

NHS Property Services

Accessibility Assessment – May 2024

SPINDOGS

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Project Identification

Client Name	Client Website or URL
NHS Property Services	https://www.property.nhs.uk

Document Identification

#	Date	Written By	Peer Reviewed By
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Overview

Background

As part of a usability and user journey improvement project, Spindogs was tasked with conducting an Accessibility Assessment to highlight accessibility issues on the current website. These issues will be fixed by Thinkology prior to the user experience recommendations from Spindogs are actioned.

What is web accessibility?

Web accessibility refers to the practice of making websites, web applications, and other digital content usable and universally accessible regardless of ability or situation. It ensures that individuals with differing abilities, including visual, auditory, motor, cognitive, and neurological, can perceive, operate and understand web content effectively. Web accessibility is essential to promote inclusivity and provide equal access to information and services on the internet for all users.

The fundamental principles of web accessibility can be summarised through:

- Perceivable: The information and user interface components must be presented in ways
 that can be perceived by all users, regardless of their abilities. Some of these steps would
 include: providing text alternatives, using semantic HTML, ensuring sufficient contrast, using
 accessible fonts and typography, and avoiding automatic media playback.
- **Operable**: Ensuring that users can navigate and interact with a website using various input methods, such as keyboard or voice commands, this is crucial for making websites more inclusive. Key considerations: Keyboard accessibility, focus indication, skip links, keyboard shortcuts, voice commands, responsive design and testing with assistive technologies.
- Understandable: The web content and navigation should be clear and easy to understand.
 Users, including those with cognitive disabilities, should be able to comprehend the
 information that is being presented and how to use the website effectively. Some practices
 to put into place: Plain language, consistent layout and design, user instructions, logical
 navigation, readable text and testing with users.
- Robust: Websites to be designed to be compatible with current and future technologies.
 This ensures that the accessibility features of a website remain effective as technology evolves. Some considerations for this principle: Web standards compliance, test across browsers and devices, future proofing content, responsive design and regular updates.

For more information visit - https://www.w3.org/WAI/fundamentals/accessibility-principles.

What are your obligations?

Within the UK, public sector websites launched on or after 23rd September 2018, should have been accessible since their launch. For older websites, the deadline for compliance with these regulations was 23rd September 2020.

The Government Digital Service monitors public sector bodies' compliance by examining a sample of public sector websites and mobile apps every year. If the Central Digital and Data Office (CDDO) decides that a public sector body has failed their duty to provide accessible web services, accessibility statement or that the accessibility statement is incorrect, it will:

- · conduct an audit of sample of high-level webpages
- send a report to the public sector body
- ask the body to acknowledge the report
- give the body 12 weeks to fix the issues
- (may) retest and make further recommendations on whether CDDO think further compliance action should be taken
- pass the outcome to the Equality and Human Rights Commission who will decide whether any further action is required

Potential outcomes of failure to comply:

- legal action
- publish the name of the body and a copy of the decision
- financial penalty on the body

GOV.UK - Accessibility monitoring: how we test

What is an Accessibility Assessment?

Our Accessibility Assessment allows you to make informed decisions around which areas of your site need addressing to comply with accepted accessibility guidelines. By identifying problem areas, you can help make the business case for accessibility and make informed next steps. We use a combination of our own industry expertise, W3C Easy Checks and the Inclusive Design Principles, to rapidly assess a few key pages against best practice on your website.

What level are you assessing against?

In line with the accessibility regulations set out by the government, we have performed our Accessibility Assessment to Level AA of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), which is the level that public sector bodies are required to meet – <u>GOV.UK - Understanding accessibility requirements for public sector bodies</u>.

Two other levels of accessibility scoring exist either side of Level AA, these are:

- Level A is the minimum level.
- Level AAA includes all Level A, AA, and AAA requirements.

Executive Summary

Accessible websites usually work better for everyone. They are often faster, easier to use and appear higher in search engine rankings.

During the Accessibility Assessment conducted by Spindogs, a variety of accessibility issues were identified. Some of these issues will need resolving in multiple areas of the website. These issues are detailed in the assessment which is divided into 10 different sections: accessibility statement, colour contrast, image alternative text, heading hierarchy, forms, focus indicators, link purpose, keyboard navigation, WAI-ARIA technology and semantically structured HTML.

Among the identified issues, those with the biggest impact can be resolved by updating heading markup to use sequential heading elements.

Other issues with a high impact include reducing the verbosity of link text that is constructed in the codebase; increasing the colour contrast between the text and background of subtext and widget legends; improving the relationship between form inputs and their labels.

These issues will likely require resolving by your technical team.

We believe that there are a lot of quick wins that can be made for NHS Property Services that will immediately make a positive impact to the accessibility of your website.

Assessment

Accessibility Statement

An accessibility statement is a public document or statement that outlines your commitment to making your digital content and services accessible to individuals with disabilities. Typically, an accessibility statement includes information about the accessibility features of the website or application, details on compliance with accessibility standards (such as WCAG - Web Content Accessibility Guidelines), contact information for accessibility inquiries or issues, and sometimes a timeline for planned accessibility improvements.

The primary purpose of an accessibility statement is to inform users, particularly those with disabilities, about the efforts being made to ensure that digital content and services are accessible. It helps build trust and transparency while demonstrating an organisation's dedication to inclusivity and compliance with accessibility regulations.

