



Our Ref: TO-0483

Sonia Purser  
Director  
The Accessible Digital Documents Company Ltd  
33 Paxton Gardens  
Woking  
GU21 5TS  
[sonia@accessible-digital-documents.com](mailto:sonia@accessible-digital-documents.com)

cc Ted Page ([ted@accessible-digital-documents.com](mailto:ted@accessible-digital-documents.com))

30 January 2017

Dear Sonia Purser

Thank you for your recent correspondence with Government Digital Service regarding the transposition into UK law of the EU Directive on the accessibility of public sector websites and apps, which was passed to me for response.

The UK will remain a Member State of the European Union until we formally exit and will continue to participate as a full Member including in developing new legislation and upholding and implementing existing legislation. Following the Directive's adoption, there will now follow a process by which the specific standard will be decided and the UK will be strongly represented in the negotiations. We expect them to conclude before the UK exits the EU and, as such, the forthcoming Great Repeal Bill will see that all existing EU law at the time will be given full application in UK law.

We believe that we will be successful in securing a standard in these ongoing negotiations that will meet the needs of users with disabilities without imposing an unnecessary burden on public sector organisations. As such, we do not anticipate any change to the statutory duties imposed by the Directive, save for the source of primary legislation. Nevertheless, there is a small possibility that we would find the agreed standard unsuitable, at which point the Government would have to consider either not applying the standard.

In short, it is the Government's intention to agree a suitable standard that will not change from the user's perspective simply because of our change in relationship to the European Union.

Regards,

Daniel Lowe  
Head of EU & International  
Government Digital Service  
Cabinet Office