

Corporate Identity Guide

JANUARY 2023



Preface

This Corporate Identity Guide provides detailed advice on the Department for Communities logo, its placement and the departmental colours. The correct use of the corporate identity guidelines ensures a strong and consistent brand for the Department.

This is intended to serve as a ready-reference guide, incorporating the information required to allow consistent and correct branding for any document or communication material.

The Department for Communities (DfC) Corporate Identity Guide is a living document that will be updated as required.

For NICS staff, the most recent version of this guide and associated materials, will always be available on the DfC Intranet. For other stakeholders, the most recent version of this guide and associated materials, will always be available via the DfC Corporate Communications team CorporateCommunications@Communitiesni.gov.uk

Any queries or feedback on the identity guide and its contents, should be sent to the Department's Corporate Communications team.

CorporateCommunications@Communities-ni.gov.

Any departmental business area or contracted external design agent working on behalf of the Department, who has been supplied these guidelines should email the Corporate Communications Team directly for any of the identity logo files they require. They should include reference to the specific business area and document they are designing.

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The Identity

There are two versions of the trilingual DfC logo, the stacked version and the horizontal version.

Stacked and horizontal versions

This is the Department for Communities corporate brand identity. This identity may be used on all the Departments materials and communications.

For guidance on the Department's Corporate publications, you should consult the DfC Corporate Style Guide.

The Department for Communities identities are available on request from the DfC Corporate Communication. Please email

CorporateCommunications@Communities-ni.gov.uk
Or view online at:

www.communities-ni.gov.uk/dfc-corporate-identity-guide-and-branding-guidelines

Single colour versions are available on request for special cases such as stationery or promotional items. You should contact Corporate Communications for guidance.







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Commonities

Size and Spacing

To make sure the logo is always legible and recognisable, it must only be reproduced at the minimum size or larger.

The minimum logo sizes for screen and print are shown here.

For placement of any DfC logo that does not meet the minimum size specifications, please contact the DfC Corporate Communications team:

CorporateCommunications@Communities-ni.gov.uk

Department for
Communities

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PRINT 42mm MINIMUM

Screen 160px MINIMUM



HEX MIN 12mm







PRINT 130mm MINIMUM

Screen 490px MINIMUM

Clear space and exclusion zones

The outer dotted line shows the minimum exclusion zone for the identity - no other graphic elements should fall within this area (ie lettering, photographs etc).

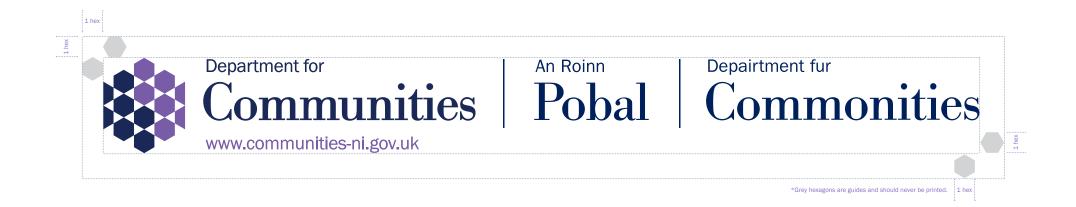
- There is no need to recreate the identity in most cases the kerning and serifs have been
 carefully adjusted to make sure the identity
 works at all sizes.
- The grey dotted lines are merely construction lines and are not part of the identity, therefore they should never be printed.

The Department for Communities logo should never appear too close to any other material, including other logos, text, or element of design. To ensure visibility and legibility, it is important that an exclusion zone is adhered to whereby a specified area around the logo is empty space.



Clear space and exclusion zones

Horizontal Logo



COLOUR VERSION

SINGLE COLOUR VERSION (PMS 281)



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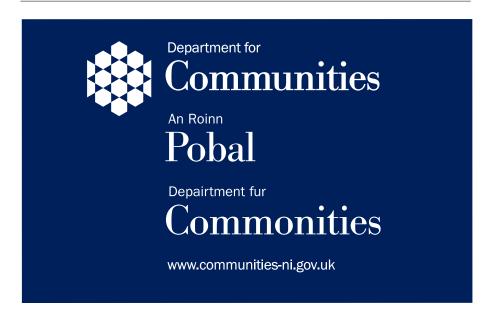
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

SOLID BLACK VERSION



www.communities-ni.gov.uk

SOLID WHITE VERSION



COLOUR VERSION



SINGLE COLOUR VERSION (PMS 281)



An Roinn

Depairtment fur

SOLID BLACK VERSION



An Roinn

Depairtment fur

SOLID WHITE VERSION



Incorrect use of the logo



Department for

www.communities-ni.gov.uk

NEVER change the typeface.



