

Building “College’s Digital Accessibility Framework”

Accessibility Forum Update – 30 March 2020

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Digital Accessibility Legislation...

- **New [digital accessibility regulations](#) – 23 September 2018**
- You **must make** your website or mobile app more accessible by making it 'perceivable, operable, understandable and robust' ([WCAG 2.1 AA](#))
- College's **Legal Office** confirmed that these regulations apply to the College.
- **Applicable from 23 September 2019** for websites published after 23 September 2018 (referred to as "new websites")
- Applicable from 23 September 2020 for "**pre-existing websites**"
- **Mobile Apps** will have to comply from **23 June 2021**.

What has been completed...

- A **College project** has been started with the initiative of ICT to build “College’s Digital Accessibility Framework”
 - Prof Stephen Curry is the sponsor; budget provided from **ICT central funds**
 - Kani Kamara – Disability Advisory Service
 - Vickie Sheriff and Daniel Sprawson – Communications
 - Okan Kibaroglu and Andy Lax as ICT coordinators
- **Website classification completed and approach agreed:**
 - College web site
 - Sites hosted on College web farms
 - Sites affiliated with the College elsewhere
- **plus College Digital Services** (mostly running as websites)

Objectives / Deliverables...

- **Completed**
 - Accessibility Statement – template in place
 - Accessibility checks service
 - Technical advice service (toolkit / guidance pack)
- **Priority / under way:**
 - Carry out accessibility checks for new websites and place statements
 - Accessibility checks for pre-existing websites (by Sep 2020)
- **Further down the line:**
 - Contractual requirements clause
 - Promote / communicate activities / progress / plan
- **Other under way**

Good News...

- Accessibility of the **College's website is good**; accessibility statement (and accessibility guidance) are already there:
 - In spite of not being required before Sep 2020
 - Comms Plan is ready and under way (this meeting is part of that plan)
- **Business School** website was our first new significant website:
 - Accessibility is good and accessibility statement is in place
- Accessibility has always been a criterion for ICT service acceptance

Challenges...

- Difficulty of **identifying** all websites affiliated with the College
- **Suppliers** providing College digital services **pushing back**
- Identifying resources for improving accessibility (where required)
 - The project covers the cost of identifying websites and detecting issues
 - However, it doesn't cover money required for improvements
 - A straightforward solution will be to migrate to College Website, but this may not be appropriate for every site
 - The owner should raise funds for improvement

How can you help?

- Keep **digital accessibility** in mind at all times
- Check websites you are responsible for and **start improving**
- Make sure you follow the [accessibility guidelines](#)
- At the least, add an [accessibility statement](#) to your website
- Remember, every **change** requires your **attention**
- Contact accessibility@imperial.ac.uk for any questions
- Use [Accessibility Insights](#) plugin as an indicative check