Accessibility, the legislation, the challenges and what it means for the sector

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Presentation overview

1. A bit about the legislation (Fiona)

2. A lot about why it's important (Robin)

3. What the sector are doing (Fiona)

4. And what we need from you (Fiona)

Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations 2018

- Based on the 2016 EU Web Accessibility Directive

- Transposed into EU member laws by Sept 2018

- Now UK law

- Applies to Public Sector bodies (including most universities)

www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/952/made

Scope

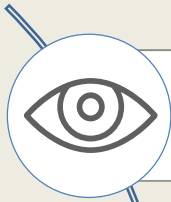- Websites & intranets
- Online documents
- Video and audio
- Online platforms & applications
- Mobile apps

Accessibility Principles: POUR
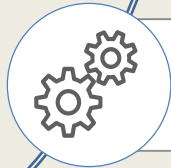
WCAG 2.1 Level AA

Perceivable: Content is presented in ways that can be accessed by all

Operable: Content is presented in ways that can be operated by all

Understandable: Content is presented in ways that can be understood by all

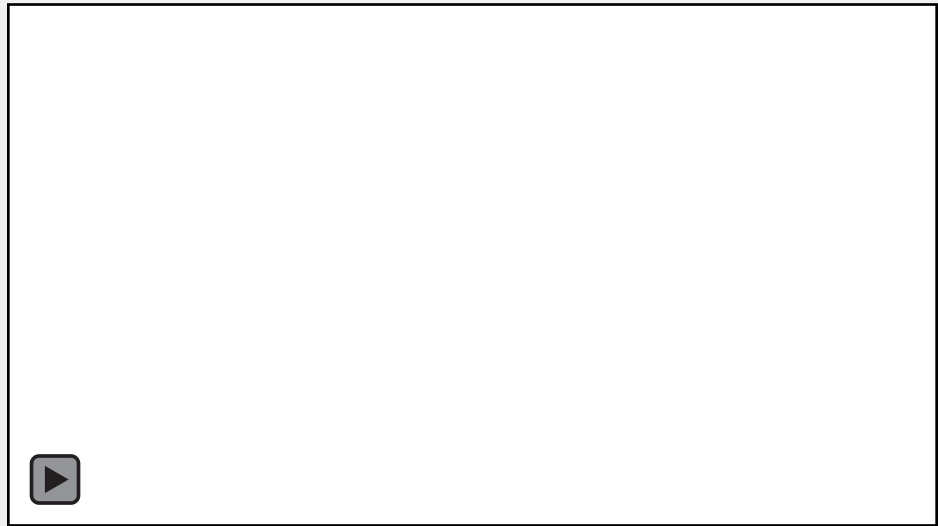**R**obust: Content is reliable and compatible with assistive technology and standards

AbilityNet –
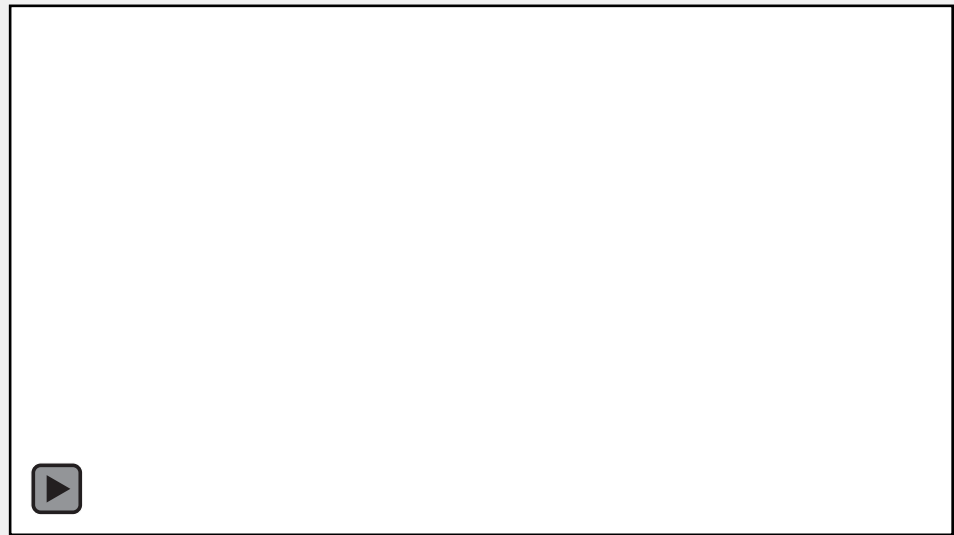## a digital world accessible to all:

