Accessibility and how to get the most from your screenreader
I’m from the Government Digital Service
We’re a team at the heart of government building digital public services
We started by building GOV.UK
The best place to find government services and information
12 million visitors every week

Home to over 330 departments and organisations

Saving more than £60 million a year
Relentlessly focused on user needs
Apply for, renew or update a UK passport online

This part of GOV.UK is being rebuilt – find out what this means

You can apply for, renew or update your passport and pay for it online. You’ll have to print out a form at the end.

You must sign and date the form, add any documents or photographs that are needed, and return it for processing.

Start now
Running a limited company

1. Directors' responsibilities
   - try to make the company a success, using your skills, experience and judgment.

2. Taking money out of a limited company

3. Company changes you must report

4. Company and accounting records

5. Company annual return

6. Signs, stationery and promotional material

Accounts and tax returns for private limited companies

File your annual return or accounts with Companies House

File your Company Tax Return with HMRC

Register a private limited company online

Business support helplines

More

Elsewhere on GOV.UK

Complain about a limited company
Get vehicle tax for your vehicle
Get a replacement V5C (logbook)
Make a SORN
Change the address on your driving licence
Get vehicle information from DVLA
Renew your driving licence
Transfer a vehicle registration number (form V317)
Book a driving theory test
Check the MOT status of a vehicle
Buy a personalised registration number
Report treasure

You must report treasure to the local coroner within 14 days of finding it.

You only need to report items officially defined as treasure.

⚠️ There is a fine of up to £3,000 or 3 months in prison for not reporting treasure.

You can voluntarily report items to the Portable Antiquities Scheme if they aren’t treasure but are still of cultural or historical interest. This is to help keep a record of all finds in England and Wales.
Apply for or renew a Blue Badge

Answer questions about your disability, check your eligibility and fill in an application form to apply for or renew a Blue Badge. Your application will then be sent to your council for a decision.

Start now

on the Blue Badge eligibility tool

Before you start

Driving and transport

Blue Badge, parking, local travel and the environment

Apply for a disabled person's bus pass

Blue Badge scheme: information from your council

Find out where Blue Badge holders can park

Transport if you're disabled

More

Medical conditions, disabilities and driving
Financial help if you're disabled

1. Overview
   - Disability and sickness benefits
   - Vehicles and transport
   - Home and housing
   - On a low salary

1. Overview

There is a wide range of disability-related financial support, including benefits, tax credits, payments, grants and concessions.

The main disability and sickness benefits are:

- Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment
GOV.UK should work for everyone
Colour contrast
Colour contrast
How many of you use Apple products regularly?
How many of you test your websites in a screenreader?
Voiceover comes with OS X and iOS

Windows and Gnome have NVDA and Orca that can be downloaded

@edds
1. Developing a feature on GOV.UK
2. General learnings
Services and information

Benefits
Includes tax credits, eligibility and appeals

Births, deaths, marriages and care
Parenting, civil partnerships, divorce and Lasting Power of Attorney

Business and self-employed
Tools and guidance for businesses

Citizenship and living in the UK
Voting, community participation, life in the UK, international projects

Crime, justice and the law
Legal processes, courts and the police

Disabled people
Includes carers, your rights, benefits and the Equality Act

Driving and transport
Includes vehicle tax, MOT and driving licences

Education and learning
Includes student loans and admissions

Employing people
Includes pay, contracts and hiring

Environment and countryside
Includes flooding, recycling and wildlife

Housing and local services
Owning or renting and council services

Money and tax
Includes debt and Self Assessment

Passports, travel and living abroad
Includes renewing passports and travel advice by country

Visas and immigration
Visas, asylum and sponsorship

Working, jobs and pensions
Includes holidays and finding a job

The websites of all government departments and many other agencies and public bodies are being merged into GOV.UK.

Here you can see all policies, announcements, publications, statistics and consultations.

24
Ministerial departments

331
Other agencies and public bodies
Quick prototype
Benefits

A-Z

Benefits entitlement

Benefits for families

Carers and disability benefits

Child Benefit

Death and benefits

Heating and housing benefits

Jobseeker’s Allowance and low income benefits

Tax credits
Start with HTML
Benefits

A-Z

Benefits entitlement

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Child Benefit

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Heating and housing benefits

Jobseeker's Allowance and low income benefits

Tax credits
<ul>
  <li>
    <h2>Benefits</h2>
    <ul>
      <li>Benefits entitlement</li>
      ...
    </ul>
  </li>
  <li>
    Births, deaths, marriages and care</li>
    ...
  </li>
</ul>
Benefits

A-Z
- Benefits entitlement
- Benefits for families
- Carers and disability benefits
- Child Benefit
- Death and benefits
- Heating and housing benefits
- Jobseeker's Allowance and low income benefits
- Tax credits
<div>
  <ul>
    <li class="active">Benefits</li>
    <li>Births, deaths, marriages and care</li>
    ... 
  </ul>
</div>

