mightykind®

THE BLIND SPOT

Official Audit Report 2026

Contents

1. Executive summary

2. Why this audit matters

3. Methodology

4. Key Findings

5. Charities that failed

6. Recommendations

7. Legal context

8. About Mighty Kind CIC

9. References

Executive summary

Nearly four in five UK charities supporting blind and visually impaired people fail to meet basic website colour contrast standards.

Mighty Kind CIC audited 112 active, England-based registered charities whose Charity Commission records include the term “blind”. Using WAVE, we assessed website colour contrast against WCAG 2.1 AA guidelines.

Our audit found that 79% (88 charities) failed to meet colour contrast standards, averaging 7.2 errors per website. One homepage recorded 82 errors. Even major organisations, including Guide Dogs, had contrast failures.

These findings reveal a significant gap between the sector’s mission to support visually impaired people and the accessibility of its own digital services.

Why this audit matters

More than two million people in the UK live with sight loss, according to RNIB. Digital access is essential for finding support, accessing services and connecting with organisations designed to help them.

Colour contrast is fundamental to accessibility. Higher contrast improves readability for people with visual impairments, including those with glaucoma. WCAG 2.1 AA requires a minimum contrast ratio of 4.5:1 for normal text. Poor contrast can create barriers to essential information and may, depending on the circumstances, contribute to a failure to meet duties under the Equality Act 2010.

The problem is widespread. WebAIM's 2026 Million report found low-contrast text on 81% of homepages tested. Our findings show that charities supporting visually impaired people are not immune to this issue.

Methodology

This audit assessed website colour contrast across registered charities supporting blind and visually impaired people. The following outlines the data sources, tools, scope and standards used to conduct the assessment.

Data source:

Active registered charities in England whose Charity Commission registration includes the term “blind”. Data was sourced from the Charity Commission for England and Wales register via “Find That Charity”.

Scope:

All active registered charities with a functional website were considered. Charities without a website, with expired domains, or whose websites could not be accessed or scanned by either tool were excluded from the main dataset and recorded separately.

Tools:

Websites were audited using WAVE (Web Accessibility Evaluation Tool), developed by WebAIM, with findings cross-checked using the Silktide Accessibility Checker where possible.

Standard:

Audits assessed compliance with WCAG 2.1 Level AA colour contrast requirements, as referenced in the UK Government Service Manual. These guidelines provide a benchmark for assessing accessibility, alongside the relevant duties under the Equality Act 2010.

Methodology

Scan mode:

Each website was scanned in its default display mode, without activating accessibility settings, alternative colour schemes or other customisation features. This approach reflects the experience of a user with visual impairments visiting the website for the first time, before making any adjustments.

Accessibility Improvement Measure (AIM) scores:

The average overall WAVE Accessibility Improvement Measure (AIM) score across the 112 charities audited was **7.6 out of 10**. This provided an additional measure of overall page accessibility beyond colour contrast alone.

Key findings

79% of charities audited failed WCAG 2.1 Level AA colour contrast standards.

Of the 112 active English charities supporting visually impaired people with functional websites, 88 had at least one colour contrast failure on their homepage.

Severity breakdown:

Category	Contrast errors	Number of charities	Percentage
Pass	0	24	21%
Minor failure	1 to 2	28	25%
Moderate failure	3 to 9	32	29%
Significant failure	10 to 19	18	16%
Severe failure	20 or more	10	9%

Notable findings

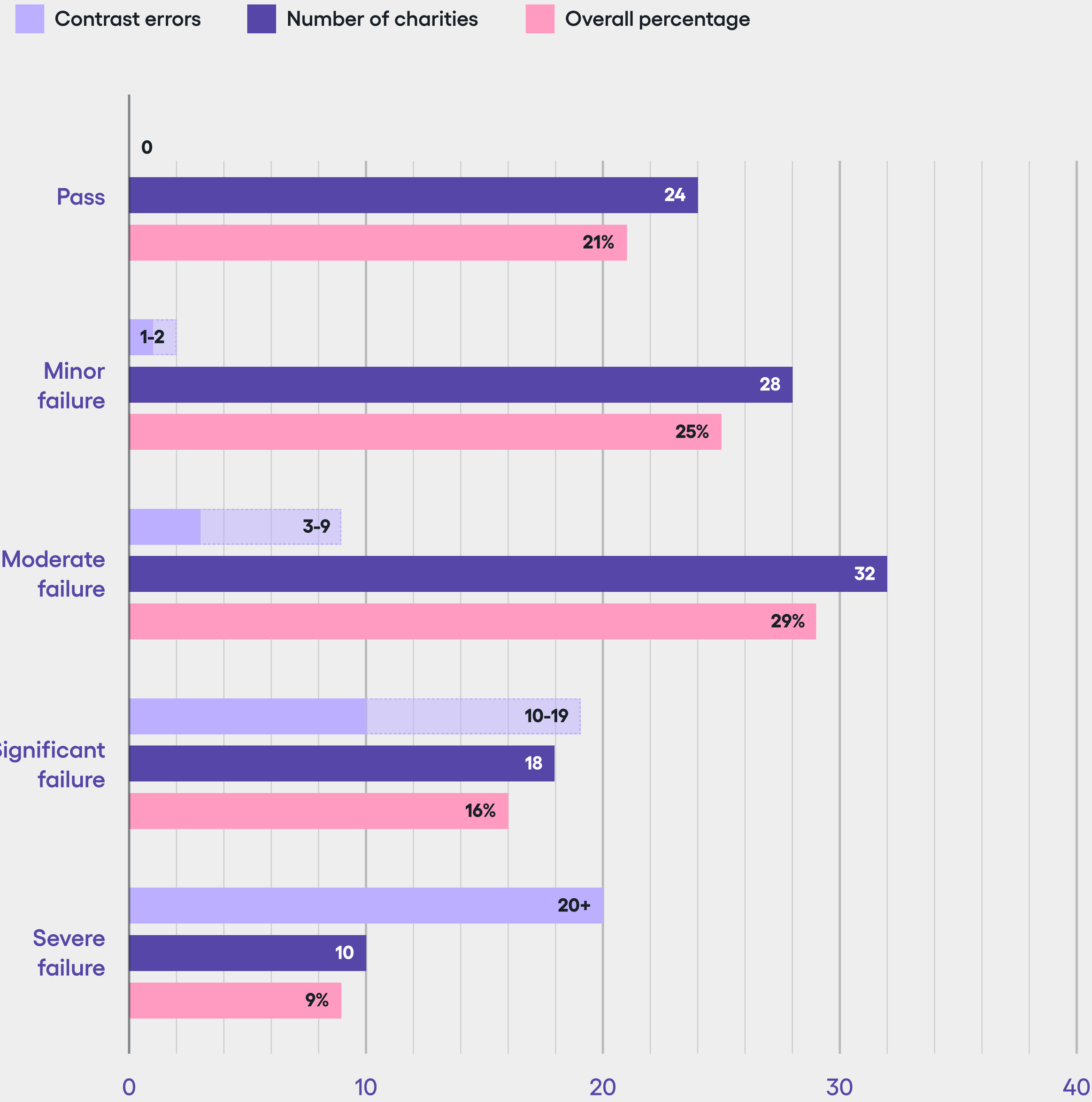
- **Global findings:** The WebAIM Million 2026 report found that low-contrast text was the most common web accessibility failure, affecting 81% of the one million websites tested worldwide.

