Note on OU Web Accessibility Guidelines and Conformance Levels in WCAG 2.0

Introduction
This note is based on the mapping of the OU Web Accessibility Guidelines (version 1.0) to the W3C’s Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0\(^1\).

All the success criteria of WCAG 2.0 are allocated to one of three levels of conformance, defined as: A (lowest), AA, and AAA (highest). To assert that a given website meets WCAG 2.0 to Level AA, for example, it must meet all the Level A and Level AA success criteria. It has been recognised by many in the accessibility world that this universal fixed definition of levels of accessibility can be problematic. In different contexts and for different users some of the success criteria assume greater or lesser importance. In writing the OU Web Accessibility Guidelines the working group has endeavoured to assess which success criteria are particularly important for web resources used in teaching and learning and based on what we know of the breadth of needs of our disabled students.

Mapping of OU Accessibility Guidelines to WCAG 2.0
The OU Web Accessibility Guidelines are based on WCAG 2.0 from which each point has been selected and rephrased for clarity and briefly explained. These OU Guidelines categorise each point as either Must, or Should, and in a few cases it omits WCAG success criteria where they deemed to have little relevance in our context.

If an OU authored or commissioned web resource meets all the Must statements in the OU Web Accessibility Guidelines the following can be claimed:

1. It meets all the WCAG 2.0 Level A success criteria, with the exception of:
   1.2.2, 2.2.1

2. It meets all the WCAG 2.0 Level AA success criteria, with the exception of:
   1.2.4, 1.2.5

3. In addition complying with the Must statements in the OU Guidelines means meeting the following WCAG 2.0 AAA success criteria:
   1.2.9, 1.4.6, 1.4.7, 1.4.8, 1.4.9, 2.4.8, 2.4.9, 2.4.10, 3.2.5

\(^1\) See: http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/
If, in addition, the **Should** statements of the OU Web Accessibility Guidelines are met, further WCAG 2.0 success criteria would be met. These are not detailed here except for listing the success criteria number (conformance level):

1.2.5 (AA), 1.2.6 (AAA), 2.2.4 (AAA), 2.2.5 (AAA), 2.3.2 (AAA), 3.3.5 (AAA).

The following WCAG 2.0 success criteria are not covered at all in the OU Web accessibility guidelines:

1.2.7 (AAA), 2.2.3 (AAA), 3.1.3 (AAA), 3.1.4 (AAA), 3.1.5 (AAA), 3.11.6 (AAA), 3.3.6 (AAA)