NEVER create a single colour version which uses two tints of Pantone 281 - this will create the impression of a lilac colour and will compromise the approved Departmental scheme.



NEVER change the position of the logo or the structure of the identity.

Incorrect use of the logo



NEVER Swop the positions of the colours



NEVER Redistribute the colours



NEVER Distort the logo



NEVER Tint the logo

Distorting the logo

You should not:

- · distort the logo shape
- · alter the colouring
- apply effects to the identity, for example, shading
- combine the DfC identity with any other graphics or designs which infringe on the required clear space and exclusion zone.











In most cases, you should adhere to the pre-designed document templates provided for you on the Intranet.

Distorting the logo











Backgrounds

It is important that our identity is not displayed in different ways. This creates confusion. Our customers need to become familiar with one format, promoting awareness and recognition.

The preferred background colour for the Department for Communities identity is white.

Contrast and clarity are fundamentals for good accessibility and it is important that we achieve good levels of accessibility at all times.

Solid Backgrounds

If a colour other than white is necessary, colour choice should reflect the DfC primary and brand colours or secondary colour palette. Typically, where the logo cannot be represented on a white background, the secondary choice would be to display the reversed (all white) logo on a lilac or navy background.

You should also ensure that the clear space and exclusion zone guidelines have been adhered to.















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Photographic Backgrounds Stacked version

Where a photographic background is used on any creative communication, for example a banner stand or presentation, the DfC identity should always be displayed prominently.

In order to do this, it is often recommended that the opacity of the background image is reduced or is overlaid with a transparent white layer or gradient.





DfC brand colours

These colours have been carefully chosen by the Department and should not be altered.

The primary colour should dominate the majority of the Department's materials, but where required for emphasis, contrast or visual stimulus, colours can be used.

White is equally as important as any of the DfC brand colours. White aids the communication of the Department's clean, clear and simple

corporate style. It is for this reason that white is the preferred background and default colour for the Department for Communities identity.

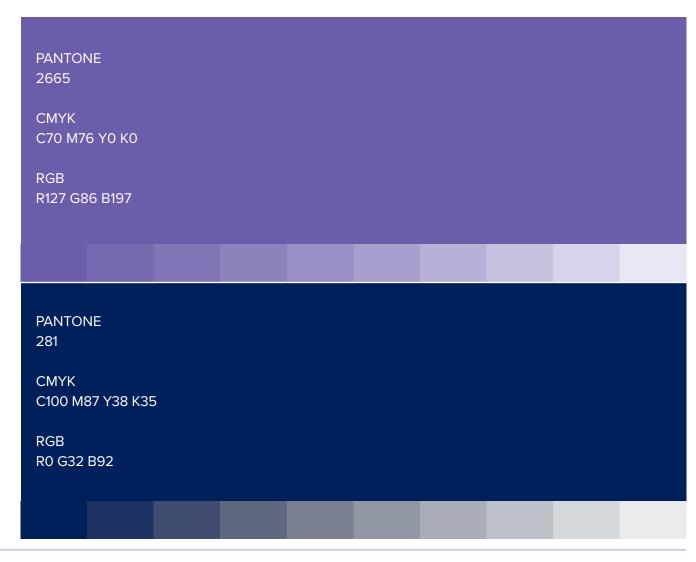
While graphic designers will be familiar with the Department's colour references and how to apply them, they can also be applied to every day communications using programmes such as the Microsoft Office package. By using the 'more colours' and 'custom' option you will be able to enter the RGB code of your desired colour.

RGB – this represents the number of parts red, green and blue. The scale ranges from 0 to 255.