Good examples of accessibility statements:

- <u>UK Parliament Accessibility statement</u>
- GOV.UK Sample accessibility statement
- NHS Accessibility statement

Ref No.	Issue
1.1	Accessibility statement is not present

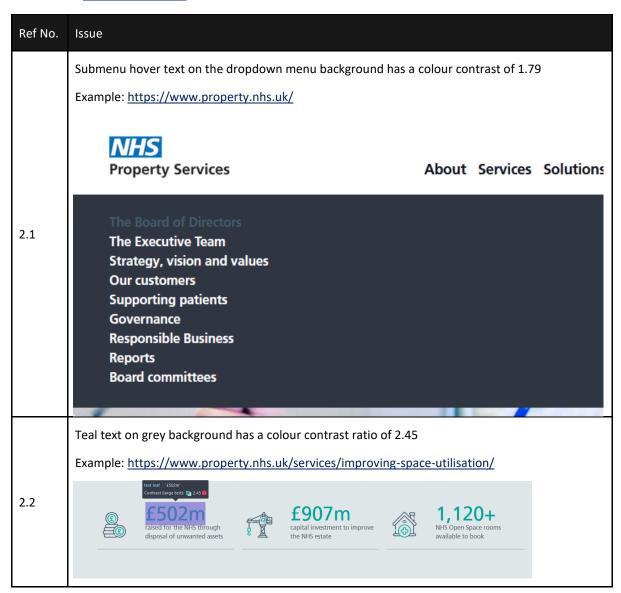
Colour contrast

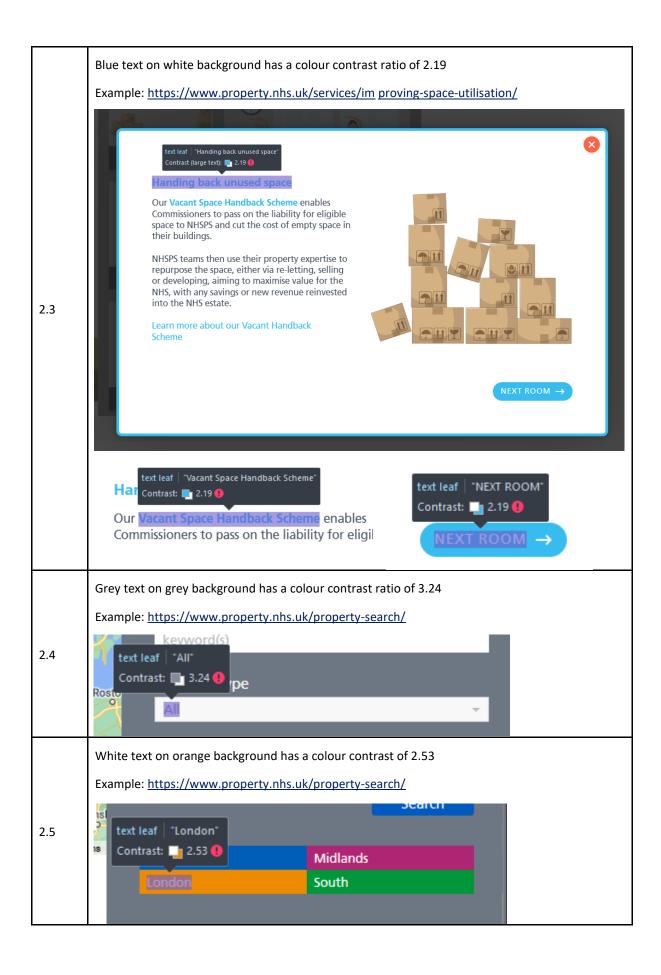
WCAG 1.4.3 - CONTRAST (MINIMUM) (LEVEL AA)

The aim of 1.4.3 Success Criterion is to ensure sufficient colour contrast between text and its background for people with moderately low vision and to enhance readability for all users. To pass this requirement, the ratio that is calculated from the colour contrast between two colours must pass a certain value, the greater the value on the left, the higher the contrast. WCAG 2.2 Level AA requires minimum contrast ratios: 4.5:1 for normal text (e.g., text that's smaller than 24px with normal font weight), 3:1 for large text (e.g., larger than 18.5px with bold font weight or 24px normal), and 3:1 for graphics and user interface elements, including form input borders. This requirement also applies to images containing text.

Colour contrast calculators:

- WebAIM Contrast Checker
- colourcontrast.cc





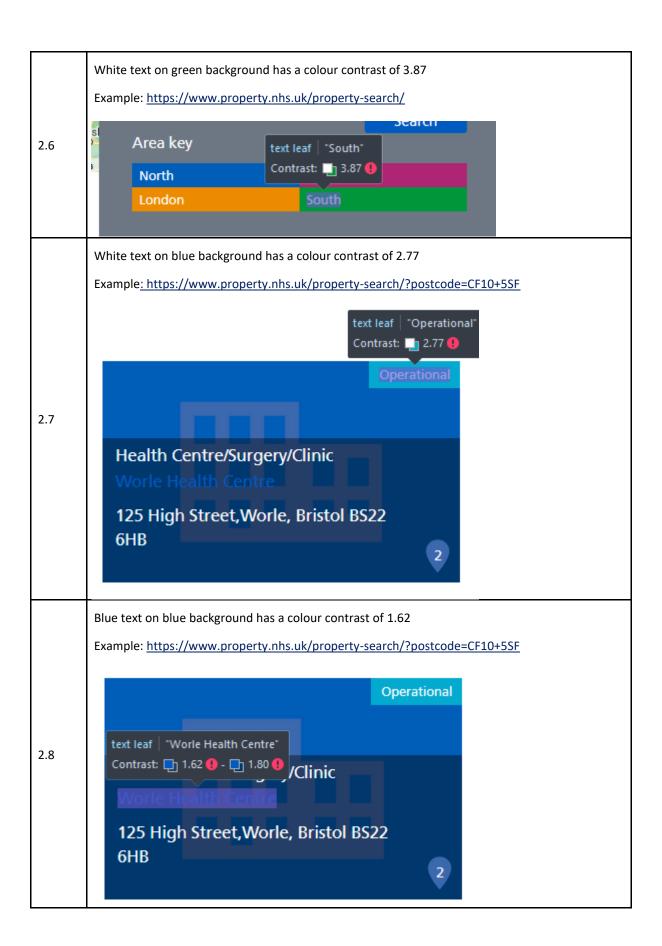




Image alternative text

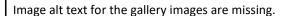
WCAG 1.1.1 - NON-TEXT CONTENT (LEVEL A)

Image alternative text, or alt text, is a description of an image that is read aloud by screen readers or displayed when an image cannot be loaded. Alt text is essential for conveying the content and purpose of images to users who are blind or have low vision and use assistive technology.