We are a charity that uses technology to help transform the lives of disabled people through:

- Expert consultancy and Accessibility testing

- Training on Accessibility, Assistive Technology and more

- Resources, online tools and individual support services at

- home, at work and in education

- Specialist services to support HE and HE suppliers with digital

- accessibility strategy and execution

#Diversish

A typical mobile experience

The age of the small screen

And the one-handed juggle

What the sector is doing

Panicking

Talking to one another

Getting expert advice

Self-help (the DAWG)

What institutions are doing

- Fixing their content
- Raising awareness and training
- Updating policies
- Auditing platforms
- Writing 'Accessibility Statements'

Accessibility Statements must include:

- User-focused description of what's accessible and what's not

- How to access alternatives to content that's not

- Statement of compliance – fully, partially or not compliant

- Which parts of the service **do not** meet accessibility standards and why

- Who to contact to report problems

- Information on how the regulations are monitored and how to escalate issues to the monitoring body

And we need one for each platform!

- Web site
- E-learning platform
- Student records system
- HR system
- Repository
- Blog
- Wiki

- Library system
- Mobile apps
- Timetabling system
- Media delivery
- Lecture capture
- Help desk system
- And…

…basically, anything which runs in a browser

One heartfelt plea

"We need better vendor testing and awareness of accessibility issues – I'm sometimes shocked by how little understanding there is and arrogance of suppliers that we will continue to purchase their software regardless of how accessible it is"
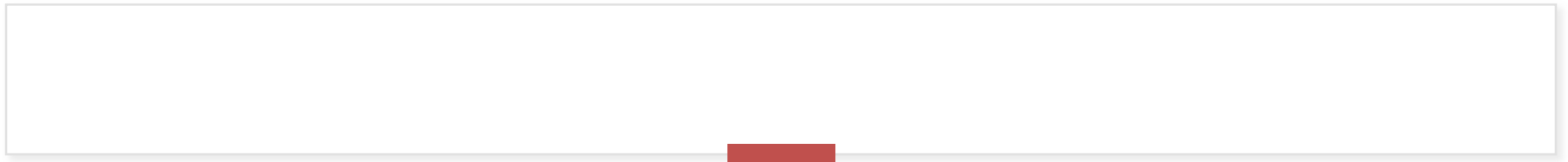
We need your help

Please…

1. Read the legislation and learn about digital accessibility

2. Make your products accessible (they'll be better for everyone!) – they need to comply with WCAG 2.1 AA

3. Build in templates so that any content is accessible by design

4. Test your products (get the experts in)

5. Share your accessibility roadmaps and timescales

6. Write accessibility statements that we can draw on (not unfriendly VPATs)
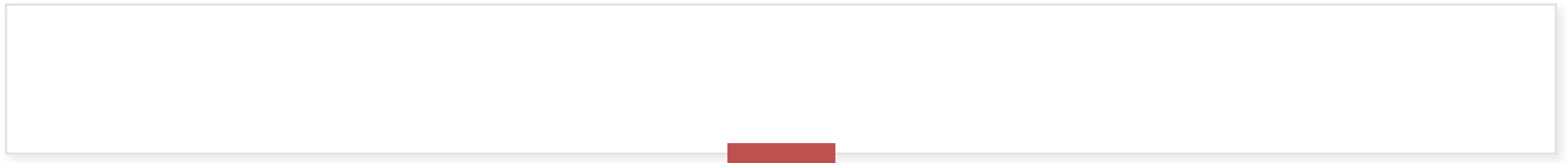
Great user experience is | Usability

+

Design

+

Accessibility

So, in return, your products will be better for everyone, and we will continue to be able to buy them!

Questions and Comments?