- **Charity sector findings:** Our audit suggests that charities supporting visually impaired people reflect this global pattern, with some recording even higher rates of colour contrast failures.

- **Key concern:** Charities serving visually impaired people are not exempt from the accessibility barriers affecting websites more broadly.

You'll find our bar chart below:

A digital accessibility audit of 112 charities serving visually impaired people.



*Average contrast errors per website: 7.2

Charities that failed

The following charities recorded the highest number of colour contrast failures in our audit. They are named not to shame but to illustrate the scale of the problem and to encourage improvement.

Bournemouth Blind Society - 82 contrast errors

The highest score recorded in our audit. A charity serving visually impaired people in Bournemouth with 82 elements on their homepage failing basic colour contrast standards.

KAB Kent Association for the Blind - 40 contrast errors

A significant regional blindness charity with 40 contrast failures on their homepage.

Bury Tandem Club - 30 contrast errors

A charity providing cycling experiences specifically for visually impaired riders and their sighted partners. 30 contrast failures on a site built around inclusive sport.

SRSB Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind - 21 contrast errors

A long-established Sheffield institution serving visually impaired people with 21 contrast failures.

Blind in Business - 13 contrast errors

A charity supporting visually impaired people in employment with 13 contrast failures.

Blind at Sea - 16 contrast errors

16 contrast failures on the homepage of a charity serving visually impaired seafarers.

Guide Dogs - 3 contrast errors

One of the UK's most recognisable charities with a professional web team and significant resources still recording contrast failures. This demonstrates that the problem is not limited to smaller organisations.

Our recommendations

For charities that failed: Run a free accessibility check on your website today using WAVE at wave.webaim.org. Colour contrast failures are among the easiest accessibility issues to fix. Many can be resolved by a web developer in a single session by adjusting text and background colour values.

For charity trustees and boards: Include digital accessibility as a standing agenda item in governance meetings. A website that excludes the people your charity serves is a reputation and legal risk, as well as a mission failure.

For funders and commissioners: Consider making WCAG 2.1 AA compliance a condition of grant funding for charities serving disabled people.

Legal context

The Equality Act 2010 requires organisations providing services to the public to make reasonable adjustments to ensure disabled people can access those services. The UK Government's own service manual references WCAG 2.1 AA as the accessibility standard organisations should meet.

A website that visually impaired people cannot read due to insufficient colour contrast may constitute a failure of the reasonable adjustment duty under the Act.

Mighty Kind CIC is not a legal authority and this report does not constitute legal advice. Organisations concerned about their legal obligations should seek appropriate guidance.

References

- **Review of Optometry — Higher Contrast Larger Font Helpful for Those with Glaucoma:** www.reviewofoptometry.com/article/higher-contrast-larger-font-helpful-for-those-with-glaucoma

- **GOV.UK Service Manual — Understanding WCAG 2.2:** www.gov.uk/service-manual/helping-people-to-use-your-service/understanding-wcag

- **WebAIM Million 2026 Report:** www.webaim.org/projects/million

- **RNIB — Key Information and Statistics on Sight Loss in the UK:** www.rnib.org.uk/professionals/research-and-data/key-information-and-statistics-on-sight-loss-in-the-uk

- **Equality Act 2010:** www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents

Founder’s note



“When we started Mighty Kind we wanted to help charities be seen. What we found during this audit was concerning; so many people rely on these organisations and it makes me wonder how many potential clients they have lost because their platform was not accessible to the very people they exist to serve. The charity sector in this country is extraordinary, but it struggles to get with the times. My hope is that Mighty Kind will be one of the leading voices pushing for that change.”



Jordan Allmark,
Creative Director

About Mighty Kind CIC

Mighty Kind CIC is a creative support organisation providing affordable branding, design, marketing, photography, videography, and digital support to UK charities and grassroots organisations. We believe good causes deserve good creative support.

The Blind Spot audit was conducted as part of our mission to help charities become more visible, accessible and effective in reaching the people they exist to serve.

Interested in us? Get in touch at www.mightykind.org.uk/contact