It is important to be aware of an image's purpose and write the alt text accordingly:

- Informative images, including pictures, photos, and illustrations, should have a concise descriptive alt text conveying the essential information presented by the image.
- Decorative images, which sole purpose is to add visual decoration to the page, rather than to convey information that is important to understanding the page, should have an alt attribute present, but empty.
- Functional images, such as button icons, should have alt text which describes the functionality that it represents.
- Images of text should have the alt text as the text in the image
- Complex images, such as graphs and diagrams, should have alt text that conveys a complete text equivalent of the data or information provided in the image.

Ref No.	Issue
3.1	In general, image alt text is well written. The alt attribute is programmatically applied, even if left blank, which allows assistive technology to skip over those images that do not provide additional context.
	In some places image alt text causes overly verbose link names, in which case the alt text should be programmatically removed to improve the experience of assistive technology users.
3.2	Image alt text on the header logo should be rewritten to indicate where the link will take you. i.e. 'NHS Property Services – Home'.
	Example: https://www.property.nhs.uk/
	image NHS Property Services Logo - colour
	Pro Logo ty Services



Example: https://www.property.nhs.uk/news/news/news/chiswick-topping-out-event/

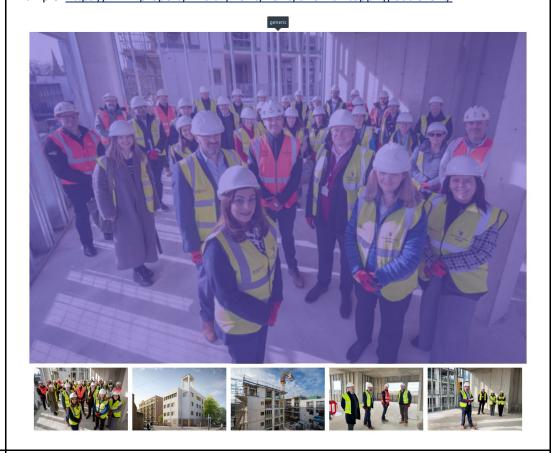
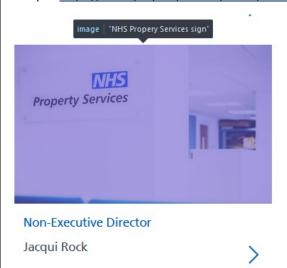


Image alt text on Board of Directors' images should be omitted to avoid verbose or duplicated link text.

Example: https://www.property.nhs.uk/about/the-board-of-directors/

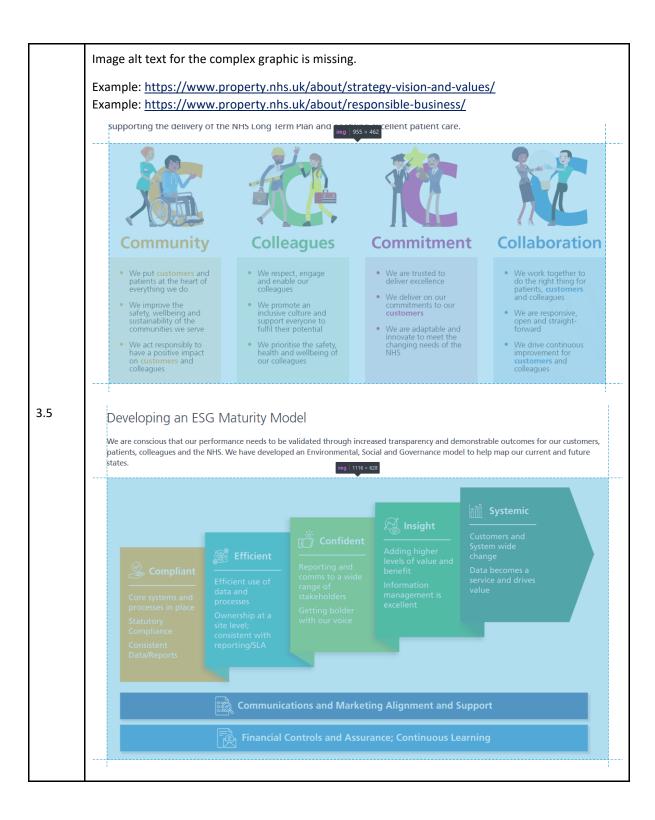


3.4

3.3

▼ link:

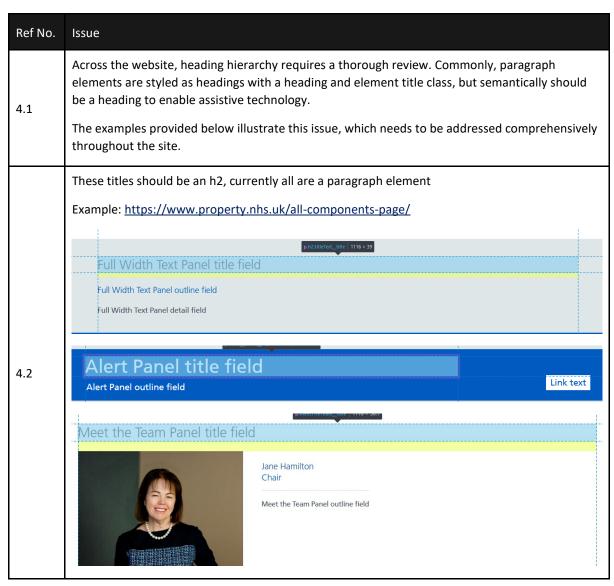
"NHS Propery Services sign Non-Executive Director Jacqui Rock"

