



**Government Digital
Delivery Agency**
Te Pūnaha Matihiko



Easy Read

The draft Digital Accessibility Standard: Summary consultation document

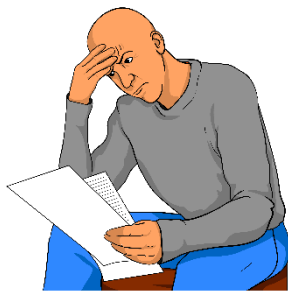


Published: July 2026

Before you start



This is a long document.



It can be hard for some people to read a document this long.



Some things you can do to make it easier are:

- read it a few pages at a time
- set aside some quiet time to look at it
- have someone read it with you to support you to understand it.



What is in here

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About this Easy Read



This Easy Read document is from the **Government Digital Delivery Agency**.



The **Government Digital Delivery Agency** supports the Public Service to use more digital technology.



This supports New Zealanders to use Government services.



The **Public Service** means the parts of the Government that provide everyday services to New Zealanders like:

- the police
- healthcare like hospitals.





Here **digital technology** means all the different things that have been created / made to be able to do things online using **digital tools**.



Digital tools are things that use digital technology like:

- apps
- websites.



Digital tools support you to do things online using things like your:



- computer
- laptop
- phone
- iPad / tablet.





When you see the words
we / us / our it means the
**Government Digital Development
Agency.**



This Easy Read is about a new set of
rules the Government will need to
follow when using digital technology.



The **Digital Accessibility Standard**
is:

- a new set of rules about digital
accessibility

and

- will work to make sure all
government digital information
and services are accessible to
disabled people.





Here **accessibility** means that digital tools should be able to be used by everyone including disabled people.



We call the Digital Accessibility Standard **DAS** in this document.



We want to find out what you think about the draft DAS.

On **pages 35 to 37** you can find information about how you can have your say about the draft DAS.

About the Disability Accessibility Standard



The Government has rules about making websites accessible for disabled people.



These rules are called the New Zealand Government Web Standards.



The New Zealand Government Web Standards is made up of 2 sets of rules called the:

- **Web Accessibility Standard**

and

- **Web Usability Standard.**





Here a **standard** is a set of rules people should follow when they are:

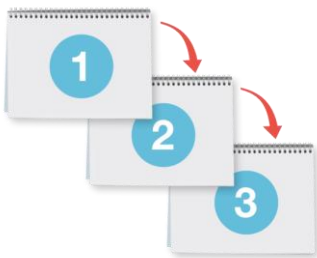
- doing something like building a website
- managing something like a website



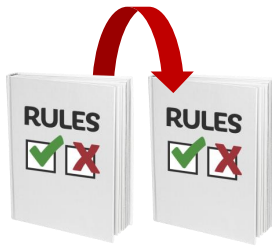
Standards support digital technology to be accessible to everyone.



The **Web Accessibility Standard** is a set of rules about making sure Government websites can be used by disabled people.



The **Web Usability Standard** is a set of rules to make sure Government websites have the right things like contact information.



A new DAS will replace the Web Accessibility Standard in early 2027.



The DAS will be made with the support of:

- disabled people
- people who make digital Government:
 - information
 - and
 - services.



We want to find out what you think about the draft DAS.



Here **draft** means writing something for the first time.

There will be changes before the DAS is finished.

When things happen



We have made a draft of the DAS to be used for **public consultation**.



Here **public consultation** means we will ask people what they think about our draft DAS.



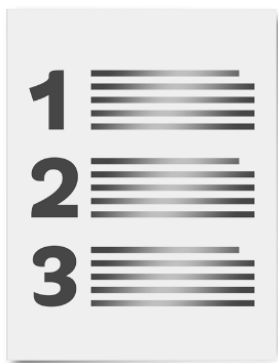
We will have our public consultation from:

- **Monday 13 July**
- to
- **Friday 7 August 2026.**



In early 2027 the:

- consultation **summary** will be **published**
- **support programmes** will be published
- new DAS will be published.



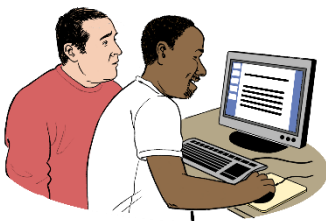
A **summary**:

- is shorter than the main document
- tells you the main ideas.



Here **published** means the DAS will be able to be:

- seen by everyone
- read by everyone.





Here **support programmes** are ways to support people to use the DAS like having training sessions.

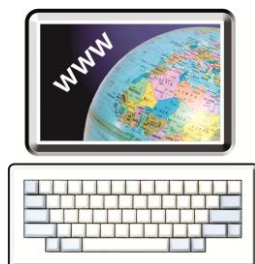


We will also make a document to explain things about the DAS like:

- how decisions were made
- why decisions were made.

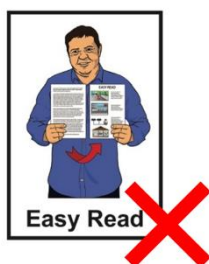


The DAS will start to be used sometime after it has been published.



