## Doxclever

## Website Journey Research

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United Utilities' aim is to improve the user experience on the website homepage, specifically the menu bar, ensuring customers can locate and complete their desired tasks from the landing page easily through intuitive navigation and signposting.

We need to understand from a customer perspective the most useful taxonomy of the menu bar and the most effective way to group and signpost key customer tasks. Language for headings needs to be explored to ensure navigation flows effectively.

In preparation for the website re-launch, this research will inform taxonomy through a clear customer-centric approach to test and ensure navigation is highly intuitive and the customer journey is reduced to a seamless and simple process.

In addition, there is a need to test the updated experience across the website for a range of tasks to understand if they work for customers and aid navigation of certain tasks.



## **Objectives & Approach**

We wanted to test four tasks representing common actions that United Utilities' customers regularly try to navigate on the website.

#### 4 tasks completed :

1.

**Reporting an issue:** Respondents asked to look to see where they would report low pressure and how to check to see if it was an issue in the area

2.

**Finding the careers website:** *Respondents asked to look for the page where they would expect to find information about careers and job opportunities* 

3.

**Updating moving home details:** *Respondents told to look for where on the website they would go to let UU know they are moving and submit new details* 



**Contacting United Utilities about an Issue**: *Respondents asked to find the right page for the method of contact they would prefer to use (i.e. phone number, email etc.)* 

They also tested two new 'Contact Us' page designs



#### What we did:

**#1.** Customers completed 4 tasks on the United Utilities test website via a screencast platform. They recorded and voiced over the tasks.

**#2** Moderators probed on areas that stood out during the journey to understand some customer thinking behind journey decisions.

Who we spoke to:
10 customers of United Utilities
A mix of age and gender

## Journey 1: Reporting an Issue

**Task 1:** From the home page, imagine you are experiencing low water pressure and want to check if this is a problem in the area or specific to your home.

Please look to see where you would report low pressure and how you would check to see if it was an issue in the area



## Reporting an issue had a clear journey route for customers



You answered: Water supply The water pressure at your property may be fluctuating or gone off completely	Please let us know a few details about you
✓ b	This will allow us to check your local area for any known issues and help us if we need to raise a job to look into this for you. If you're reporting something away from your address, that's fine, we'll give you that option later.
	First name
What issue are you experiencing with	E.g. John
your water supply?	Last name
	E.g. Smith
O No supply O Poor supply O High pressure	Mobile number
	E.g. 07890123466
United Utilities Group PLC Follow us Useful links	Landline number





## A common route was taken by customers via the Help & Advice menu tab

Majority of customers found this an instinctive way to search for a low water pressure issue





## A minority of customers came via My Local Area or FAQ's

Some went straight to My Local Area wanting to rule out external issues first



"I go straight to My local area – I'd think any issues causing me problems would be here"

 Consider include link to reporting a water issue on multiple pages so customer are always routed back to form





# Once on this page, customers were likely to scan information and be directed to the 'Up my street' page

Text was easy to understand although some felt directions could be bigger and bolder. It made sense to check for issues in the local area first.



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## The survey map worked well and felt like a satisfactory tool for reporting an incident



Could give explanation or descriptive examples – it could be hard for customers to decipher if unfamiliar with water pressure  This is a logical route to reporting a problem





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# Some still felt it necessary to have something bolder on the home page for 'I have a problem' or 'Emergencies'

Concern for a quicker option if the problem was urgent and needed immediate response (including a phone number)

"It would be better to have a tab that says I have a problem, rather than searching in the menus"

*"I'd like to see where to report an incident on the homepage"* 

"In the option that says no water, you could imagine that was an bit more of an urgent issue then low pressure – I'd expect a phone number here"

"It does feel like you have to hunt around for contact details"

> Consider contact details on homepage or bolder at top of 'Low Pressure' page



## **Overview Journey 1: Reporting an Issue**

#### **Overview of Journey**

- Most customers took the same steps, indicating taxonomy provided a logical route to reporting low water pressure
- The low-pressure landing page is useful as it gives phone number and advice – but phone number can be missed, takes a little long to skim and could be more user friendly (i.e. Using clear next steps)
- 'Up my street' is a useful tool and allows customers to rule out area issues vs home issues
- Need faster route if it was an emergency this is available when scrolled down but could be bolder and more visible