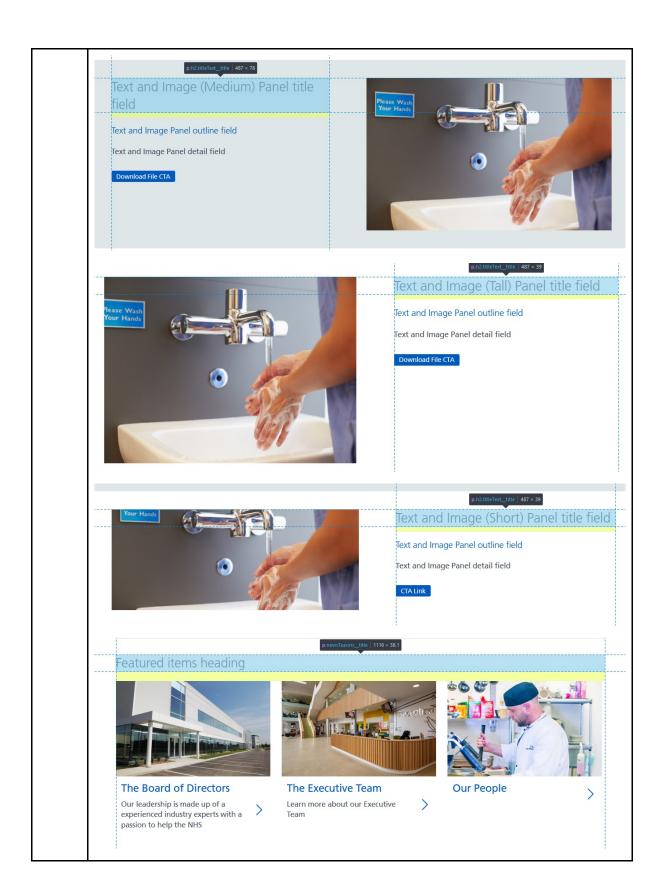


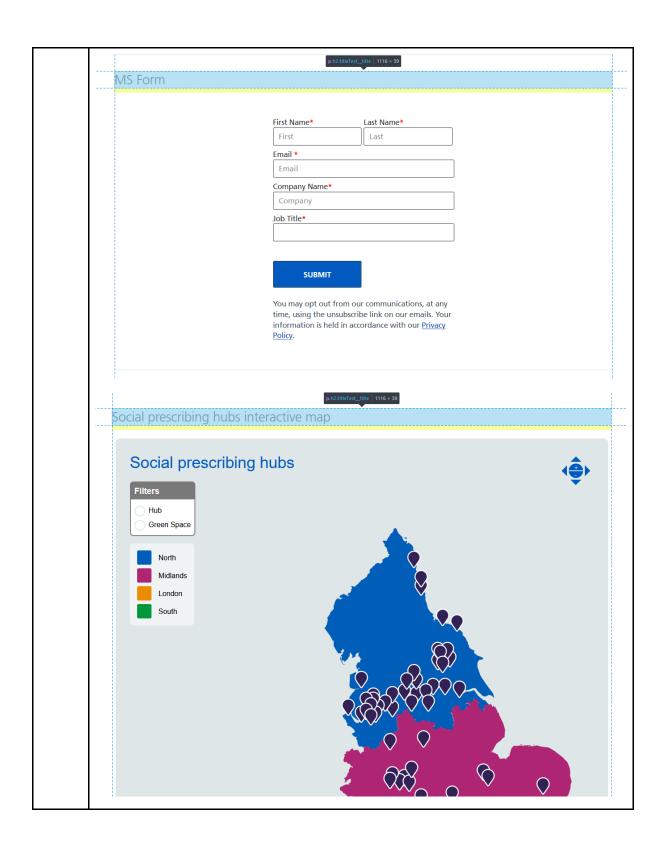
Heading Hierarchy

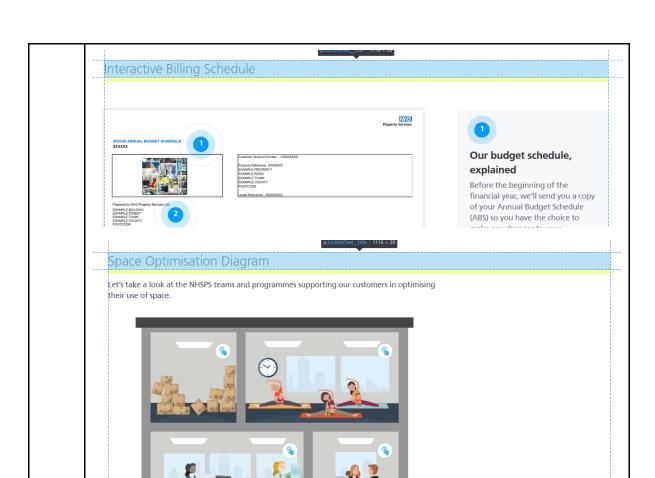
WCAG 1.3.1 – INFO AND RELATIONSHIPS (LEVEL A)

Heading hierarchy is an essential aspect of structuring and formatting content on a website. It improves the user's ability to scan the content so they can quickly find the information they are looking for, as well as being the main way that people using screens readers navigate a webpage. Because of this, headings should be constructed carefully to describe the content below them and be ordered logically and sequentially on the page. Heading levels should not be skipped or chosen purely for their visual output. Correctly structuring your headings and ensuring there is always a top level (h1) heading on the webpage will also benefit a page's search engine optimisation and help it achieve better rankings for relevant searches.









How can we work together to better use NHS space? We're keen to hear from you, so please reach out via <u>Customer.Service@property.nhs.uk</u> or <u>0800 085 3015</u>.

Heading hierarchy needs to be reviewed. Example: https://www.property.nhs.uk/creating-spaces-for-community-and-patient-wellbeing/ Example: https://www.property.nhs.uk/occupier-hub/report-a-facilities-management-issue/ Assuming 'Creating spaces for community and patient wellbeing' is the title of the page, it should remain as an h1, but should be placed above 'Download a copy of our report' (which should be an h2). Similarly, paragraphs styled as titles should be headings, e.g. 'Get insight to help you create spaces that meet local population needs' and 'Hear from some research participants'. Download your copy of our report 1 Creating spaces for community and pati... 2 You may also be interested in 3 Newsletter Signup 4.3 Ideal heading hierarchy: H1 (Remove) – Download your copy of our report H1 (No change) – Creating spaces for community and patient wellbeing H2 (Update) – Get insight to help you create spaces that meet local population needs (this has a link to the report) H2 (Add) - Read related articles H2 (Update) – Hear from some research participants H2 (Update) – How are we using our estate to support community wellbeing? H2 (Update) – Let's work together H2 (Update) - Sign up to receive social prescribing updates H2 (No change) – You may also be interested in Numbers should be a paragraph or span element. Currently are an h3. Example: https://www.property.nhs.uk/about/our-customers/ Example: https://www.property.nhs.uk/about/supporting-patients/ 4.4 7,000+

Forms

WCAG 1.3.1 – INFO AND RELATIONSHIPS (LEVEL A)

Forms are a common way for users to input information or interact with websites. Forms should be appropriately and visibly labelled and provide clear instructions on what information is expected from the user. It is essential to have correctly structured forms with a defined relationship between the label and the input for each form field - if this relationship is compromised, orphaned input fields lose their meaning impacting on usability and user satisfaction.

