding white. These are useful for backgrounds, highlights, and creating a sense of space while maintaining brand coherence.

### Shades

Shades are darker variations of the primary colours, created by adding black. They provide depth, contrast, and are ideal for text or design elements requiring emphasis.

### Accents

Accents are supplementary colours used sparingly to highlight important content, inject energy, or signal specific actions or statuses within a design. They should complement the primary palette without overwhelming it.



# GOV.UK is a blue brand

Our core brand colours are Primary Blue and Accent Teal.

We're building on the primary blue already in place to support recognition and trust. Using it more consistently will make it a clear visual signature of GOV.UK.

Accent teal also sits alongside to add impact and help the brand feel more modern.



# GOV•UK

### **Coherence across channels**

We lead with the Primary Blue and Accent Teal across all GOV.UK channels. From the blue header on web and app, to branded banners within social platforms, this aids brand recognition and establishes trust.





### **Colour accessibility**

You must make sure that the contrast ratio of colours used meets <u>Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.2)</u> <u>success criterion 1.4.3 Contrast (minimum) level AA</u>.



### **Colour usage recommendations**

To maintain consistency across channels the colours within our palette should never be changed or altered. Exceptions to the recommendations below must be approved by the brand team.



Do not use colour combinations that do not meet <u>WCAG2.2 guidelines</u>



Do not create new colours



Do not use too many colours within an application



Do not mix colours to create gradients (single colour gradients are permitted for use over imagery)



# Tailoring our palette to GOV.UK channels

Each GOV.UK channel requires a different level of function and expression and therefore the palette has been tailored accordingly.

The following guidance details which palette can be used across web, app and social.

4.2 Web



### Web palette

Use these colours for supporting materials like illustrations, or in custom components where appropriate.

To reference colours from the palette directly you should use the 'govukcolour' function. For example, colour: 'govuk-colour("blue")'.

Avoid using the palette colours if there is a Sass variable that is designed for your context. For example, if you are styling the error state of a component you should use the '\$govuk-error-colour' Sass variable rather than 'govuk-colour("red")'.



## Web functional colours

If you are using GOV.UK Frontend or the GOV.UK Prototype Kit, use the <u>Sass</u> <u>variables</u> provided rather than copying the hexadecimal (hex) colour values. For example, use <u>\$govuk-brand-colour</u> rather than <u>#1d70b8</u>.

This means that your service will always use the most recent colour palette whenever you update.

Only use the variables in the context they're designed for. In all other cases, you should reference the web primary directly. For example, if you wanted to use primary red, you should use govuk-colour("primaryred") rather than \$govuk-error-colour.


### Web palette example

Indicative examples for illustrative purposes only.



#### Births, deaths, marriages and care

Demonstran static productions of the second department of the second



>

Find out payment dates and how to report a payment is missing. 4.3 App



### App palette

The app palette contains all primary colours, tints, shades and accents. Guidance outlined within the overview section should be followed to ensure brand coherence across channels.





### App header

For coherence with web, the app also uses the blue header throughout key screens. This also adds visual hierarchy and aids brand recognition.

#### Mobile web header



- Approve a payment through yo online bank account
- Make an online or telephone bank transfer
- By debit or corporate credit card online
- <u>At your bank or building society</u>
- Payments for a group of companie
- <u>Tell HMRC no payment is due</u>
- <u>Check your payment has been</u> received





4

### App palette examples

Within app we lead with the Primary Blue and Accent Teal, from splash screen to core components.

Where appropriate we can introduce harmonious colours to aid with structure and hierarchy of content – such as tints within cards or contextual colours that enhance navigation.

Colour should be applied in a way that does not add visual complexity or reduce accessibility.



4

4.4 Social



### Social palette

The social palette requires moments of increased brand expression and flex and therefore contains all primary colours, tints, shades and accents. Guidance outlined within the overview section should be followed to ensure brand coherence across channels.





### Using colour to reflect tone

Our updated palette has been developed to allow a range in expression across the inform to inspire scale. There are moments where the brand needs to feel functional and serious, guiding users seamlessly to the content and services they need. With the introduction of new channels such as social, there are also moments where the brand needs impact and visual differentiation.

Within our palette there are two approaches to colour application; tonal colours and companion colours.

Depending on tonal requirement, each can be used to achieve a different level of expression.