#### **Customer Issues Identified**

- Want to see phone number as standard to reassure
- Want to see resolution or indication/timeframe for reported incidents
- Clearer explanations for low pressure issues options

#### Recommendations

- Keep 'Help & Advice' in menu tab, it works well and is logical route for reporting an issue
- Provide clearer and bolder steps 1,2,3
- If possible, provide indication of resolution timeframes for response to logged issue or for area incidents
- Include descriptions of terms in questions
- Keep easy and clearly visible access to phone number and chat for urgent incidents



### Journey 2: Finding careers information

**Task 2:** From the home page, imagine you are looking for a job at United Utilities.

*Please look for the page where you would expect to find information about careers and job opportunities* 



## **Customers used a number of slightly different routes from the homepage to reach the careers site**



## Scrolling to the bottom of the homepage for the careers link is familiar and intuitive to about half of customers

Route 1 – Scrolling to the botto	om of the page			bottom of the pageand here it iseasy"
United Utilities Group PLC Haweswater House Lingley Mere Business Park Lingley Green Avenue Great Sapkay	Follow us	Useful links My Account Help & Support Emergencies		<i>"I consider myself to be IT literate so I would go straight to the bottom – I think out people might struggle with that, so it could be clearer"</i>
Warrington WA5 3LP Registered in England and Wales Company number 6559020		Contact us Careers Modern Slavery Statement		<i>"Websites have it in differen't places but at the bottom is somewhere I would check if it's not immediately obvious"</i>
<ul> <li>Customers expect to have to look f of main menu and accept they hav search for it</li> <li>However, others do expect to be a</li> </ul>	for it outside e to scroll to ble to reach it		<ul> <li>✓ This i</li> <li>based</li> </ul>	s where many expect the link to be d on web experience

from the top of the page



"I thought it would be near the

# Others used options at the top of the page to navigate to the careers page

"I'll give About Us a try – nowhere else up here looks like it would include careers "



However, not all customers made an automatic link with corporate as the place to find careers info A tab at the top of page would also speed up the journey for those expecting it to be there





# Although it might be quicker if there was a menu tab for careers, no one really struggles to find the site

Route 2 – Using the search function to search 'careers' or 'jobs'

<b>ted</b> ties	Corporate D My Account ∨ Help & advice ∨ My local area ∨	About us D Building and developing D Business D Search Q LOG IN / REGISTER
h <mark>'</mark> Vest		
Search job	I	FIND
ə help you today?		
Home.   Search Page	∳ Search resu 'jobs'	lts for:
Filter	Showing items: 1-10 of 157	
Content type:	80 North West jobs as United Utilities takes wa United Utilities has taken on 80 staff to help update and improve mete	tter meter reading back in-house
All     FAQ articles	Current vacancies Discover the current vacancies available at United Utilities	Searching via the
Site section:	William gets his career back on track after losi	or google is an automatic response t

"It's not the main reason people come to this website so you expect to have to look a little harder"

*"It could be slightly easier if it was part of the pain menu"* 

*"I can't see it so I'll just do a quick search - I might just do this from google!"* 

- ✓ Having a few routes leading to careers information (such as via 'corporate' and through 'about us') as well as the link at the bottom, would allow most customers to navigate to careers easily
- ✓ Search box also does a quick enough job to navigate to the careers site



# When on the careers page, information is logically laid out and easy to navigate

	reers/current-vacancies/#page_id=ss_job_search			• - • ×	
Water for the North W	About us 🗸	Investors 🗸 Responsibility	Custom	orĐ Q	
Careers					
About our compan Our locations Banefito of working for us Application FAQ Hints and tips Agencies information	ay Pensions Hybrid section Defined contribution (DC) members EBPS and AMS Members The retired Previous employee	Early careers Graduates Apprenticeships Internships	Current vacancies	_	
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/www.unhschillitier.com/corporate/careery/ <i>P</i> Type here to search		PS Ea PS Ea PS No day is Appr	Alpcareers the same as a United Utilities entipe, Graduate or Intern	Experience United Utilities	ed hipe-vis.joi s family.