<div>
  <h1>Benefits</h1>
  <ul>
    <li>Certificates, register offices</li>
    ... 
  </ul>
</div>
Listen to your website
Let’s listen to how it sounds if we had just navigated to ‘Child benefits’
Voiceover Keyboard shortcuts:

Voiceover on/off:  

[⌘] + [F5]
GOV.UK

• Benefits
• Births, deaths, marriages and care
• Business and self-employed
• Citizenship and living in the UK
• Crime, justice and the law
• Disabled people

Benefits

• Benefits entitlement
• Benefits for families
• Carers and disability benefits
• Child Benefit

Child Benefit

• Appeal a benefit decision
• Child Benefit complaints
• Child Benefit for children in hospital or care
• Child Benefit if a child or parent dies
• Child Benefit if you leave the UK
The first thing in your markup should be the main part of the page
<h1>Benefits</h1>
<ul>
  <li>Certificates, register offices</li>
  ...
</ul>

<ol>
  <li class="active">Benefits</li>
  <li>Births, deaths, marriages and care</li>
  ...
</ol>
Benefits

A to Z

Benefits entitlement
When and how benefit payments are made, benefits adviser and benefit fraud

Benefits for families
Includes Child Trust Funds, childcare and the Sure Start Maternity Grant

Carers and disability benefits
Includes Disability Living Allowance, Carer's Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance

Child Benefit
Information about eligibility, claiming and when Child Benefit stops

Death and benefits
Includes Widowed Parent's Allowance, Bereavement Payment, Funeral Payment

Heating and housing benefits
Includes Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support
Benefits

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We are happy with the markup. Next let’s look at adding some JavaScript
ARIA
Accessible Rich Internet Applications
“[ARIA] specifies how to increase the accessibility of web pages, in particular, dynamic content and user interface components developed with Ajax, HTML, JavaScript and related technologies”

<div aria-live="off|polite|assertive">
<div aria-live="polite"
aria-busy="true|false">
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Heating and housing
### Competition and Markets Authority cases

**From:** Competition and Markets Authority

You can use the filters to show only cases that match your interests

#### Search

* eg case title

#### Case type

- CA98 and civil cartels
- Criminal cartels
- Markets
- Mergers
- Consumer enforcement
- Regulatory references and appeals
- Reviews of orders and undertakings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case Title</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Date of Opening</th>
<th>Date of Closing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited / Future Publishing Limited</td>
<td>Mergers</td>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>Opened: 21 July 2014</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Publishing Limited / Kelsey Publishing's Aviation and Military History Portfolio</td>
<td>Mergers</td>
<td>Open Communications</td>
<td>Opened: 31 October 2014</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noble Egg Innovations Unlimited / Manton and Manton 2 Limited</td>
<td>Mergers</td>
<td>Closed Food manufacturing</td>
<td>Mergers - phase 1 clearance</td>
<td>Closed: 31 October 2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diageo / United Spirits</td>
<td>Mergers</td>
<td>Closed Food manufacturing</td>
<td>Mergers - phase 1 clearance with undertakings in lieu</td>
<td>Opened: 30 September 2013</td>
<td>Closed: 31 October 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Didix International B.V. / Taste Marketing Ltd</td>
<td>Mergers</td>
<td>Open Recreation and Leisure</td>
<td>Opened: 31 October 2014</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Improving accessibility on GOV.UK Search

From: Competition and Markets Authority

You can use the filters to show only cases that match your interests.

### Search

- eg case title

### Case type

- CA98 and civil cartels
- Criminal cartels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case Type</th>
<th>Mergers</th>
<th>Open</th>
<th>Communications</th>
<th>Opened:</th>
<th>Closed:</th>
</tr>
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<td>Closed</td>
<td>Food manufacturing</td>
<td>Mergers - phase 1 clearance</td>
<td>9 May 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
aria-live is best used for status messages and notifications
Benefits

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Heating and housing

Benefits for families

A to Z

Apply for free school meals
Benefits calculators
Care to Learn
Carer's Credit
Child Trust Fund
Childcare Grant
Childcare and tax credits
Contact Sure Start
Guardian's Allowance
Healthy Start
Maternity Allowance
Maternity pay and leave
Parental Learning Allowance
We removed aria-live and instead move the currently focused element
$('h1').focus();
<h1 tabindex="0">...</h1>
<h1 tabindex="-1">...</h1>
Voiceover Keyboard shortcuts:

Voiceover on/off:   ⌘ + F5
Voiceover key (VO):  ctrl + \nContinue reading:   [VO] + [a]
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Information about Child Benefit

Child Benefit

Appeal a benefit decision

Child Benefit complaints

Child Benefit for children in hospital or care

Child Benefit if a child or parent dies

Child Benefit if you leave the UK

Child Benefit if you move to the UK

Child Benefit if your child lives with someone else

Child Benefit number and proof you qualify
Voiceover Keyboard shortcuts:

Voiceover on/off: [⌘] + [F5]
Voiceover key (VO): [ctrl] + [\]
Continue reading: [VO] + [a]
Previous/next item: [VO] + [right] or [left]
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Child Benefit if your child lives with

visited link Benefits for families Includes Child Trust Funds, childcare and the Sure Start Maternity Grant
By using focus rather than aria-live, we also helped keyboard only users.
Benefits