You can find out more about the public consultation at this **website**:

<https://www.digital.govt.nz/das/consultation>



This **website** is not in Easy Read.

Why we need a new standard



All government digital information and services must be accessible to disabled people.



The standard we use now only has rules for:

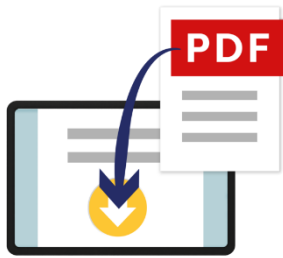
- websites
- web apps.



We need new rules to make sure all Government digital technologies are accessible like:



- websites
- mobile apps
- electronic documents like PDFs.



We also need new rules to make sure all Government digital technologies are accessible like:

- online forms
- online services
- Government information online.



All Government **information and communication technology / ICT** will have to follow the DAS.



Information and communication technology / ICT means digital tools people use to get:

- information
- services.



Doing this will show the Government is following the:

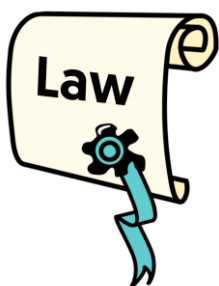
- **Human Rights Act**

and

- **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.**



The **Human Rights Act** is the **law** that protects the **human rights** of New Zealand.



A **law** is a rule made by the Government that everyone must follow.



Human rights are things that the law says every person should:

- have
- be able to do.



Rights are things like:

- having a safe place to live
- getting information in a way people can understand.





The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** is a law lots of countries have agreed to.



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is also called the **UNCRPD**.

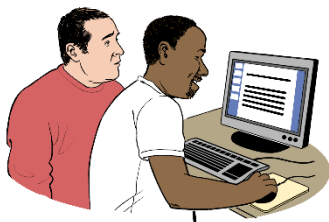
It says what governments must do to make sure disabled people get the same rights as everybody else.



The DAS will support Government agencies to make digital technologies accessible by making the rules clear for digital accessibility.



The Government will support government agencies to follow what the DAS says.



Support for government agencies

We are planning ways to support government agencies to:

- make digital accessibility better
- follow what the DAS says.



We will work with
Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled
People to do this.



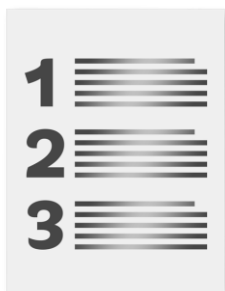
What will happen to the Web Usability Standard?

The Web Usability Standard will be used to guide people when using the **Digital Service Design Standard**.



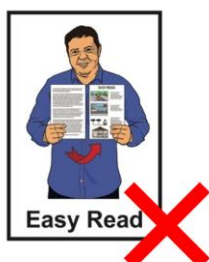
The **Digital Service Design Standard** lets people know what they need to think about if they are:

- designing / making Government digital services
- providing digital services for the Government.



You can find out more about the Digital Service Design Standard at this **website**:

www.digital.govt.nz/digital-service-design-standard



This website is **not** in Easy Read.

Summary of the Disability Accessibility Standard



This part of the document is a summary of the draft DAS.



Reason for the DAS

The DAS will make sure disabled people can access all Government digital:

- information

and

- services.





Who must follow the DAS

The new DAS will:

- start in early 2027
- replace the Web Accessibility Standard 1.2.



Mandated organisations must follow what the new DAS says.



Here **mandated organisations** are the Government organisations that have to follow the DAS.



Some organisations in the
Public Service:

- do not have to follow the DAS

but

- should follow the DAS when they can.



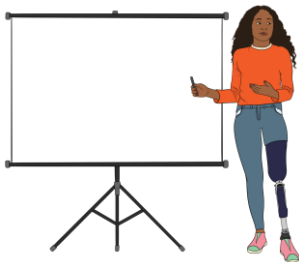
Rules for digital products and services



This is about the ICT accessibility
that mandated organisations are
responsible for.



Here **responsible** means looking
after something like a website to
make sure it is doing what it is meant
to.



These ICT products and services are things like:

- websites
- mobile apps
- **non-web documents** like:
 - PDFs
 - letters
 - emails
 - spreadsheets.

Non-web documents are digital documents that:

- are not part of a web page
- need to be opened to read.



These ICT products and services are also about:

- software like:
 - the operating system / main software on your computer like Windows
 - a web browser like Google Chrome



- hardware like:
 - laptops
 - phones
 - printers
 - **kiosks.**



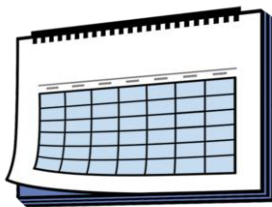
Here **kiosks** are small places in a public area where you use a digital service.



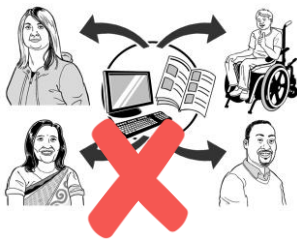
The rules should be followed when the DAS starts in early 2027 for all new ICT products and services.



ICT products and services being used need to follow the DAS by 2031.



This date may be different for some products and services.