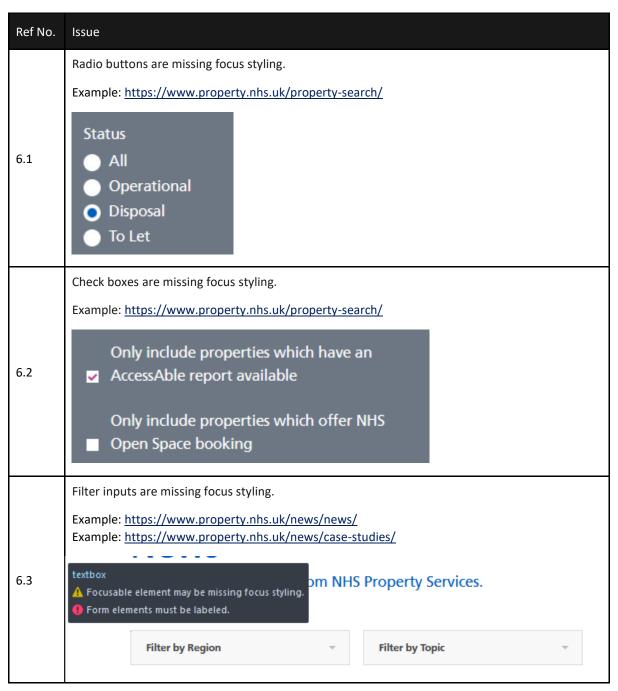
```
Ref No.
        Issue
        Form labels are not displayed. Using display: none on a label means it is not discoverable for
        assistive technology.
        Example: <a href="https://www.property.nhs.uk/">https://www.property.nhs.uk/</a>
        Example: https://www.property.nhs.uk/contact/
            <div class=" umbraco-forms-field firstname shortanswer</p>
              ▶ <label id="7f41ce3b-50ae-4e11-c743-df08d43c4743label"</p>
                class="umbraco-forms-label" for="7f41ce3b-50ae-4e11-c743-
                df08d43c4743 () "> --- </label>
              <div class="umbraco-forms-field-wrapper">
5.1
                  <input id="7f41ce3b-50ae-4e11-c743-df08d43c4743"</pre>
                  class="text " type="text" name="7f41ce3b-50ae-4e11-c743
                  df08d43c4743" data-umb="7f41ce3b-50ae-4e11-c743-
                  df08d43c4743" value="" maxlength="255" placeholder="Fir
                  Name" data-val="true" data-val-required="Please enter y
                  name" aria-required="true"> event
                  <span class="field-validation-valid" data-valmsg-</pre>
                  for="7f41ce3b-50ae-4e11-c743-df08d43c4743" data-valmsg-
                  replace="true" role="alert"></span>
                </div>
              </div>
        Form labels is missing as they have been commented out and replaced with an h2 which does not
        have the correct relationship with the input.
         Example: https://www.property.nhs.uk/occupier-hub/request-a-compliance-certificate/
         <h2 style="font-size:16px;">Property search</h2>
          <!--<label>Property</label>-->
5.2
          <input id="propertysearch" type="text" onkeyup="ps()"</pre>
          placeholder="Type a search query..."> event
           Property search
```

	Radio button groups and checkboxes have orphaned form labels. Should use fieldset and legend to group and name fields		
	Example: https://www.property.nhs.uk/occupier-hub/hand-back-vacant-space/		
	PROPERTY DETAILS		
	s the space offered for hand back the whole or part of the building? *		
	Whole buildingPart of the building only		
	Is the space offered for hand back now or previously occupied by the commissioner/CSU? *		
5.3	O Yes O No		
	Is the space being offered for hand back still in use / occupied? *		
	O Yes O No		
	label#5599f108-852d-457b-b1f9-a421a27481b2label.umbraco-forms-label 288.483 × 23.8 On Team		
	☐ Yes, I give permission to store and process my data		
	Filter inputs are missing labels.		
	Example: https://www.property.nhs.uk/news/news/		
	Example: https://www.property.nhs.uk/news/case-studies/		
	textbox A Focusable element may be missing focus styling. The property Services of the propert		
	Filter by Region Filter by Topic		
	▼ <div class="umbraco-forms-field documentupload fileupload"></div>		
5.4	▼ <label class="umbraco-forms-label" for="4ab005cf-54be-4f81-f04d-ba673e4de4011 ф" id="4ab005cf-54be-4f81-f04d-ba673e4de4011abel"></label>		
	Document upload <span <="" id="4ab005cf-54be-4f81-f04d-ba673e4de401 description" td="">		
	class="umbraco-forms-tooltip help-block"> Document upload. Maximum file upload size: 5 MB ▼ <div class="umbraco-forms-field-wrapper"></div>		
	<pre></pre>		
	multiple="" data-val="" data-val-required="" aria- describedby=" <u>4ab005cf-54be-4f81-f04d-</u> ba673e4de401 description \Phi "> [event]		
	<pre></pre>		

Focus indicators

WCAG 2.4.7 – FOCUS VISIBLE (LEVEL AA)

