



Office for Local Government

Clive Betts MP

Chair
Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Committee
House of Commons
London
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Josh Goodman

*Chief Executive, Office for Local
Government*

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

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1 March 2024

Dear Clive,

Thank you for inviting Lord Morse and me to give evidence as part of your Committee's inquiry into the Office for Local Government (Oflog) on Monday 19 February. The Committee asked what specifically had been done to make the Data Explorer dyspraxia-friendly, and I promised to write with further information.

In June 2023 the Data Explorer was user-tested and was formally audited by the Digital Accessibility Centre against Web Content Accessibility Guidelines - WCAG 2.1. These are a set of standards, curated by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), which help content creators ensure their content is more accessible to people with a range of disabilities.

As part of the audit the website was reviewed by those with a range of needs and impairments including deafness, colour blindness, mobility, cognitive impairments and low vision. A series of recommendations were made. Where possible most recommendations were implemented ahead of launch and remaining deficiencies are detailed in the [accessibility statement](#) published on the data explorer. We are actively working towards addressing remaining recommendations and seek to continually improve the experience we give to users.

For those with dyspraxia we have a range of features that are likely to help, including, but not limited to:

- The provision of text-only versions of the content
- The provision of screen-reader descriptions
- Keyboard navigation
- Content that respects a user's browser settings (e.g. around font-sizes & colours).

We have future developments in the pipeline that should further improve the experience for users with dyspraxia, especially in avoiding the potential for sensory overload. For example, we are working towards streamlined navigation through the tool and are exploring the provision of appropriate summary views that would include textual descriptions as well as visual presentation.

We actively encourage user feedback and will make sure that future updates to the Data Explorer are always developed on the basis of user research and formal accessibility audits.

I look forward to continuing to work with your Committee as Oflog is developed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Josh Goodman". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

Josh Goodman

Chief Executive, Office for Local Government