CMYK – represents the number of parts cyan, magenta, yellow and key (black). The CMKY scale ranges from 0 to 255 and is considered more accurate than RGB. CMYK is sometimes referred to as the 'four colour process'.

Pantone is an organisation and model used as the industry standard in colour matching for print. Pantone references are exact and in print are usually formed using a CMYK print process.

Primary brand colours



Secondary colour palatte

PANTONE	PANTONE	PANTONE	PANTONE	PANTONE	PANTONE
1235	144	248	219	7635	3135
CMYK	CMYK	CMYK	CMYK	CMYK	CMYK
C0 M33 Y88 K0	C70 M53 Y100 K0	C43 M94 Y0 K0	C5 M96 Y0 K0	C13 M91 Y38 K3	C100 M12 Y28 K4
RGB	RGB	RGB	RGB	RGB	RGB
R255 G184 B29	R242 G139 B0	R1169 G28 B142	R224 G23 B131	R205 G51 B99	R0 G139 B172
PANTONE	PANTONE	PANTONE	PANTONE	PANTONE	PANTONE
298	3005	360	3415	430	Black
CMYK	CMYK	CMYK	CMYK	CMYK	CMYK
C68 M7 Y2 K0	C100 M40 Y0 K0	C61 M0 Y85 K0	C89 M44 Y77 K52	C53 M37 Y34 K15	C67 M61 Y61 K74
RGB	RGB	RGB	RGB	RGB	RGB
R61 G181 B230	R0 G117 B201	R107 G192 B75	R18 G72 B52	R124 G134 B141	R45 G42 B38

Corporate Collateral

This section provides guidance on how corporate materials, including letters, reports and banners, should be formatted ahead of publication.

DfC Corporate Communications can provide you with further details on any item not detailed.

Corporate Reports

(including Branch Annual Reports, Guidance, Policy and Strategy documents)

All DfC corporate reports are designed in colour, utilising the DfC purple and NICS navy as the primary colours. Any additional colours required (for example in a table or graph) will be taken from a secondary colour palette which compliments the design and any adjacent imagery.

All standard reports follow a corporate style as shown over the next few pages. The cover is made up of the Department's logo, a full colour image or illustration and a coloured bar containing the report title, subtitle and date of publication. They are usually formatted in a portrait orientation, with a two column internal layout.

Columns are most commonly used to break up large bodies of text that cannot fit in a

single block of text on a page. Additionally, columns are used to improve page composition and readability.

Justified text can produce readability issues for people with dyslexia and other conditions that affect reading and comprehension. Justified text can produce unevenly enlarged spaces between certain words, sometimes known as "rivers".

Good page layout and typography support active reading, designers will focus on 'articulating the topic or supporting the reader'.

The more complex the content, the more layout and design features can help make text accessible – or readable.

Research has been conducted into best practice. Most documents are either 2,3,4 and 5 columns or can be a mixture of the above.

However the Design team will work with business areas to ensure we provide creative and innovative approaches to fulfilling the design brief.

Departmental Collateral Stationery Items (e.g. Letterheads, Memos)

With the development of the Trilingual brand please ensure that letter templates are updated as necessary and the revised logo is used on all future Departmental correspondence, information leaflets, publications etc.

It is not necessary to refresh the logo on material where it is already in place including pop-up banners, Departmental signage, uniform etc. The logo should be incorporated as part of the normal replacement cycle. This means, of course, that both logos may co-exist for a period of time.

The Investors in People Standard logo should be positioned in the footer aligned to the right in all letterheads and memos. Templates for letterheads and memos are available on the Intranet. For more information contact the Corporate Communications: CorporateCommunications@Communities-ni.gov. uk

The default typeface for all DfC communications should be Arial (12). Further information on Typography is available on Page 40.

LETTERHEAD



DfC Annual Report

The core Departmental annual report is designed in colour, utilising the DfC purple and NICS navy as the primary colours. Any additional colours required (for example in a table or graph) will be taken from a secondary colour palette which compliments the design and any adjacent imagery.

The Annual Report format is a portrait orientation, with a two column internal layout. Tables and images may be full width wherever neccessary.

The typeface used will conform to the NICS corporate style, i.e. ITC Franklin Gothic, Calibri, FS Me or Helvetica.