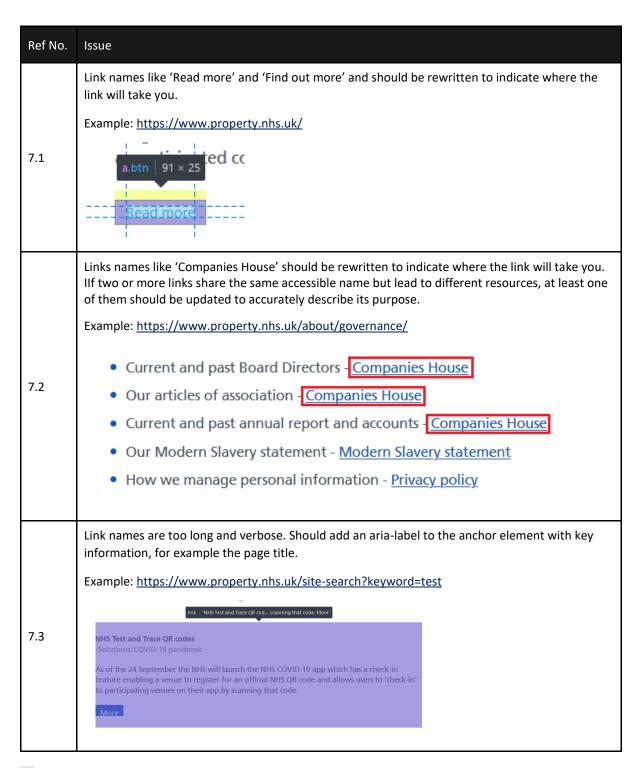
Focus states are used to provide visible cues to indicate where a keyboard or assistive technology user is currently navigating, ensuring that interactive elements and content can be easily found and followed and are therefore perceivable and usable for individuals with disabilities.



Link Purpose

WCAG 2.4.4 - LINK PURPOSE (LEVEL A)

The purpose of each link and button should be determined from the text alone or from the text together with its programmatically determined link context. This means that the text used for the link should be clear and descriptive enough for users to understand where the link will take them. Avoiding vague or duplicate link names is essential to pass this criterion.

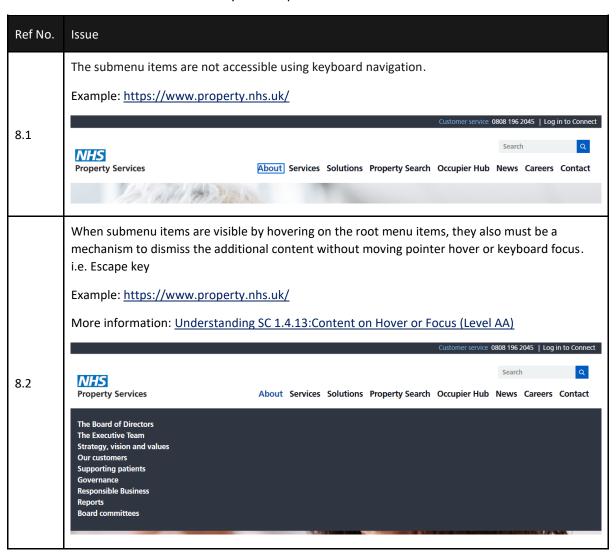


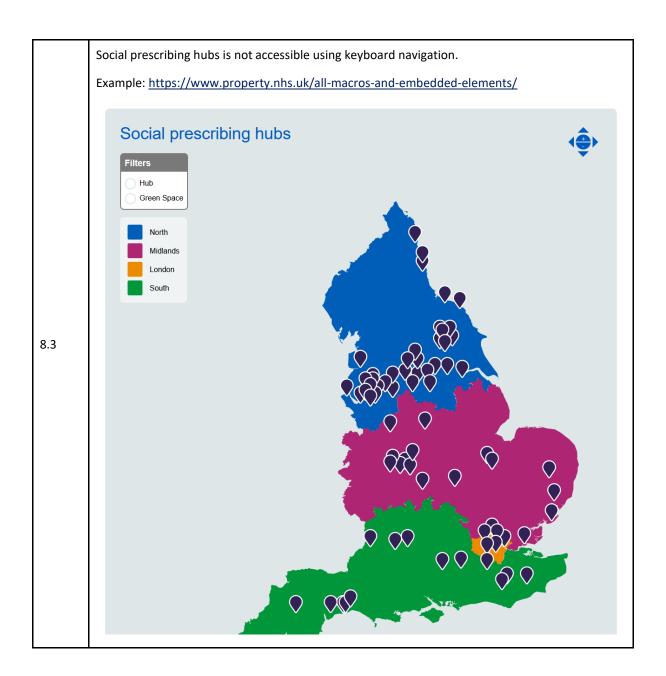


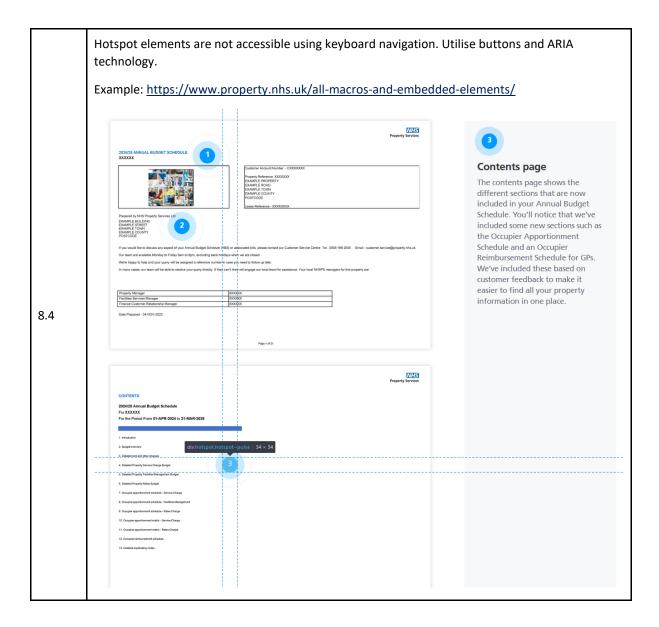
Keyboard navigation

WCAG 2.1.1 - KEYBOARD (LEVEL A)

Supporting keyboard navigation ensures that people with impairments, especially those who rely on screen readers or have limited motor skills can traverse and engage with your digital content in the same way that a mouse user would. This involves having a logical tab and reading order and making interactive elements accessible via keyboard input.