The guidance on the following pages details the use of these two approaches.





### Tonal colour examples

Colour can be used to reflect tone of a message. For more sensitive messaging, colours from within the same tonal range are used to feel more serious, informative and functional.





Indicative examples for illustrative purposes only.

### **Companion colour set**

Use companion colours when you need to emphasise something, like prompting action or sharing something positive. We've kept the set to nine combinations to make sure they stay accessible.

Some pairings may be harder to see for people with visual impairments or colour blindness. Choose combinations carefully and use a tool like <u>WhoCanUse.com</u> to check they meet WCAG 2.2 Contrast (Minimum) Level AA.

Don't rely on colour alone to show meaning, signal an action or prompt a response. For more detail, see <u>WCAG 2.2: Use of Colour</u> (Level A).

Remember, some users browse with highcontrast settings or dark mode. Colours may need to be adjusted to work in those contexts.





### **Companion colour examples**

Colour can be used to reflect tone of a message. For more sensitive messaging, colours from within the same tonal range are used to feel more serious, informative and functional.





4.5 Print



### **Print palette**

Use these colours for printed materials like documents, or in custom formats where appropriate.



### Need help?

If you've got a question about the GOV.UK colour guidelines and how to apply it, contact the team on govuk-brand-team@dsit.gov.uk

# **Typography**



5.1 Overview



### Introduction

Typography is a core element to our identity, shaping how our brand is perceived across all GOV.UK channels.

This section outlines the correct application of typography throughout our channels. Providing guidance on weight, scale, hierarchy and alternatives for when our primary typeface isn't available.

### **GDS Transport**

We use GDS Transport as the typeface for GOV.UK.

It's based on the typeface designed in the 1960s by Jock Kinneir and Margaret Calvert for UK road signs. That design was made to be clear and readable for drivers travelling at high speeds.

The Government Digital Service adapted it in 2012 for digital use, bringing the same clarity and people-first approach to government websites. Using GDS Transport makes GOV.UK easier to recognise and information easier to read on any device.

# GDSTransport



### Weights

GDS transport consists of two weights; **Light** and **Bold**.

# Light Bold

### Glyphs

GDS Transport offers a wide range of glyph support. It includes a comprehensive selection of letters, numerals, punctuation, and special symbols, making it suitable for various levels of communications.

GDS Transport Light

### Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz 1234567890 !@£%&\*?()":;,.

GDS Transport Bold

### Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz 1234567890 !@£%&\*?()":;,.



5.2 Web



### Design System guidelines

If your service is on the service.gov.uk subdomain you must use the GDS Transport font.

For in depth guidance on how to correctly apply typography within the web channel, refer to the <u>Design System Guidelines</u>.

GOV•UK Design System		
Get started S	tyles Components Patterns Community Accessibility	
Page structure	Typography	
Page template	Typeface	
Layout		
Spacing	If your service is on the service gov uk subdomain you must use the GDS Transport font	
Section break		
Typography	When not to use the GDS Transport font	
Typeface		
Type scale	If your service is publicly available on a subdomain other than service.gov.uk, use an alternative typeface like Helvetica or Arial	
Headings		
Paragraphs	If you're not sure whether you should use GDS Transport, do one of the following:	
Links	<ul> <li>read the service manual section <u>'If your service is not on GOV.UK' section on 'Making</u></li> </ul>	
Lists	your service look like GOV.UK'	

5.3 App



### **GDS Transport within app**

GDS Transport is our primary brand typeface.

Using it within our apps can provide significant advantages, particularly in strengthening brand recognition and creating a cohesive user experience across platforms and channels.

Whilst there may be cases where it is not possible, we should always try to use GDS Transport where possible.

### GDS Transport

### **OS native fonts**

It may not always be possible to use GDS Transport, such as within native operating system environments. In such cases, it is recommended to use the platform's default system typeface to ensure consistency, performance, and accessibility.

For example:

• **Apple (iOS, macOS):** Use SF Pro, the system font designed for optimal legibility and integration with Apple's UI

Using the system typeface ensures better performance, scalability, and adherence to platform conventions, resulting in a more polished and user-friendly app. It does, however, affect brand recognition and consistency.

### SF Pro



5.4 Social



### **GDS Transport within social**

GDS Transport is our primary brand typeface.