Cover design, print ready files and the procurement of printing the Annual Report is completed by the Corporate Communications: CorporateCommunications@Communities-ni.gov.uk

Production time from supply of final content:

Approximately 6 - 8 weeks

EXAMPLE: ANNUAL REPORT COVER AND CONTENTS



EXAMPLE: ANNUAL REPORT INTERNAL LAYOUT



Corporate Reports (including Branch Annual Reports, Guidance, Policy and Strategy documents)

All DfC corporate reports are designed in colour, utilising the DfC purple and NICS navy as the primary colours. Any additional colours required (for example in a table or graph) will be taken from a secondary colour palette which complements the design and any adjacent imagery.

All standard reports are consistent in style as shown. The cover made up of the Department's logo, a full colour image or illustration and a coloured bar containing the report title, subtitle and date of publication. They are formatted in a portrait orientation, with a two column internal layout. Tables and images may be full width wherever neccessary. Relevant imagery can also be used throughout these documents. Flexibilities are possible for more promotional documents.

Production time from supply of final content:

Approximately 4 weeks

EXAMPLE OF FRONT COVERS



EXAMPLE OF PROMOTIONAL COVERS



Corporate Reports (continued)

Any client Branch supplying imagery for use on a report should ensure it is of good quality. They should be supplied as original in JPEG format. Image quality is determined by resolution but can often be determined quickly by the file size. Good images will usually be 3MB or larger.

The primary typeface used is ITC Franklin Gothic, supported with Helvetica and/or FS Me.

Design, final layout and the procurement of printing a Corporate Report is completed on behalf of the client Branch by Corporate Communications; CorporateCommunications@Communities-ni. gov.uk

Production time from supply of final content:

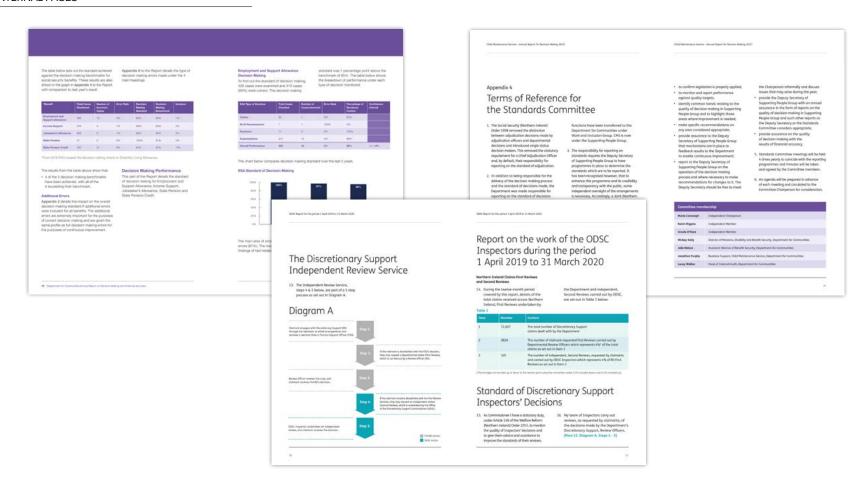
Approximately 4 weeks

EXAMPLE OF INTERNAL PAGES



Corporate Reports (continued)

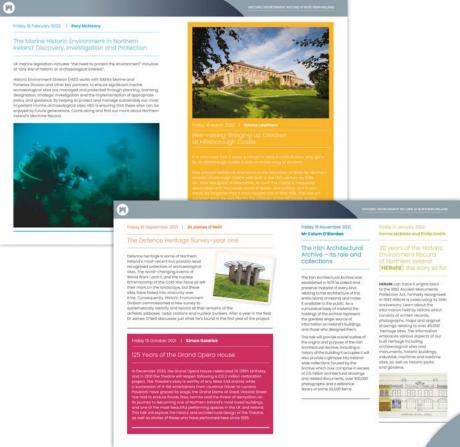
EXAMPLE OF INTERNAL PAGES



Promotional Reports

EXAMPLE OF PROMOTIONAL INTERNAL PAGES





Consultation Documents and Findings Reports

Consultation materials are designed in black and white with colour logos on the covers.

