

Accessibility statement – digital publications

This accessibility statement relates to all web content of the Digital Publications website located at

<https://digitalpublications.parliament.scot>

This includes committee reports and SPICe research briefings.

Digital Publications is run by the Scottish Parliament Corporate Body (SPCB). We are committed to ensuring digital accessibility for people with disabilities. We intend to review the Digital Publications site as a whole as part of our web programme of continuous improvement, with a review to replacing it with content on the main website which would address the current accessibility issues.

We want as many people as possible to be able to use this website. For example, that means you should be able to:

- change colours, contrast levels and fonts
- zoom in up to 300% without the text spilling off the screen
- navigate most of the website using just a keyboard
- navigate most of the website using speech recognition software
- listen to most of the website using a screen reader (including the most recent versions of JAWS, NVDA and VoiceOver)

We've also made the website text as simple as possible to understand.

AbilityNet has [advice on making your device easier to use](#) if you have a disability.

How accessible this website is

We know some parts of this website are not fully accessible:

- **Links across the website:** Links (including navigation, sharing and PDF downloads) may not have ARIA-labels or names
- **Keyboard navigation:** Links and other operations with JavaScript cannot be tabbed to from the keyboard
- **Images:** Due to duplicate ids and lack of descriptions you may experience difficulty in accessing content
- **Buttons:** Some button elements are empty and have no accessible name - screen readers may not identify them.

What to do if you cannot access parts of this website

Get content in other formats

We will do our best to provide you with the content you need in a format that is suitable for you. Please get in touch.

1. If you are inquiring about a SPICe briefing please email us at: spice@parliament.scot. If you are inquiring about a specific committee report you can find the relevant contact on the committee's webpages at: www.parliament.scot/committees
2. Describe the format you need, for example audio CD, braille, BSL or large print.
3. Enter your name and email address.

We'll aim to reply within 2 working days.

Reporting accessibility problems with this website

We're always looking to improve the accessibility of this website. If you find any problems that are not listed on this page or think we're

not meeting accessibility requirements, please contact us by doing the following:

1. [Contact webteam@parliament.scot](mailto:webteam@parliament.scot).
2. Add the web address (URL) of the page the content's on or choose the whole site.
3. Let us know your issue.
4. Provide your name and email address if you want a response, or leave this blank if you want to remain anonymous.

If you request a response, we'll aim to reply within 2 working days.

Enforcement procedure

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is responsible for enforcing the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 (the 'accessibility regulations'). If you're not happy with how we respond to your complaint, [contact the Equality Advisory and Support Service \(EASS\)](#).

Technical information about this website's accessibility

The SPCB is committed to making its website accessible, in accordance with the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018.

Conformance status

The [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\)](#) defines requirements for designers and developers to improve accessibility for people with disabilities. It defines three levels of conformance: Level A, Level AA, and Level AAA. Digital Publications is partially conformant with WCAG 2.1 level AA, due to the non-compliances listed below.

Partially conformant means that some parts of the content do not fully conform to the accessibility standard.

Non-accessible content

The content listed below is non-accessible for the following reasons.

Non-compliance with the accessibility regulations

Most of the issues flagged in regard to accessibility are connected to the navigation process. This fails WCAG 2.1 AA Success Criteria 1.3.1, 2.1.1, 2.1.3, and 4.1.2 when emulating links (using onclick events with no keyboard alternative).

Some page titles do not specifically refer to content. This fails WCAG 2.1 AA success criterion 2.4.2 (page titles).

You may also find some visual presentations of text and images of text that have a contrast ratio below 4.5:1, failing WCAG 2.1 AA success criterion 1.4.3

We intend to review the Digital Publications site as a whole as part of our web programme of continuous improvement, with a review to replacing it with content on the main website which would address the current accessibility issues.

Content that's not within the scope of the accessibility regulations

Some articles may have uploaded files in PDF format. Older PDF documents may not meet accessibility standards. For example, they may not be structured to be accessible to a screen reader. This does not meet WCAG 2.1 success criterion 4.1.2.

However, it passed manual and automated tests, presenting a good level of accessibility with bookmarks, tab support, and reading order.

The accessibility regulations [do not require us to fix PDFs or other documents published before 23 September 2018](#) if they're not essential to providing our services.

Any new PDFs we publish will meet accessibility standards.

How we tested this website

This website was last tested in March 2020. The accessibility test was carried out by Passion 4 Social CIC (third-party), who were not involved in the design and development process.

We used this approach to test:

- Automated tests: We used 6 software tools to identify accessibility and navigation issues across the entire website
- The web pages with the most issues were added to the manual testing
- Using Google Analytics, we selected the most accessed pages by users since January 2020 and added to the manual testing;
- Manual tests: performed by three people with disabilities (blindness, global learning disabilities, and motor disabilities) and one professional web developer who ran 3 simulation tools for dyslexia, low or partial vision, colour blindness, trembling movements, and keyboard navigation;

As all pages are based on the same platform and template, they have not been tested individually but some samples have been selected from them.

Compatibility with browsers and assistive technology

Digital Publications is designed to be compatible with the following assistive technologies:

- JAWS Screen Reader
- NVDA Screen Reader
- VoiceOver Screen Reader
- Internet Explorer
- Opera
- Chrome
- Microsoft Edge

Technical specifications

The accessibility of Digital Publications relies on the following technologies to work with particular combinations of web browser and any assistive technologies or plugins installed on your computer:

- HTML
- WAI-ARIA
- CSS
- JavaScript

These technologies are relied upon for conformance with the accessibility standards used.

[Check out the full evaluation report](#)

This statement was prepared on 03 August 2020.