Using it within our social channels can provide significant advantages, particularly in strengthening brand recognition and creating a cohesive user experience across platforms and channels.

While there may be cases where it is not possible, we should always try to use GDS Transport where possible.

### GDS Transport

### Type hierarchy

Type hierarchy is key to creating content that is readable and easy to follow.

Whilst there are many ways to build visual hierarchy, mixing weight and scale across tags, headlines and body copy is a simple yet effective approach.

Tag style Headline style	Money & TaxFind out how bou can be bou can be bounded on the bounded o
Body copy style	Maximising your pension ensures financial security in retirement and helps you make the most of your savings.

5

### Type styles

Consistent use of type styles aids clarity and hierarchy. Headings should be attention-grabbing, while body text should prioritize readability with appropriate line spacing and contrast.

#### Headline styles

### Bold, over a maximum 5 lines

### Light, over a maximum 5 lines

Any content over 5 lines should be formatted as a body style.

### Body copy styles

Body copy styles should always be set in Light and should be used for all longer form content.

### Tags styles

Tags should be set in Bold, but to aid hierarchy should be a smaller type size than body copy.

### **Type justification**



Where possible we should lead with left-aligned text. It improves readability by keeping spacing consistent and reducing eye strain. It prevents uneven gaps (rivers of white space) found in fully justified text, making it easier to follow, especially for users with dyslexia or visual impairments.

### This is left aligned text



#### Centre aligned text

Centred text should be used sparingly for shorter headlines, predominantly within social channels. While it grabs attention, it reduces readability in longer text, making it harder for the eye to track.





### **Type settings**

Type settings are essential for both accessibility and brand consistency. Well structured typography improves readability, ensuring that content is clear and easy to understand for all users.

Consistent application of font sizes, line height, and letter spacing creates a cohesive visual experience across all content types.

Depending on the size of type, different settings should be applied, as illustrated here. **Do** use consistent and clear line and letter spacing.

This is easy to follow and read **Don't** use line and letter spacing that is too wide or tight.

This is too widely tracked with wide line spacing

This is too tightly tracked with tight line spacing



### Fallback fonts

There will be occasions where GDS Transport is not available for use, such as within certain apps or platforms.

Where standard system fonts are available, Helvetica Neue or Arial should be used.

In cases where system fonts are unavailable, the closest replacement should be used. This should always be a sans serif, low contrast typeface with a focus on accessibility.

### Helvetica Neue Arial



5.5 Print



### Document element sizes

The recommended sizes for common document formats are illustrated here.





Indicative examples for illustrative purposes only.

### Need help?

If you've got a question about the GOV.UK typography guidelines and how to apply it, contact the team on govuk-brand-team@dsit.gov.uk

## Visualising data


6.1 Overview6.2 Charts6.3 Maps6.4 Examples



## Introduction

Data visualisation refers to the graphic representation of data. Visual elements, like lines, shapes and colours, are used to convey information to users.

Visualising data can help to communicate information that may otherwise be lost due to its complexity. Surfacing these details in a clear and easy to understand way allows users to make sense of complex information quickly and confidently. Users become more informed and equipped to make relevant decisions.

## Principles

When creating visualisations for GOV.UK, we ensure they are:

## 1. Clear

By understanding user needs, we provide only the relevant information and reduce unnecessary complexity. We leverage a visual hierarchy, consistent labelling and align with the core brand to maintain clarity.

## 2. Accessible

We are committed to providing everyone access to the same content. We avoid using colour alone to convey information, use appropriate text contrast ratios and provide alternative versions of the same data.

## 3. Accurate

We take great care in ensuring our visualisations are true and accurate representations of the underlying data. This includes consistent intervals, starting at zero where appropriate, citing sources and providing supporting information.

## 4. Consistent

A consistent approach to data visualisation enhances clarity, accessibility, and accuracy. Consistency allows users to gain familiarity and improve their understanding.

## 5. Engaging

Our principles works alongside our brand to enable us to create visualisations that are relevant, engaging and memorable. So users are become better informed when they need it most.



## Conveying a clear narrative to users

When creating visualisations for GOV.UK, we ensure:

## 1. We know its purpose

Before you begin visualising data, take the time to clearly define the purpose of the visualisation.

Understanding your user needs and their level of expertise on the subject will guide your design decisions. It will also help ensure your data story is both meaningful and effective with your users.