They are formatted in a portrait orientation, with a two column internal layout. Tables and images may be full width wherever neccessary. Images can also be in colour.

The typeface used in this style of document is FS Me.

Design, final layout and the procurement of printing a Consultation document is completed on behalf of the client Branch by the Corporate Communications team.

CorporateCommunications@Communities-ni. gov.uk

Production time from supply of final content: Approximately 4 weeks

NOTE: If you need Departmental publications in alternative formats then you need to contact the Business Area.



EXAMPLE: CONSULTATION DOCUMENT COVER AND CONTENTS

EXAMPLE: CONSULTATION DOCUMENT INTERNAL LAYOUT

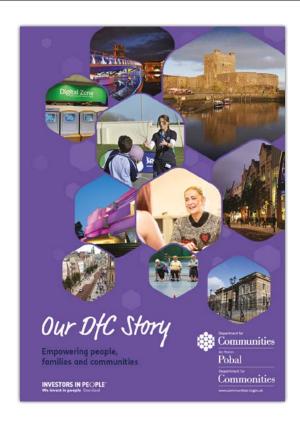


DfC posters will usually utilise the DfC purple and NICS navy as the primary colours, unless otherwise stipulated in line with a design brief, with the logo usually being placed in one of the four corners.

The typefaces used for body text on posters are Helvetica, Franklin Gothic or FS Me. Others may be considered in order to fulfill the promotional requirement or objective of a poster or campaign.

Any client Branch supplying imagery for use on a poster/publication should ensure it is of good quality and they have the permission to use the images. They should be supplied as original in JPEG format. Image quality is determined by resolution but can often be determined quickly by the file size. For a poster, images should be 3MB or larger.

EXAMPLE POSTERS





Posters (continued)

REMEMBER: A poster is not a leaflet — it should have a minimal amount of text with a clear message. The audience should be able to gather and understand all the information of a poster within a few seconds, without having to stop and read it. If you think you need to support your main message with additional information, an additional leaflet or online content may be something to consider.

Design, final layout and the procurement of printing any posters is completed on behalf of the client Branch by the Corporate Communications team.

CorporateCommunications@Communities-ni. gov.uk

Production time from supply of final content: Approximately 2-4 weeks

EXAMPLE POSTERS





Banner Stands

Banner Stands, also known as pop-ups or penguin stands, are generally viewed from at least a few metres away as a display stand. This should be reflected in the text size to ensure legibility. It is also advisable that any message appears in the top half of the stand to ensure the message is at eye-level, above any table, lectern or display. Like a poster, text should be kept to a minimum with a clear message, and images should be of good quality.

By default, logos will be placed to the top of a banner stand to ensure it is unobstructed when in use.

The typefaces used for body text on posters are Helvetica, Franklin Gothic or FS Me. Others may be considered in order to fulfill the promotional requirement or objective of the banner.

Design, final layout and the procurement of printing any banners is completed on behalf of the client Branch by Corporate Communications; CorporateCommunications@Communities-ni.gov.uk

Production time from supply of final content:

Approximately 2-4 weeks

BANNER STAND STRUCTURE



EXAMPLE BANNER STANDS



Social Media

Graphics for use on our social media channels, including Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn should be visually led with a minimal amount of text/ characters. Links within images are not clickable and should remain as part of the supporting text of the post.

Social Media Graphics

Using imagery in social media can make a post much more eye-catching and increase engagement with the target audience in what is otherwise a very busy news channel.

An image for social media should convey a headline and/or a very short piece of text.

Remember that in many instances, users will be using mobile devices and legibility of content is a major factor in the design.

Including URLs within images should be avoided as they are not clickable for the user. Best practice would recommended that these are used within the actual post text, not within the image.

For DfC social media channels, the DfC logo will feature and any typography will be in ITC Franklin Gothic, Helvetica or FS Me.

Design of any Social Media images required is completed by the Corporate Communications; CorporateCommunications@Communities-ni.gov.uk

Production time from supply of final content: Less than 1 week depending on request

EXAMPLES OF FACEBOOK AND TWITTER GRAPHICS





Department for Communities Corporate Identity Guide

Typography

The typeface used for the Department for Communities identity is Bodoni and ITC Franklin Gothic Book. This text should not be altered in any way which would affect its size, spacing, shape or colour.

