

I DeA

Accessibility audit

IDA007
v1.0



www.webcredible.co.uk



User experience research & design

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Links

1. Link text doesn't make sense out of context

Medium priority

Screen reader users can call up a list of links as a way of browsing through a page so it's essential that link text makes sense out of context:



If necessary, use invisible text to expand on link text:

```
<a href="..."><span class="hide">Small font size</span> A</a>
```

2. Links don't use a high contrast colour

Medium priority

It's essential for screen magnifier users and web users with reading difficulties that link text stands out from regular text.

Some examples of link text that doesn't have enough contrast include:

Link text styled in light blue

- Home page

✓ [About us](#) – who we are and what we do
✓ [Services](#) – information about our services and programmes of work
✓ [Knowledge](#) – the latest good practice we've gathered from the sector
✓ [Networking](#) – online discussion forums and communities of practice

- Registration page

Please read our [privacy policy](#) and [terms of use](#). By submitting this form you are stating that you have read and agree with these terms.

Link colour should always be in a high contrast colour that's different to regular text.

3. A focus state isn't provided for the skip to main content link

Low priority

Each link has a focus state to help to help keyboard-only users orientate themselves. This should also be applied to hidden links such as the 'skip navigation'.

Forms

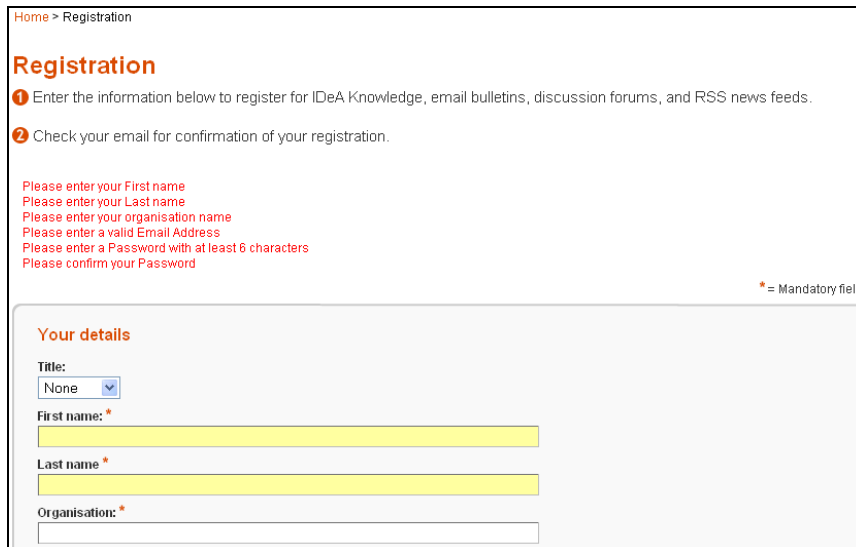
1. Instructions aren't placed before the action

High priority

It's important for screen reader and screen magnifier users to be able to read instructions before arriving at the appropriate item.

Screen readers read the page content in the order the code is written and screen magnifier users can only see one part of the screen at any one time.

Generally, when errors are returned by forms they're listed at the top of the page but they're not highlighted next to the individual item:

