

Disproportionate burden assessment – materials.ads.org.uk

This is a disproportionate burden assessment for the subdomain materials.ads.org.uk. Architecture and Design Scotland has not updated its accessibility audit for materials.ads.org.uk since it was originally published in 2020.

Architecture and Design Scotland judges that carrying out a new independent accessibility audit for the sub-domain materials.ads.org.uk and investing staff time in re-designing this resource represents a disproportionate burden to the organisation.

The materials subdomain is due to be retired from the ads.org.uk website. Its content will be passed to another organisation which will undertake a re-design of the resource. This is planned to happen before the end of the financial year 2023/24.

Our most important content related to sustainable design and building materials is provided on our main website, ads.org.uk. We are undertaking ongoing checks of this site and improving the accessibility of our content. We are committed to making the main website as accessible as possible with the resources that we have available.

Assessment of costs and benefits

We believe that:

- The costs of paying for detailed checks and fixing all documents on materials.ads.org.uk would be a disproportionate burden on our organisation
- The benefit to users of paying for detailed audit (taking into account the frequency of use of the materials subdomain and the fact that it is being decommissioned) and assigning staff to fix all documents on materials.ads.org.uk (taking into account the low level of usage for most documents) would not be justified and would impose a disproportionate burden on Architecture and Design Scotland.

In reaching this decision, we have considered the following:

Our organisation's size and resources

Architecture and Design Scotland is a Non-Departmental Public Body of the Scottish Government. It is directly funded by the Scottish Government, with a stand-still budget since 2019, which means that cost increases and inflationary pressures represent a real-term reduction in annual budgets. We have a total staff of 27 and an annual operating budget of £2.05M.

The nature of our organisation

We are not a statutory body and we do not host any transactional functions on our website. We do not provide services specifically aimed at people with a disability.

We believe that users will benefit most from us focusing our available resources on fixing the most used documents on ads.org.uk and ensuring that new documents are accessible.

We do not believe the benefit of paying for detailed checks of the materials.ads.org.uk domain would justify the impact on our organisation.