Agency logo slot (replace with your logo)

Web accessibility audit

www.gov.uk · WCAG 2.2 Level AA (automated scan, agent-reviewed) · EN 301 549 / European Accessibility Act mapping

Prepared by Your Agency · Scan date 2026-11-01 · 25 pages scanned

Sample scan of public GOV.UK pages

1. Executive summary

25 pages scanned	**4** distinct issue types	**60** affected elements	**0** critical
0 serious	**3** moderate	**1** minor	

No critical or serious automated failures were found on the pages scanned. That is not a conformance statement: see section 2.

Fixing the shared templates (header, navigation, footer, cards, forms) clears most instances at once, because the same rule fails on many pages. Section 5 gives the fix per issue with code.

2. Scope and limits (read this)

- **This is not a compliance certificate, an accessibility statement or legal advice.** Whether a site meets the European Accessibility Act, the ADA or any other law is a legal and manual-testing question.
- **Automated checks cover roughly 30-40% of WCAG success criteria.** Tools such as axe-core detect missing names, contrast, ARIA misuse and structure; they cannot judge whether alt text is accurate, whether the focus order makes sense, whether error messages help, whether captions are correct or whether a flow works with a screen reader.
- **Not included:** manual keyboard and screen-reader testing, PDFs, video caption review, authenticated areas (checkout, account), mobile apps, cognitive and content review.
- The audit covers the pages listed in section 6 only; pages are sampled across site templates.

What was checked: axe-core 4.10 rules for WCAG 2.0/2.1/2.2 A and AA plus best practice; and Keencrest extra checks: alt-text quality heuristics, positive tabindex, visible focus change on up to 40 controls per page, focus moving against reading order, hover-state text contrast on up to 14 links and buttons per page, non-descriptive link text and unannounced new-window links. Items without a WCAG number are best practice, not WCAG failures. Heuristic findings need a human look before a fix.

3. Issues by WCAG success criterion

WCAG SC	Name	EN 301 549	Issue types	Elements
Best practice	Not a WCAG failure		region, landmark-unique, heading-order, extra.new-window	60

4. Issues by template

Fix a template once, fix every page that uses it.

Template (path group)	Pages	Issue types	Elements
`/government/*`	17	4	44
`/employment-tribunal-decisions/*`	5	1	10
`/`	1	1	2
`/research-for-development-outputs/*`	1	1	2
`/animal-disease-cases-england/*`	1	1	2

5. Findings and fixes, by severity

MODERATE All page content should be contained by landmarks

Rule `region` · Best practice · 25 pages · 50 elements · rule reference

Fix: Put all page content inside landmarks (header, nav, main, footer).

```
<header>...</header><nav>...</nav><main>...</main><footer>...</footer>
```

Example on https://www.gov.uk/
Selector: `.gem-c-skip-link` · Some page content is not contained by landmarks

```
<a data-module="govuk-skip-link" class="gem-c-skip-link govuk-skip-link govuk-!-display-none-print" href="#content" data-govuk-skip-link-init="" data-govuk-skip-link-module-started="true">Skip to main content</a>
```

Example on https://www.gov.uk/
Selector: `.gem-c-feedback__prompt-question` · Some page content is not contained by landmarks

```
<h2 class="gem-c-feedback__prompt-question">Is this page useful?</h2>
```

MODERATE Landmarks should have a unique role or role/label/title (i.e. accessible name) combination

Rule `landmark-unique` · Best practice · 1 pages · 1 elements · rule reference

Fix: See the rule reference for the fix pattern.

Example on https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/cambridge-magistrates-court-proposal-on-its-future
Selector: `.govuk-notification-banner.gem-c-notice[aria-label="Notice"]:nth-child(2)` · The landmark must have a unique aria-label, aria-labelledby, or title to make landmarks distinguishable

```
<section aria-label="Notice" class="govuk-notification-banner gem-c-notice govuk-!-margin-bottom-8" role="region" dir="ltr" title="This was published under the &lt;span lang=&quot;en&quot; dir=&quot;ltr&quot;&gt;2016 to
```

MODERATE Heading levels should only increase by one

Rule `heading-order` · Best practice · 1 pages · 1 elements · rule reference

Fix: Headings should descend by one level at a time and describe the section.

```
<h1>Page</h1>
<h2>Section</h2>
<h3>Subsection</h3>
```

Example on https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-expeditionary-force-launches-enhanced-partnership-with-ukraine-as-allies-step-up-further
Selector: `#defence-secretary-john-healey-mp-said` · Heading order invalid

```
<h4 id="defence-secretary-john-healey-mp-said">Defence Secretary John Healey MP said:   </h4>
```

MINOR Link opens a new window without warning

Rule `extra.new-window` · Best practice · 6 pages · 8 elements · Keencrest extra check

Fix: Links that open a new window should say so.

```
<a href="..." target="_blank" rel="noopener">Annual report (opens in new tab)</a>
```