 ✓ Good to see salary information on the vacancies page

- ✓ Useful to see an option to save details on file if no current vacancies are available
- ✓ Like to see the video showing company facilities and culture
- Some confusion arose from landing on a separate site

- Careers pages work well and are fit for purpose
- Consider easy link back to main website as some don't notice new tab



## **Overview Journey 2: Finding Careers Information**

#### **Overview of Journey**

- There were a few different routes customers used to reach the careers site but all were quick and efficient
- It is familiar to see a careers tab at the bottom of the page and many intuitively scroll straight to the bottom of the page to look for it
- Minority use Corporate or About Us
- Search tool works well and some would automatically revert to this or a Google search
- Generally working fine and not causing frustration
- Career pages and information layout liked and fit for purpose

#### **Customer Issues Identified**

 Some expect careers at top of website but not necessarily needed

#### Recommendations

- Do include a careers tab in footer list at bottom of the page
- Consider Careers next to Corporate and About Us to cater to those who expect to see at top of page



## Journey 3: Moving home

**Task 3:** From the home page, imagine you are moving house (within the area so will remain a customer of United Utilities).

Please look for where on the website you would go to let UU know you are moving and submit your new details



It isn't always obvious to all customers which heading Moving Home should come under, although the majority find it quickly in My Account



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## The menu options cause confusion and don't deliver a call to action so customers default to 'moving out of home'

#### Your bill

Ways to pay Is your water bill higher than expected Our household charges 2020/2021 Difficulty paying your bill? Understanding your bill

#### Moving home Existing customer New customer? Moving out of your home Landlords Student moving home?

All about water meters You can save with a water meter Submit a meter reading How to find & read meters Water usage calculator Apply for a water meter

#### "Moving out of your home sounds like you are leaving UU for good"



Protect your home this winter

*"I just clicked on moving* out of your home as it sounded like the most general option "

Consider either removing 'moving out of home' option or reduce drop down to one option existing customer/new customer/landlord on



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### The moving house page has a lot of information but slows completion of main task as steps to fill in details are not clear



"It is a lot harder to find out the best way to fill in my details than it should be" Consider sending customers straight to clearer options by making 'Updating your address details here' much bolder

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## The 'update your address details' page is very clear and should be the first page customers reach



- Some landed on this page from the first link 'updating your address details here'
- However, others scrolled through pages including FAQ's – these get in the way of reaching intended destination
- Route not straight forward

*"I can see what I need to do here"* 

"Ah, now this is the page I was looking for – I got here by clicking on one of the FAQ's"

 'Guest form perhaps not the right language – prefer 'online form'

 Direct customers straight to this page is far simpler and gives customers clear choices



### The majority of customers would be happy to log in and manage details from their online account although some still prefer to use a manual form

#### Log into account

- ✓ Oneoff pain of registering but then in control of account
- ✓ It's the norm to manage online
- ✓ Trust that the right details are saved

#### **Online form**

- ✓ Might be quicker
- ✓ Less hassle of finding passwords etc.

"I'd prefer to do it from my account, it would be more secure and I would trust that it had all been updated"

"Much easier to log in – it's just done then and you go back and make any changes anytime " "I would be happy to create an account, it's always there then and I can probably do other things like water meters and manage my bills" "Setting up an online account would take some time – I think it would be quicker to fill in the form" "I would think they'll need loads of details – like all my water and bill information to set up an account"

 Having two options works for both sets of customers however online account assumed as easiest and most natural option for majority so potential to phase out online form





## **Overview Journey 3: Moving Home**

#### **Overview of journey**

- Customers don't assume it is within My Account on menu, however, most find it quickly when looking
- Menu options are confusing, with 'Moving out of your home' standing out as general catch all option but taking customers on a longer route
- Sometime FAQ's get in the way and reroute customers away from main page
- The general 'moving out of your home' page has lots of information but doesn't make action of updating details simple enough
- Once you have clicked updating your details options become much easier and clearer
- Given the choice, most are happy to log on to an account

#### **Customer Issues Identified**

- Confusion over menu options
- Missing a direct route from the 'moving out of your home' page so often going around same information twice

#### Recommendations

- Keep within 'My Account' but consider including on homepage as per current site
- Simplify options in menu, either remove 'moving out of your home' or just have one main route
- Make 'updating your address details' link much bolder
- Maintain two options for changing details but phase out online form (if company decision) by allaying concerns over time taken to comeplete and details needed



### Journey 4: Contacting United Utilities about my bill

**Task 4:** From the home page we would like you to try and contact United Utilities to let them know your bill this month was higher than normal.