## 2. We know the story

Effective data visualisation is about storytelling and communicating insight. Structure your visuals to tell a story and support the overarching narrative.

## 3. We know what is important

Avoid overwhelming your users with too much information. Strip away unnecessary distractions and prioritise your information with a focus on clarity and accessibility.



## Selecting a visualisation type

Different visualisation techniques are better suited for different types of data and messages. Choosing which one to use will depend on the:

- message conveyed
- statistical relationships within the data
- target audience

The table below, originally produced by ONS Analysis Function, provides examples of different statistical relationships. It also suggests the type of chart that would work best for a specific example.

Relationship	Example	Recommended chart types
Distribution	Population by age	Bar chart, population pyramid, box plot, dot plot
Time	Price inflation over time	Line chart, calendar heat map
Rank	Schools ranked by performance	Bar chart, lollipop chart, slope chart
Deviation	Rail company performance compared with target	Bar chart, dot plot
Correlation	Relationship between weight and height	Scatterplot, line graph
Magnitude	Average income by region	Bar chart
Spatial	Geographical clusters of notifiable diseases	Мар
Part-to-whole	Total economic production by industrial sector	Pie chart, donut chart, tree map, bubble chart
Flow	Trade between countries	Sankey graph



## **Creating dashboards**

A dashboard is a visual tool that shows different views of data to provide an overview of a specific topic. A dashboard will normally be a combination of several charts or important values. It is typically updated regularly or automatically, so a user can monitor it over time.

Disadvantages of dashboards:	Tips
Dashboards have drawbacks and are best used for high-level data. They often: • don't highlight key findings, leaving	A careful hierarchy and structure can limit overwhelming users with information.
interpretation to users	
<ul> <li>struggle with data needing extensive explanation</li> <li>can quickly become outdated as user needs change</li> </ul>	Support both learning and exploration with guidance and concise explanations.
<ul> <li>require frequent maintenance for updates</li> <li>are challenging to make accessible on different devices</li> </ul>	Avoid using third-party packages for more control over the user experience (including accessibility and
For complex insights, use multiple charts in a single publication or try scrollytelling to change focus as users scroll.	responsive design).
	Disadvantages of dashboards: Dashboards have drawbacks and are best used for high-level data. They often: • don't highlight key findings, leaving interpretation to users • struggle with data needing extensive explanation • can quickly become outdated as user needs change • require frequent maintenance for updates • are challenging to make accessible on different devices For complex insights, use multiple charts in a single publication or try scrollytelling to change focus as users scroll.

## **Creating interactive visualisations**

An interactive chart allows the user to change what the chart shows by taking an action.

Use an interactive visualisation when:	Disadvantages of interactive charts:	Tips
Only consider using an interactive visualisation where the most important information for the user cannot be clearly shown through a non-interactive	Interactive visualisation need the user to make a selection to see information. This may:	Some platforms may only accept certain image sizes or file formats.
chart.	<ul> <li>make it more difficult for users</li> </ul>	
	to get messages	If you're publishing on a
Use interactive visualisations when:	<ul> <li>hide the main messages from users</li> </ul>	platform or using a content management system, check for
<ul> <li>users are likely to be most interested in personalising their data such as seeing data about their local authority</li> <li>there is not a clear way of displaying data without interactivity</li> </ul>	Interactive visualisations are also more complex and time consuming to produce; there may not always be enough resource to create an interactive chart.	any existing recommendations.
<ul> <li>there is several interests or narratives across different locations or categories</li> </ul>	If an interactive visual is not suitable, use charts that highlight the main points of interest or findings without needing user input. Consider using several small charts, known as small multiples, to avoid using too many categories in a single visualisation.	

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## **Elements of a chart**

Charts come in a variety of forms, but most share the same anatomy. Understanding the basic building blocks behind a chart can help when creating one.