A to Z

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Child Benefit
Information about eligibility.
Ship it!
General accessibility learnings
HTML5 enables you group items using semantic tags
<section aria-describedby="section-title">
  <h2 id="section-title">...</h2>
  ...
</section>
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Parenting, civil partnerships, divorce and Lasting Power of Attorney
Business and self-employed
Tools and guidance for businesses
Citizenship and living in the UK
Voting, community participation, life in the UK, international projects
Crime, justice and the law
Legal processes, courts and the police
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Money and tax
Includes debt and Self Assessment
Passports, travel and living abroad
Includes renewing passports and travel advice by country
Visas and immigration
Visas, asylum and sponsorship
Working, jobs and pensions
Includes holidays and finding a job

Changes to vehicle tax
From 1 October 2014, you won’t need a paper tax disc and you’ll be able to pay by direct debit.

GOV.UK blogs
Search the list of GOV.UK blogs, and find one to match your interest.

Keep warm this winter
Find out how to save energy and keep warm this winter.

More on GOV.UK
Most active
Universal Jobmatch job search
Log in to student finance
Passport fees
Jobseeker’s Allowance
Council Tax bands
Running a limited company
Driving theory test
Vehicle tax rates
Renew vehicle tax (tax disc)
VAT rates
Register to vote
Not registered to vote? You can register to vote online in less than 5 minutes.

Welcome to GOV.UK
The best place to find government services and information
Simpler, clearer, faster

Popular on GOV.UK
Universal Jobmatch job search
Renew vehicle tax (tax disc)
Log in to student finance
Book your theory test
Employment and Support Allowance

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Search GOV.UK

Popular on GOV.UK
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Services and information

Benefits
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Births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships

Disabled people
Includes carers, your rights, benefits and the Equality Act

Driving and transport
Includes vehicle tax, MOT and driving in the UK

Housing and local services
Owning or renting and council services

Money and tax
Includes debt and Self Assessment

You are currently on a group, inside of a HTML content. To interact with items in this group, press Control-Option-Shift-Down Arrow.
Voiceover Keyboard shortcuts:

Voiceover on/off: 
[⌘] + [F5]

Voiceover key (VO): 
[ctrl] + [\]

Continue reading: 
[VO] + [a]

Previous/next item: 
[VO] + [right] or [left]

Enter region: 
[VO] + [⇪] + [down]

Leave region: 
[VO] + [⇪] + [up]
Reading entire pages isn’t how people use their screen readers
Instead they can browse by headings and links to jump to content faster
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Keyboard Shortcut</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voiceover on/off:</td>
<td>⌘ + F5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voiceover key (VO):</td>
<td>ctrl + [</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue reading:</td>
<td>VO + a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previous/next item:</td>
<td>VO + [right] or [left]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enter region:</td>
<td>VO + [⇧] + [down]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leave region:</td>
<td>VO + [⇧] + [up]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotor window:</td>
<td>VO + [u]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where you can build a pet cemetery, the animals you can bury there, how it must be built and how to register.
Pet cemeteries: where you can build them and how to register

From: Animal and Plant Health Agency and Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
First published: 5 September 2014
Last updated: 13 October 2014, see all updates
Part of: Guidance for the animal by-product industry, Protecting animal health and preventing disease, including in trade, Food and farming and Wildlife and animal welfare
Applies to: England, Scotland and Wales

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Guidance

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Guidance

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Where you can build a pet cemetery, the animal cemeteries register and how to register.

Headings
1: Pet cemeteries: where you can build them and how to register
1: Contents
2: Building your pet cemetery
2: Where you can build a pet cemetery
2: How your pet cemetery must be built
2: Registering your pet cemetery
3: APHA inspection
2: Getting a permit to bury or spread ash
2: How to dispose of liquids
1: More like this
2: This is part of a collection
2: Services and information
2: Departments and policy
2: Support links
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Contents

1: Pet cemeteries: where you can build them and how to register
1: Contents
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1: More like this
2: This is part of a collection
2: Services and information
2: Departments and policy
2: Support links
Some ARIA properties need to exist at page load
Too much markup
<ul>
  <li>
    <label for="name">Your name</label>
    <input id="name" name="name"/>
  </li>
  <li>
    <label for="email">Your email</label>
    <input id="email" name="email"/>
  </li>
</ul>
<label for="name">Your name</label>
<input id="name" name="name">

<label for="email">Your email</label>
<input id="email" name="email">
Listen to your website
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Voiceover Keyboard shortcuts:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voiceover on/off:</td>
<td>⌘ + F5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voiceover key (VO):</td>
<td>ctrl + ⌮</td>
</tr>
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<td>[VO] + [a]</td>
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<td>Previous/next item:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enter region:</td>
<td>[VO] + [↑] + [down]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leave region:</td>
<td>[VO] + [↑] + [up]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotor window:</td>
<td>[VO] + [u]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
http://speakerdeck.com/eddss
Edd Sowden
Senior Developer
Government Digital Service
@edds