Edd Sowden
Senior Developer
Government Digital Service
@edds
Accessibility and how to get the most from your screenreader
I’m from the Government Digital Service

@edds
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

View your driving licence information

Find out which vehicles you can drive, penalty points and when your licence expires.

View the new service BETA

This is a 'beta' service - find out what this means for you.

View now

@eddsgds
9.5 million visitors every week
9.5 million visitors every week

Home to over 220 departments and organisations
9.5 million visitors every week

Home to over 220 departments and organisations

Saved more than £62 million
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

As a director of a limited company, the law says you must:

- 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

Running a limited company

Accounts and tax returns for private limited companies

File your annual return or accounts with Companies House

File the 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](https://www.gov.uk) within 14 days of finding it.

You only need to report [items officially defined as treasure](https://www.gov.uk).

⚠️ 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](https://www.gov.uk) 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
2. Disability and sickness benefits
3. Vehicles and transport
4. Home and housing
5. On a low salary
6. Television licence discount
7. VAT relief for disabled people
8. Work related injuries or illness
9. If you've served in Her Majesty’s Armed Forces

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
- Attendance Allowance
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 Orca and NVDA that can be downloaded
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.
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

Births, deaths, marriages and care
Business and self-employed
Citizenship and living in the UK
Crime, justice and the law
Disabled people
Driving and transport
Education and learning
Employing people
Environment and countryside
Housing and local services
Money and tax
Passports, travel and living abroad
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
<ul>
  <li>
    <h2>Benefits</h2>
    <ul>
      <li>Benefits entitlement</li>
      ... 
    </ul>
  </li>
  <li>Births, deaths, marriages and care</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 you leave the UK
The first thing in your markup should be the main part of the page
<div>
  <h1>Benefits</h1>
  <ul>
    <li>Certificates, register offices</li>
    ...
  </ul>
</div>

<div>
  <ul>
    <li class="active">Benefits</li>
    <li>Births, deaths, marriages and care</li>
    ...
  </ul>
</div>
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 Fuel Poverty Grant
Benefits

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visited link GOV.UK
Employing people

Child Benefit
Information about eligibility,
We are happy with the markup. Next lets 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

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
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

Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited / Future Publishing Limited
Mergers  Open  Communications  Opened: 21 July 2014

Key Publishing Limited / Kelsey Publishing's Aviation and Military History Portfolio
Mergers  Open  Communications  Opened: 31 October 2014

Noble Egg Innovations Unlimited / Manton and Manton 2 Limited
Mergers  Closed  Food manufacturing  Mergers - phase 1 clearance  Opened: 9 May 2014
Closed: 31 October 2014

Diageo / United Spirits
Mergers  Closed  Food manufacturing  Mergers - phase 1 clearance with undertakings in lieu
Opened: 30 September 2013  Closed: 31 October 2014

Didix International B.V. / Taste Marketing Ltd
Mergers  Open  Recreation and Leisure  Opened: 31 October 2014
aria-live is best used for status messages and notifications
Benefits

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Benefits for families

A to Z

Apply for free school meals

Benefits calculators

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Child Trust Fund

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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
Benefits for families

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Benefits for families

A to Z

Apply for free school meals
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Childcare Grant
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Heating and housing

Births, deaths, and care
Business and skills
Citizenship and UK
Crime, justice
Disabled people
Driving and travel
Education and learning
Employing people
Environment and countryside
Housing and local services
Money and tax
Passports, travel abroad

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

@edds
$('h1').focus();
<h1 tabindex="-1">...</h1>
Benefits

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Voiceover Keyboard shortcuts:

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

A to Z

- 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
Using focus rather than aria-live we also helped keyboard only users
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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>
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 brows by headings to jump to content faster.
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]
Rotor window:        [VO] + [u]
Pet cemeteries: where you can build them and how to register them.

From: Animal and Plant Health Agency
Food & Rural Affairs

First published: 5 September 2014
Last updated: 13 October 2014

Part of: Guidance for the animal by-belly, health and preventing disease and others

Applies to: England, Scotland and Wales

1: Pet cemeteries: where you can build them and how to register them
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
Some ARIA properties need to exist at page load
To 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
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]
Rotor window:             [VO] + [u]
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Senior Developer
Government Digital Service
@edds