Titles	Axis	Annotations	Sources/Footnotes
All charts need at least one title, but it is considered best practice to give them two. These should be: a headline title and a formal statistical	Axes show what's being measured in a chart like time, quantity, or categories. Clear labels help users understand the data quickly.	Keep annotations concise. Limit them to around 50 characters (10 to 12 words) and a single sentence.	You should give the specific data source for each chart and link directly to it if you can.
subtitle.		Place annotations as close as	It is best practice to provide source
Titles should be:	Use axis titles to show units, but avoid repeating details from the chart title, subtitle, or annotations.	possible to the part of the chart they relate to.	information in the following format: [publication, survey or other source of data] from the
<ul> <li>front-loaded</li> </ul>		There should be white space	[organisation]
<ul> <li>in the active voice</li> </ul>	For percentages or money, include	between your annotation text and	
<ul> <li>in sentence case</li> </ul>	symbols like % or £ in the axis labels.	other text or parts of your chart.	Footnotes should only be used to
<ul><li>describing the main trend</li><li>as concise as possible</li></ul>	For other units, place them in the axis title or subtitle—not the labels.	Make sure your annotation text does not overlap with other chart elements	provide essential contextual information for a specific chart or table. They should be as clear and
Subtitles should include the:	Category names should be short and clear. Simplify long labels to	Make sure any essential information	concise as possible.
<ul> <li>statistical measure</li> </ul>	make charts easier to read and more	you include in annotations is also	Using too many footnotes can
<ul><li>geographic coverage</li><li>time period</li></ul>	accessible.	included in the main text or footnotes.	interrupt the flow of the publication.
			-

## **Chart palette**

In some charts, colours help differentiate between categories of data, such as in line charts or stacked bar charts. Some types of visualisations use colour to represent numerical values, such as heatmaps.



GOV.UK Brand Guidelines Visualising data

## Using colour in charts

When choosing colours for your data visualisation:

- ensure sufficient contrast with the background and overlapping text
- avoid using colour as the only visual means of conveying information
- focus on applying colour that enhances the clarity of the data
- limit colours to avoid confusion



## Using charts within social media

On social, charts can leverage the full colour palette. For example, accent colours can be used to highlight key data points and positive messages. We also use larger and bolder graphical elements to help engage and inform audiences.



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## Elements of a map

A well designed map can bring data to life. They can show geographical trends and patterns.

Titles	Labels	Geographical features	Source and Legend
All charts need at least one title, but it is considered best practice to give them two – a headline title and a formal	If showing administrative boundaries, annotate them directly on the map or identify the boundary in	Map features are the elements of a map that provide geographic context for the main data you're showing. From	You should give the specific data source for each chart and link directly to it if you can.
statistical subtitle.	the legend.	bodies of water, terrain or boundaries, they help users	It is best practice to provide source information in the
Titles should be:	If only showing one or two features, we recommend	understand where things are and how they relate to each	following format: [publication, survey or other source of data]
<ul><li>front-loaded</li><li>in the active voice</li></ul>	labelling directly on the map.	other.	from the [organisation]
<ul> <li>in sentence case</li> <li>describing the main trend</li> <li>as concise as possible</li> </ul>	This approach enables you to forgo the legend and free up space for other features.	Keep your map simple. Remove any features that aren't essential to the map's message, like towns, roads, rivers,	Create a legend to help make the map clearer and reduce clutter. Place it in the top left corner, where people typically
Subtitles should include the:		railways, pipelines or regional and country labels. If they don't	look first, and avoid overlapping features. Organise the legend
<ul> <li>statistical measure</li> <li>geographic coverage</li> <li>time period</li> </ul>		add to the story or provide context to a user's experience, feel free to leave them out.	from the most important data to the least important for easy understanding.

## Map considerations

A well designed map is a result of taking account of the considerations.

Hierarchy	Remove extraneous features	Projections	Visualising scale
Ensure the story pops to the foreground. The main story elements should be hierarchically prominent. Use bold colours and larger font/ symbol size on these elements.	Less is more. If features are not part of a story, feel free to remove (ex. roads, rivers, rails, pipelines, and even country labels). Feel free to thin out networks of line work or remove	Map projection parameters should strive to centre the focus area without bringing it too close to the neatline (the edge of the map).	Scale bars are not always needed on a map, but are often helpful. If a map has anything to do with distance or shows features that a consumer would be curious how far apart
Secondary features should fall to the background and not be as immediately present. Ensure there is enough contrast between background elements	features that are not part of a story, such as roads, rivers, rails, pipelines, and even country labels.	Ask yourself: What is the map's purpose and what is the best type of projection to depict it? What geographic extent will sufficiently support the spatial distribution of the story at the	they are, add a scale bar. If measuring distance is not helpful for the reader to understand the story, do not include one.
and other features.		appropriate scale?	Scale are not always appropriate on all map projections (eg, Orthographic and Robinson). At global map

extents for instance, scale bars are not as useful as the scale may vary significantly from one part of the map to another.