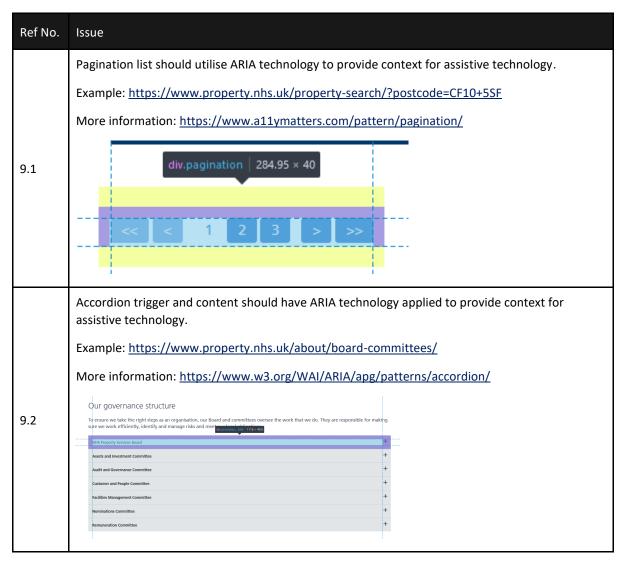
WAI-ARIA technology

WCAG 1.1.1 - NON-TEXT CONTENT (LEVEL A)

WCAG 4.1.2- NAME, ROLE, VALUE (LEVEL A)

WAI-ARIA (Web Accessibility Initiative - Accessible Rich Internet Applications) technology plays a pivotal role in enhancing web accessibility by providing a set of attributes and roles that enable assistive technologies to better understand and interact with dynamic web content, ensuring a more inclusive online experience for people with disabilities. It is important to be selective when using ARIA so that users are not overwhelmed with information.

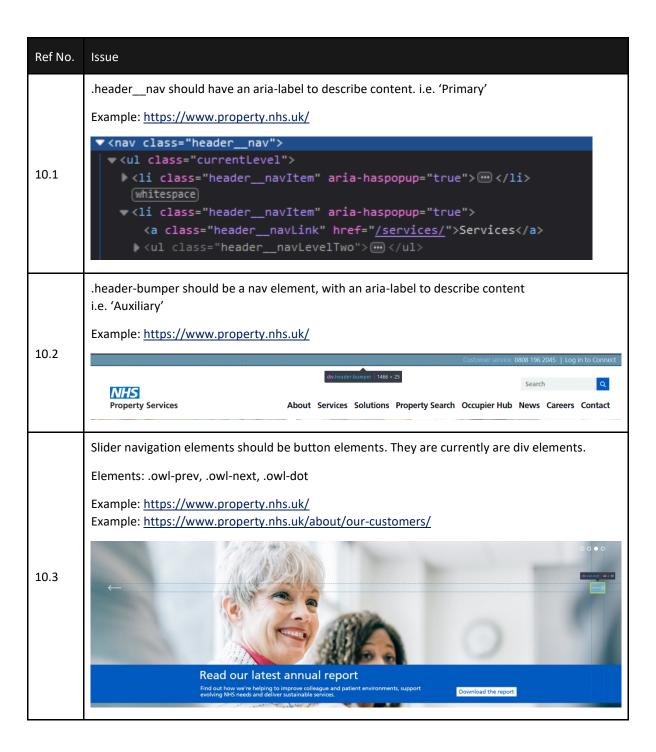
- aria-expanded=true/false (usually applied to a button) indicate if a control is expanded or collapsed. Example, a button that displays a dropdown on activation.
- aria-hidden=true/false can be used to hide non-interactive elements from the accessibility
 tree. This can improve the experience for assistive technology users (such as screen readers)
 by hiding decorative, duplicate or offscreen content.
- aria-pressed=true/false (usually applied to a button) indicated the current state of a toggle
 and can be used to communicate when a function is active. Example: Dark/light mode
 toggle.

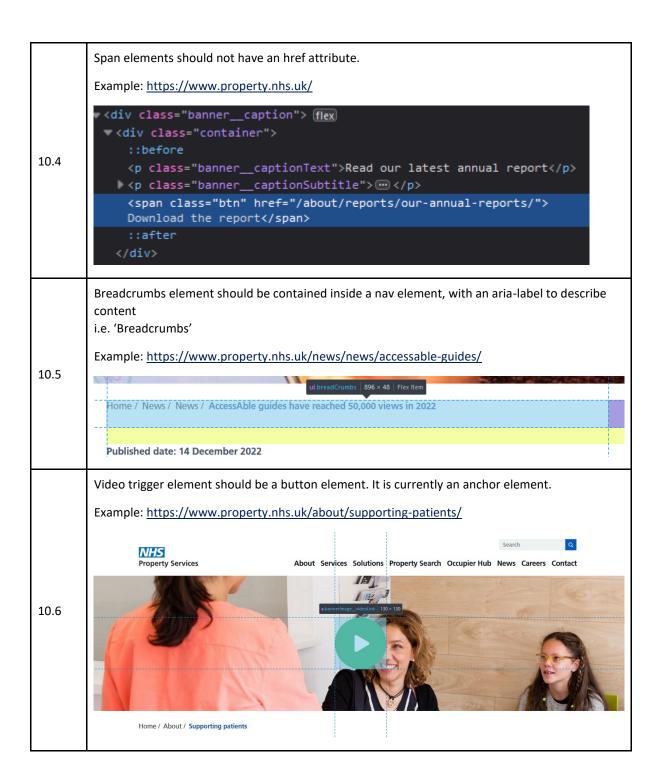


Semantically structured HTML

WCAG 4.1.1 – PARSING (LEVEL A)

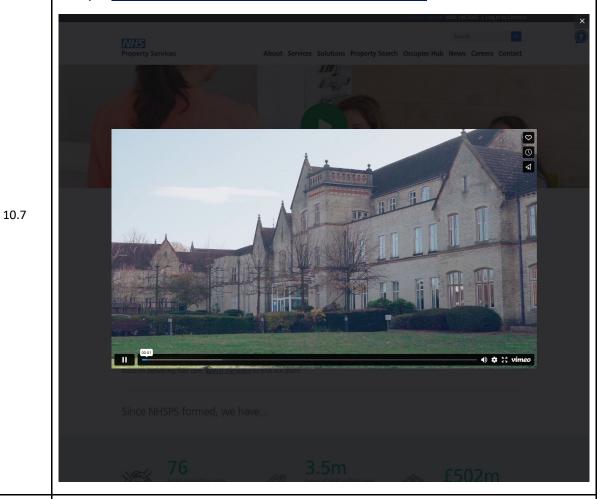
As the foundation of the web, there are rules and best practices for writing HTML. Assistive technology relies on well written and semantically structured HTML that follows these rules as the structures and elements provide affordances and native browser behaviour for users, for example a native button is operable using a mouse and a keyboard, as well as providing context to the browser, assistive technologies and search engine bots.