Documents and emails

The primary typeface for all DfC documents and emails is Calibri, minimum font size is 12pt for PC users. For Mac users the equivalent typeface is Helvetica Neue.

Calibri Light
Calibri Regular
Calibri Bold

Light Regular Bold

Documents and emails

There is a secondary typeface permitted for email and publication and that is Arial, 12pt; the Microsoft Office default font.

Regular Bold

Arial Regular

Arial Bold

Documents and emails

Sample weights of typefaces that can be used for documents are:

Helvetica Regular Helvetica Medium Helvetica Bold

Regular Medium Bold

Department for Communities Corporate Identity Guide

Corporate communications (NICS)

The primary typeface for creative corporate communications, including signage and books is the classic typeface, ITC Franklin Gothic, as recommended across the NI Civil Service.

This is a clear, strong, solid and user-friendly font ITC Franklin Gothic is widely available and should not incur additional costs with any external advertising, design or print agent(s).

In most instances, a mixture of lighter and heavier versions will create a clearer and more creative

document. There are several versions of the font which can be used.

Along with ITC Franklin Gothic there are other typefaces that can be used to support the departments publications, these will be showcased over the next few pages.

Sample weights of typefaces that can be used for documents are:

ITC Franklin Gothic Book
ITC Franklin Gothic Medium
ITC Franklin Gothic Heavy

Book Medium Heavy

While ITC Franklin Gothic fonts should be used in most cases, designers may use other typefaces where appropriate for any given project(s). There are a wide variery of fonts that can be used, an example of these would be Proxima Nova, Poppins, Rokkitt, Merriweather, Publico and Gelasio.

For Universal Credit documents the font we recommend for content is FS Me. FS Me is a beautifully designed font that is easily read.

Any business area along with the designer(s) should however ensure that any communications material is suited to the needs of the target

audience(s) and that alternative formats are made available if necessary.

All documents should have an Open Government License (OGL) statement on the inside front cover which points the target audience(s) to the relevant business areas if they have questions regarding the publication.

Any materials that are for customer or external stakeholder use must be circulated via Corporate Communications to ensure consistency with all Department's marketing materials.

Sample weights of typefaces that can be used for documents are:

Proxima Nova Light
Proxima Nova Regular
Proxima Nova Bold

Light Regular Bold

Sample weights of typefaces that can be used for documents are:

Gelasio Regular Gelasio Medium Gelasio Bold

Regular Medium Bold

Sample weights of typefaces that can be used for documents are:

Poppins Regular
Poppins medium
Poppins Bold

Regular Medium Bold

Sample weights of typefaces that can be used for documents are:

Publico Roman Publico Semibold Publico Bold

Roman Semibold Bold

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz 0123456789

Formats and layouts

For your everyday communications there are a suite of templates available to you on the Intranet:

- Letter (MS Word)
- · Memo (MS Word)
- Presentation (MS PowerPoint)
- Email signature (MS Word)

Also within the Communication Templates is the:

Photographic consent form
 This should be completed by anyone photographed to ensure they understand and agree to how their image may be used.

Should you wish to develop anything outside of these templates, or you require a bespoke design or template, you should contact Corporate Communications:

CorporateCommunications@Communities-ni.gov.uk

External logo requests

You should never send the Department for Communities logo outside the Department for use on any third party document or website unless senior management approval has been granted.

If you receive a request for access to any aspect of the Department's branding, including logos, you should consult with DfC Corporate Communications for guidance.

Further guidance

For guidance on any aspects of the Department for Communities corporate identity, you should contact DfC Corporate Communications.

CorporateCommunications@Communities-ni.gov.uk

Identity Summary

- · Always use the Department for Communities (DfC) identity as prescribed
- · Where possible, use the logos on a white background
- Do not amend any of the identity typeface (font and formatting)
- Use the Department for Communities colours and branding with confidence
- Utilise the Department for Corporate Communications
- · Work with the guidelines, but think creatively and be forward thinking and modern

Any materials that are for customer or external stakeholder use must be circulated via the DfC Corporate Communications to ensure consistency with all marketing materials.