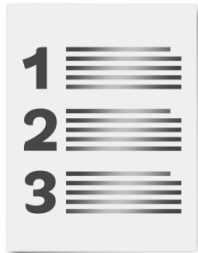
The DAS rules do not have to be followed for things like:

- drafts that are not ready to be shared
- notes that were not meant to be shared
- some ICT tools not controlled by the Government agency.





All Government digital products and services must meet the European accessibility standard called EN 301 549.



An **accessibility statement** is needed for all public:

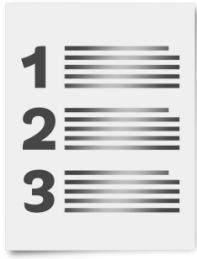
- web pages
- mobile apps.



An **accessibility statement** tells you about the accessibility of the:

- website
- app.





Accessibility statements say things about:

- how accessible something is
- if there are problems
- how to give feedback
- plans to make it better.

Accessibility statements must be:

- easy to find
- labelled / given the right name.



Government websites and apps should also have how to contact them like:



- an email address
- a phone number
- a link to NZ Relay Service
- other ways to get support.



Contact information must be:

- easy to find on the home page / main screen
- clearly labelled like for example:

Contact us.





All public non-web documents must have information about how to contact the Government agency that published the document.



Public information should be published as accessible web pages before they are:

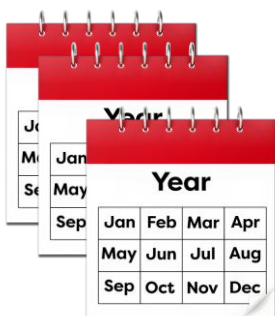


- put on a mobile app
- made into documents like PDFs.



What mandated organisations must do

Mandated organisations will need to plan to make sure all their digital products and services are accessible.



Each mandated organisation must have a 3-year plan.



The plan must have things about:

- how they are making progress on improving accessibility
- any **exceptions**
- plans to fix the exceptions.



Here **exceptions** means the times when the rules do not have to be followed.



The plan must:

- be checked every year
- be changed when it needs to be
- be published on a public website.



All online content / information must be written in **plain language**.



Plain language means writing in a clear way making it easy for most people to understand.



Organisations must test accessibility of their products and services like:

- using different ways to make sure the product or service is accessible
- getting disabled people to use them to find out if they are accessible.





Organisations must also:

- check accessibility regularly
- report on accessibility when asked
- work with the Government to test their ICT
- reply to questions about accessibility within 3 days
- say when they will give a full answer to the question.

When testing the accessibility of products and services information needs to be kept about:

- feedback people have made
- actions / work done to fix accessibility problems.



When a mandated organisation buys ICT products from another place these must follow the DAS rules.



Exceptions

Exceptions are sometimes allowed when:



- the DAS cannot be followed

or



- when following the DAS would be very hard like costing a lot of money.

Organisations must keep records saying why:



- there is an exception
- the exception is needed.



Exceptions can only be in place for a short time.



They must be checked over time to see if things have changed.

How to have your say



We want to find out what you think about the draft DAS.



Your feedback will support us to make the final DAS to work for disabled people.



There are 2 surveys for you to pick from.

- 1. Online survey which has 18 questions.**



You can find that online survey at:

<https://tinyurl.com/DASSurveyLink>

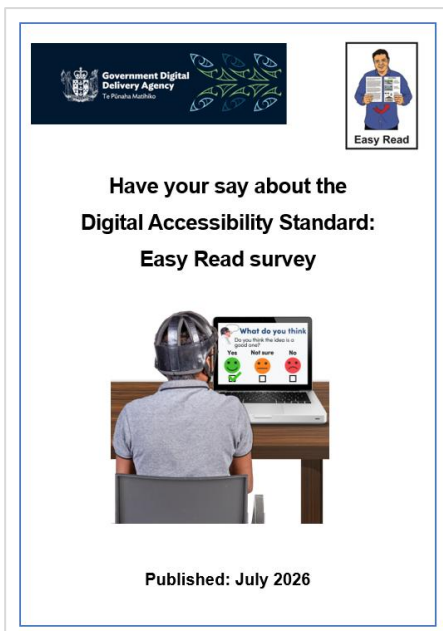


The online survey is **not** in Easy Read.



It is okay to ask someone to support you to do online survey.

2. There is Easy Read survey which is shorter with 10 questions.

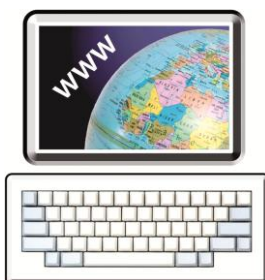


The Easy Read survey is called:

Have your say about the Digital Accessibility Standard: Easy Read survey

You can find this Easy Read survey at:

www.digital.govt.nz/das#alt





You can email us if you:

- would like printed copies of the Easy Read sent to you
- Have any questions about the DAS.



Our **email** is:

web.standards@gdda.govt.nz



This information has been written by the Government Digital Delivery Agency – Te Pūnaha Matihiko.



It has been translated into Easy Read by the Make it Easy Kia Māmā Mai service of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



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