Video popup is active, there must also must be a mechanism to dismiss the additional content without moving pointer hover or keyboard focus. i.e. Escape key

Example: https://www.property.nhs.uk/about/supporting-patients/



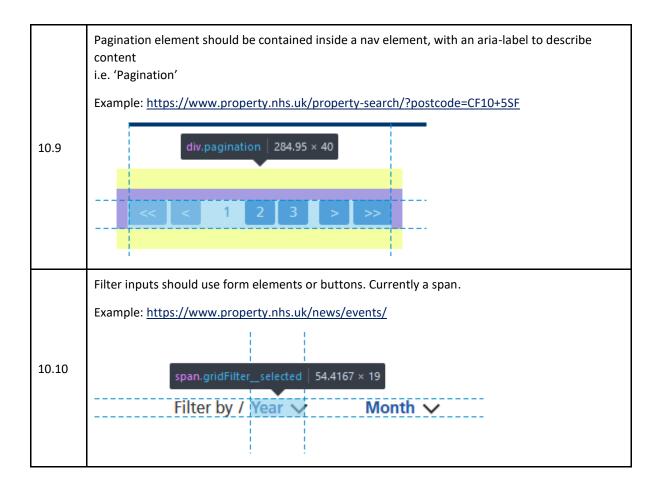
Accordion trigger elements should be button elements. They are currently are div elements.

Example: https://www.property.nhs.uk/about/board-committees/

Our governance structure To ensure we take the right steps as an organisation, our Board and committees oversee the work that we do. They are responsible for making sure we work efficiently, identify and manage risks and mee dov.accordion_title | 1116 × 49.8 NHIS Property Services Board + Assets and Investment Committee + Audit and Governance Committee + Customer and People Committee + Facilities Management Committee + Mominations Committee + Mominations Committee + Customer and People Committee + Custo

31

10.8



Pages reviewed

- 1. https://www.property.nhs.uk/
- 2. https://www.property.nhs.uk/creating-spaces-for-community-and-patient-wellbeing/
- 3. https://www.property.nhs.uk/about/
- 4. https://www.property.nhs.uk/about/the-board-of-directors/
- 5. https://www.property.nhs.uk/about/strategy-vision-and-values/
- 6. https://www.property.nhs.uk/about/our-customers/
- 7. https://www.property.nhs.uk/about/supporting-patients/
- 8. https://www.property.nhs.uk/about/governance/
- 9. https://www.property.nhs.uk/about/responsible-business/
- 10. https://www.property.nhs.uk/about/reports/
- 11. https://www.property.nhs.uk/about/board-committees/
- 12. https://www.property.nhs.uk/services/
- 13. https://www.property.nhs.uk/services/estate-strategy-and-optimisation/
- 14. https://www.property.nhs.uk/services/town-planning/
- 15. https://www.property.nhs.uk/services/property-development/
- 16. https://www.property.nhs.uk/services/improving-space-utilisation/
- 17. https://www.property.nhs.uk/services/property-management/
- 18. https://www.property.nhs.uk/services/property-disposals/
- 19. https://www.property.nhs.uk/services/construction-project-management/
- 20. https://www.property.nhs.uk/services/hard-facilities-management/
- 21. https://www.property.nhs.uk/services/soft-facilities-management/
- 22. https://www.property.nhs.uk/services/energy-and-environment/
- 23. https://www.property.nhs.uk/solutions/creating-healthy-places/
- 24. https://www.property.nhs.uk/solutions/transforming-the-nhs-estate/
- 25. https://www.property.nhs.uk/services/energy-and-environment/
- 26. https://www.property.nhs.uk/solutions/covid-19-pandemic/
- 27. https://www.property.nhs.uk/property-search/
- 28. https://www.property.nhs.uk/occupier-hub/
- 29. https://www.property.nhs.uk/occupier-hub/occupier-handbook/
- 30. https://www.property.nhs.uk/occupier-hub/request-a-compliance-certificate/
- 31. https://www.property.nhs.uk/occupier-hub/report-a-change-to-your-occupancy/
- 32. https://www.property.nhs.uk/occupier-hub/hand-back-vacant-space/
- 33. https://www.property.nhs.uk/occupier-hub/property-billing-support/
- 34. https://www.property.nhs.uk/occupier-hub/health-and-safety/
- 35. https://www.property.nhs.uk/careers/
- 36. https://www.property.nhs.uk/careers/corporate/
- 37. https://www.property.nhs.uk/careers/facilities-management-services/
- 38. https://www.property.nhs.uk/careers/early-careers/
- 39. https://www.property.nhs.uk/contact/
- 40. https://www.property.nhs.uk/site-search?keyword=test
- 41. https://www.property.nhs.uk/all-components-page/
- 42. https://www.property.nhs.uk/all-macros-and-embedded-elements/
- 43. https://www.property.nhs.uk/property-search/westgate-annex-edgware-community-hospital-10004867
- 44. https://www.property.nhs.uk/news/news/

- 45. https://www.property.nhs.uk/news/news/chiswick-topping-out-event/
- 46. https://www.property.nhs.uk/news/webinars/
- 47. https://www.property.nhs.uk/news/case-studies/
- 48. https://www.property.nhs.uk/news/events/