Annex

- Accessibility and Hyperlinks
- Departmental Sub Brands
- Uniform
- Investors in People

Accessibility and Hyperlinks

Accessibility

All materials produced for publication on Departmental Websites must be accessible to ensure that all potential audiences can access the information contained within them. This is a requirement of The Public Sector Bodies (Websites) Accessibility Regulations 2018. Within these Regulations, we must ensure that our online materials comply with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.1 AA.

Hyperlinks

Hyperlinks are an easy way to connect audiences with additional information on both internal and external websites. Hyperlinks play a very important role in accessibility and should be displayed depending on the format of the document.

Online Documents

You should choose hyperlink text that clearly and meaningfully identifies the content of the resource being linked to instead of using its URL as the link text. A screen reader user will more easily understand where an accessible link leads and will not have to listen while the reader pronounces every single character of a URL.

Accessibility and Hyperlinks

Printed Documents

Hyperlinks should be displayed as full URLs so a user can type them into their browser. You may however, wish to supplement these with convenient shortcuts like a QR Code which can be scanned by a smart device.

Other best practices when using Hyperlinks include;

- · Underlining hyperlinked text only
- Give hyperlink text a different colour from surrounding text.
 - Hyperlink text is usually blue but may be any colour that contrasts sufficiently with surrounding colours.
 - Use the same colour for all hyperlinks in a given document or web page.

Email Addresses

You should display any email address in full when including it in either printed or digital documents. Digital documents may benefit from having the email address hyperlinked for quick selection. In most cases, this will open a draft email to this address for the user.









Note: The Love Heritage icon and word heritage can be changed to any of the colours in the secondary colour palatte.







HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD of NORTHERN IRELAND



Note: More colour variations of the HERoNI logo can be found in their brand guidelines. Please contact Corporate Communications if you need more information. Corporatecommunications@Communities-ni.gov.uk









Note: Brand Guidelines can be supplied for JobAppyNI and WRES on request from Corporate Communications.

Corporatecommunications@Communities-ni.gov.uk









Note: More variations of the LMP logo and the You Said, We Listened, Together we Did can be found in their brand guidelines. Please contact Corporate Communications if you need more information. Corporatecommunications@Communities-ni.gov.uk















Uniform

Department for Communities t-shirts, jerseys or fleeces can be worn for departmental events. On dark colours the reversed version of the logo should be used, the logo should be placed on the left hand side.

All uniform requests should be sent to Corporate Communications for approval at:

 ${\bf Corporate Communications@Communities\text{-}ni.gov.} \\ {\bf uk}$





Uniform

Department for Communities t-shirts, jerseys or fleeces can be worn for departmental events. On white uniform the full colour version of the logo should be used, the logo should be placed on the left hand side.

All uniform requests should be sent to Corporate Communications for approval at:

 ${\bf Corporate Communications@Communities\text{-}ni.gov.} \\ {\bf uk}$





Investors In People (IIP)



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE®
We invest in people Standard

The Department is accredited to Investors In People Standard. The IIP logo brand guidelines are below. Wherever possible the Investors in People mark should be printed positive in the special Pantone® colour 539. The garland and the name should always be printed in the same colour.

The other preferred colourways are black on a white background, or white reversed out. However, you are entitled to reproduce the Investors in People mark in your own corporate colour if it reduces costs of printing. The Trade Marks shall not in any circumstances: be reproduced smaller than 8mm wide (the minimum size is measured by the width of the garland not the wording) or appear larger than your own logo on any piece of material bearing both; or be distorted, partially reduced, condensed, broken up, redrawn, added to or have material placed within the garland; or be obscured by other text or images within their area of isolation. More guidance on using the logo is available in the branding guidelines which can be found on the website www.investorsinpeople. co.uk

You must immediately notify the brand owner if you suspect that any use or proposed use by any other person of a trade name, trade mark or other mode of promotional advertising amounts or might amount to an infringement of the brand owner's rights in relation to the Trade Marks. The brand owner can be contact via info@investorsinpeople.co.uk

The IIP logo will feature on all corporate designed publications, reports, posters and banner stands as applicable.

The IIP logo will be located on the inside back cover of DfC publications. For other corporate designed products, the IIP logo will be positioned where the design parameters permits.