## Map palette

Use colour thoughtfully in maps. Choose a clear palette, limit colours, and ensure a 3:1 contrast ratio. Check for colour-blind accessibility and include a legend. Combine colour with shapes, patterns, and labels to improve clarity.

Be aware that users may interpret colours differently, influenced by cultural or political backgrounds and associations.



## Using colour combinations on maps

Avoid using colour alone to convey information in a map. Instead, use colour in combination with:

- using different shapes and symbols
- differentiating size and thickness of lines or shapes
- using labels
- creating a legend ('key') to explain what colours, tints and patterns mean

When you choose colours for a map, think about how they help users understand the information. The colours need to be clear, logical, and accessible.

Use colours that make sense to your users, and make sure there's enough contrast between them. Text should also have strong contrast against the background so it's easy to read.

Don't assume everyone sees colours the same way. Colour meanings can change depending on culture or context. For example, some colours are linked to political parties in the UK. Always test your map with users to check how they understand the colours.

If you can't get enough contrast, try breaking the map into simpler versions, adding outlines to separate areas, or giving the same information in a different format, like written content or a postcode tool.

## Example



A map of south west England displaying the areas of conservation designated by Historic England

## Colours used in example

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## Need help?

The data visualisation guidance was originally developed by Analysis Function but adapted for GOV.UK by the Government Digital Service.

If you've got a question about the GOV.UK data visualisation guidelines, contact the team on govuk-brand-team@dsit.gov.uk

## Brand in use





## One brand. Many places.

Brand consistency and coherence are both important, but they do different jobs.

Consistency means applying core brand elements in the same way wherever the brand appears. It helps people recognise GOV.UK and trust that they're in the right place.

Coherence means those elements can flex to suit the context. It lets GOV.UK work across different formats, services and audiences without losing its identity.

This section shows how GOV.UK stays consistent and coherent across web, app and social – from clear, functional content to more expressive and inspiring moments.





Motion



# 7.1 Web7.2 App7.3 Social



## Web homepage

Indicative examples for illustrative purposes only.



## Web header





## Web footer

## Transparency documents

Data, Freedom of Information releases and corporate reports

## \*\*\*\*\*

## Services and information

<u>Benefits</u>	Education and learning	<u>Departments</u>
Births, death, marriages and care	Employing people	News
Business and self-employed	Environment and countryside	Guidance and regulation
Childcare and parenting	Housing and local services	Research and statistics
Citizenship and living in the UK	Money and tax	Policy papers and consultations
Crime, justice and the law	Passports, travel and living abroad	Transparency
Disabled people	Visas and immigration	How government works
Driving and transport	Working, jobs and pensions	<u>Get involved</u>

>

HelpPrivacyCookiesAccessibility statementContactTerms and conditionsRhestr o Wasanaethau CymraegGovernment Digital Service

## OGL

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## Mobile web header



Indicative examples for illustrative purposes only.

## Favicon



Indicative examples for illustrative purposes only.

## 7.1 Web 7.2 App 7.3 Social



## App icon



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GOV•UK ••*•• •	GOV.UK Governmer	nt Digital Serv	ice	
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Preview				

## App splash screen



App splash screen with biometric unlock





## App homepage

App header



7

## **App screens**

**〈** Home

9:41

## **Driving and transport**

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Learning to drive, owning a vehicle

Popular pages in this topic	~*
Tax your vehicle	7
Check if a vehicle is taxed	7
View or share your driving licence information	7
Get vehicle information from the DVLA	↗

Step by step guides	≈=
Learn to drive a car	Z
Drive abroad	
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## 7.1 Web7.2 App7.3 Social



## Social - instagram

### GOV.UK

Official Instagram page of the GOV.UK website. Connecting people to digital government services. Not a political account. www.gov.uk






### Social - Instagram





7

# Social - X





7

## Social - Instagram story





Indicative example for end frame transition

Storyboard

### Social - YouTube



#### Social - end frames Storyboard





# Need help?

If you've got a question about the GOV.UK brand guidelines, contact the team on govuk-brand-team@dsit.gov.uk