*Please find the right page for the method of contact you would prefer to use (ie. A phone number, email etc.)* 



## Most customers look for bill information under My Account although some would expect in Help & Advice



"In this case, if the bill was really high you might expect to see it in help and advice, if it was something outside of the normal"

"I would start looking for contact details – I'd want to speak to someone"

 This is the right place within the menu taxonomy for bill information

Consider easier access to contact details for those who prefer to look for support



# Some go straight to Contact Us and are directed to 'My bill is higher than expected' page from there





# However, they are routed back to the same bill page which is frustrating as expecting contact details





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### 'Yes or No' information given about potential cause of bill increase is more helpful than initial page of text

### Water Fittings

· Have you recently had any new appliances fitted in your home that use water?

Yes

- Have you noticed any issues with your toilet, for example water dripping through the overflow pipe, water overflowing into the bowl, or the push button sticking?
- Have you noticed any water dripping from your taps, shower heads, boiler or radiators?
- · Have you installed a new power shower?
- If you have a water tank in the loft, have you noticed if this is leaking through the overflow pipe?
- Have you seen a dip in your water pressure?

No

- Not many are directed to this as 'Are you moving?' isn't relevant to most people on 'my bill is higher' page
- Also unlikely to deter those who want to speak to someone – it can feel too complicated

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"I'm not good at house/technical stuff – I would want to speak to someone who knows what they are doing" "You can clearly see they are trying to be informative and give people a heads up "

"This is easier than scrolling through lots of text" "Useful to rule out and understand what cause bull to be higher.....I still would want to speak to someone thought"

 ✓ Useful to rule out and provide information but an addition to direct contact rather than replacement

 Consider all information for possible reasons in this format



### **Contact Us Page: Option 1 was liked for design and keeping** within the website style



- Design is appealing and fits with the website
- White and fresh, easy to scan over icons and see options
- Missing clearer contact information will they be directed to a phone number?
- Lacks the number of contact options in comparisons to option 2
- More time consuming

"The design is nice and fresh, it looks good"

"The other page had more specific options than this one – you just want to go the right place quickly not have to go through pages and pages "

"It feels too time consuming – I just want to get to the contact numbers "

✓ Looks easy to navigate due to clean design

- Needs to include the right detail of specific contact chnnels to be useful and save time
- They want to see evidence of number of email provided



# Contact Us: Option 2 was preferred for functionality and easy access to the right contact details

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Contact us	
et's get you to the information you are looking for - use the arrows containing the information you need.	below to expand the sect
Bills and payments	
<u>Ways to pay your bill</u>	
Struggling to pay your bill	
Bill higher than expected	
Understanding.your bill	
Moving home	`
Water and waterwater	`

- Easy functionality for finding the right number
- Numbers clearly available and easy to find the right place to call
- Looks unappealing
- Not keeping in with website colours
- Text in drop down not easy to read
- Some don't like drop down function as feels clunky

's good to see a specific e for bereavement"	specific options – the other version didn't have as many options"
Customer with Meter	0345 333 3
Customer without Meter	0345 333 334
Water or wastewater query	0345 333 335
Bereavement	0345 333 336
Ringing from abroad	0345 333 337
Email us via our contact us form	Email form
United Utilities Group PLC	Follow us Useful links

- ✓ Functionality is the most important thing to customers – they want actions to be fast and easy, therefore seeing simple list is helpful
- Consider use of website colors and elements of design from from Option 1



## **Overview Journey 4: Contacting United Utilities**

#### **Overview of journey**

- Most expect to see bill information in My Account however in case of higher bill some want help and to speak to someone straight away
- 'Yes or No' Information about why bill might be higher, was intuitive to click through and helped them to understand reasons, this was useful information to rule out
- However most still want to speak to someone as information still needed to allay concerns (although this might depend on how much water bill had changed)
- Of the two site designs option 2 was preferred for easy access to phone numbers
- Option 2 was clearer to find specific options for support and felt it would save time and required less clicks
- However general design and colours of the first design was liked and was in keeping with rest of site
- Option 1 also seen as easy to scan

#### **Customer Issues Identified**

- Frustrating that 'My bill is higher than expected' section on contact us doesn't contain contact information and sends customers back to the same page as on menu option
- Some customers continue to want direct access to speak to someone regarding bills

#### Recommendations

-

- Have a Contact Us option including phone number and email readily available on 'My bill is higher than expected' page
- A/B testing needed to establish best design with comparable information using a larger sample





## **QUESTIONS?**



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