Example on https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/labour-market-projections-for-wales-2010-to-2020
Selector: `div.gem-c-attachment__details > details.gem-c-details.govuk-details > div.govuk-details__text > a.govuk-link` · target=_blank

```
<a href="mailto:alternative.formats@education.gov.uk" target="_blank" class="govuk-link">alternative.formats@education.gov.uk</a>
```

Example on https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/annual-report-and-accounts-2012-to-2013--2
Selector: `div.gem-c-attachment__details > details.gem-c-details.govuk-details > div.govuk-details__text > a.govuk-link` · target=_blank

```
<a href="mailto:alternativeformats@communities.gov.uk" target="_blank" class="govuk-link">alternativeformats@communities.gov.uk</a>
```

6. Pages scanned

URL	Title	Issue types	Elements
https://www.gov.uk/	Welcome to GOV.UK	1	2
		1	2

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-between-the-prime-minister-of-the-united-kingdom-and-the-prime-minister-of-new-zealand	Joint statement between the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and t		
https://www.gov.uk/research-for-development-outputs/pilot-study-on-first-mile-transport-challenges-in-the-onion-small-holder-sector	Pilot Study on First Mile Transport Challenges in the Onion Small Hold	1	2
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/labour-market-projections-for-wales-2010-to-2020	Labour market projections for Wales: 2010 to 2020 - GOV.UK	2	3
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/new-financial-analysis-of-signatory-data-july-2019	New Financial analysis of signatory data (July 2019) - GOV.UK	1	2
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/annual-report-and-accounts-2012-to-2013--2	DCLG annual report and accounts 2012 to 2013 - GOV.UK	2	3
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/beis-spending-over-500-april-2020	BEIS: spending over £500, April 2020 - GOV.UK	1	2
https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/hmcts-management-information-reformed-services-september-2023	HMCTS management information – modernised services September 2023 - GO	2	3
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-response-to-the-law-commission-report-making-a-will	Government response to the Law Commission report Making a Will - GOV.U	1	2
https://www.gov.uk/employment-tribunal-decisions/mr-j-moore-v-wayforward-1404858-2018	Mr J Moore v Wayforward: 1404858/2018 - GOV.UK	1	2
https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/cambridge-magistrates-court-proposal-on-its-future	Cambridge Magistrates' Court: proposal on its future - GOV.UK	2	3
https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/statistical-digest-of-rural-england	Statistical Digest of Rural England - Official statistics announcement	1	2
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foi-release-contact-with-tobacco-companies	FOI release: contact with tobacco companies - GOV.UK	2	3
https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-expeditionary-force-launches-enhanced-partnership-with-ukraine-as-allies-step-up-further	Joint Expeditionary Force launches enhanced partnership with Ukraine a	2	3
https://www.gov.uk/employment-tribunal-decisions/mr-m-williams-v-fife-kingdom-pizzaboy-ltd-4110626-slash-2019	Mr M Williams v Fife Kingdom Pizzaboy Ltd: 4110626/2019 - GOV.UK	1	2
		1	2

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protection-and-infrastructure-grants-2026	Protection and Infrastructure grants 2026 - GOV.UK		
https://www.gov.uk/employment-tribunal-decisions/mr-c-moore-v-sck-group-ltd-3200605-slash-2024	Mr C Moore v SCK Group Ltd: 3200605/2024 - GOV.UK	1	2
https://www.gov.uk/government/news/committee-on-radioactive-waste-management-tour-of-the-dalton-cumbrian-facility	Committee on Radioactive Waste Management tour of the Dalton Cumbrian	1	2
https://www.gov.uk/employment-tribunal-decisions/mr-w-allen-v-gap-containers-ltd-2403165-2018	Mr W Allen v Gap Containers Ltd: 2403165/2018 - GOV.UK	1	2
https://www.gov.uk/animal-disease-cases-england/bird-flu-third-premises-near-attleborough-breckland-norfolk-aiv-2024-slash-15	Bird flu: third premises near Attleborough, Breckland, Norfolk (AIV 20	1	2
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dn15-0ra-europa-oil-gas-limited-environmental-permit-issued	DN15 0RA, Europa Oil & Gas Limited: environmental permit issued - GOV.	2	4
https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-immediate-need-for-an-end-to-conflict-in-yemen	The immediate need for an end to conflict in Yemen - GOV.UK	1	2
https://www.gov.uk/employment-tribunal-decisions/mr-g-hill-v-southport-insurance-brokers-ltd-2401303-2016	Mr G Hill v Southport Insurance Brokers Ltd: 2401303/2016 - GOV.UK	1	2
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/l33-7ur-srcl-limited-environmental-permit-issued-eprkp3436nlv006	L33 7UR, SRCL Limited: environmental permit issued - EPR/KP3436NL/V006	2	4
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/use-of-blood-plasma-donations-to-treat-covid-19-recommendations-from-sabto/sabto-recommendations-pathogen-reduction-and-bacterial-screening-on-plasma-donated-for-treatment-of-sars-cov-2-infection	[Withdrawn] [Withdrawn] SaBTO recommendations: pathogen reduction and	1	2

robots.txt was respected (0 URLs skipped). axe-core also reported 12 'needs review' items across these pages that cannot be decided automatically; they belong in the manual review.

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