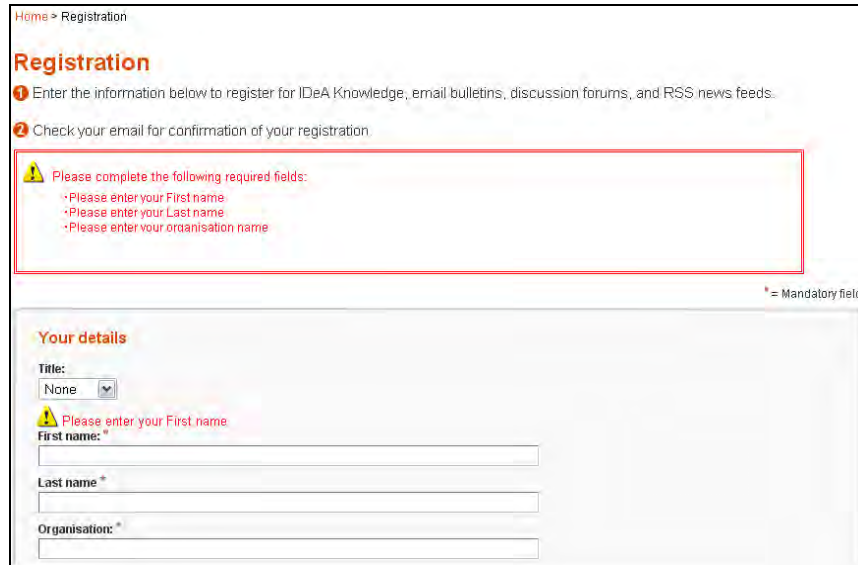


The screenshot shows a registration form titled "Registration" with a breadcrumb "Home > Registration". The form contains two numbered instructions: "1 Enter the information below to register for IDeA Knowledge, email bulletins, discussion forums, and RSS news feeds." and "2 Check your email for confirmation of your registration." Below these are five red error messages: "Please enter your First name", "Please enter your Last name", "Please enter your organisation name", "Please enter a valid Email Address", and "Please enter a Password with at least 6 characters". A legend indicates "* = Mandatory field". The form fields include a "Title" dropdown menu (set to "None"), and text input fields for "First name:", "Last name:", and "Organisation:", all of which are currently empty.

Ensure that when a form has been submitted with incomplete mandatory fields:

- A summary of the errors is listed at the top of the page (that visually stands out)
- An explanatory error message immediately precedes each item with an error message (again that visually stands out)

The following example is more effective as both the summary error message at the top and the error messages against the individual form fields are both explanatory and highly visible:



The screenshot shows a registration page with the following elements:

- Home > Registration
- Registration**
- 1 Enter the information below to register for IDeA Knowledge, email bulletins, discussion forums, and RSS news feeds.
- 2 Check your email for confirmation of your registration
- A red-bordered box containing a warning icon and the text: "Please complete the following required fields:" followed by a bulleted list:
 - Please enter your First name
 - Please enter your Last name
 - Please enter your organisation name
- A legend: * = Mandatory field
- Your details**
- Title: None (dropdown menu)
- Warning icon and text: "Please enter your First name"
- First name: * (text input field)
- Last name: * (text input field)
- Organisation: * (text input field)

2. Label incorrectly positioned

High priority

The label for each and every form field must be placed directly before the form field. The only exception to this rule is checkboxes and radio buttons, where the label should come after the form field.

The following labels are incorrectly positioned:

- Registration page – Email services



The screenshot shows the "Email services" section with the following content:

- Email services**
- Receive free, email bulletins from IDeA Knowledge.**
- Weekly email bulletin: the essential improvement news every Tuesday
- Forums email bulletin: monthly round-up of the hot discussions across local government
- Beacons email bulletin: quarterly round-up of topics related to the Beacons programme

The actual HTML mark up is:

```
<label for="CSQ10556_0">
  <input id="CSQ10556_0" type="checkbox" name="userSelection"/>
  Weekly email bulletin: the essential improvement news every
  Tuesday
</label>
```

It should be:

```
<input id="CSQ10556_0" type="checkbox" name="userSelection"/>
<label for="CSQ10556_0"> Weekly email bulletin: the essential
improvement news every Tuesday</label>
```

3. Legends have been left empty

Medium priority

Form legends have been included within forms, but they're empty:

```
<legend class="noDisplay" />
```

Each empty legend is then followed by a heading level 2, <h2>:

```
<fieldset>
  <legend class="noDisplay" />
  <h2 class="default floater">Your details</h2>
```

The legend is used for forms in the same way a heading is used for content, to break it up, so there's no need to use both:

```
<fieldset>
  <legend>Your details</legend>
```