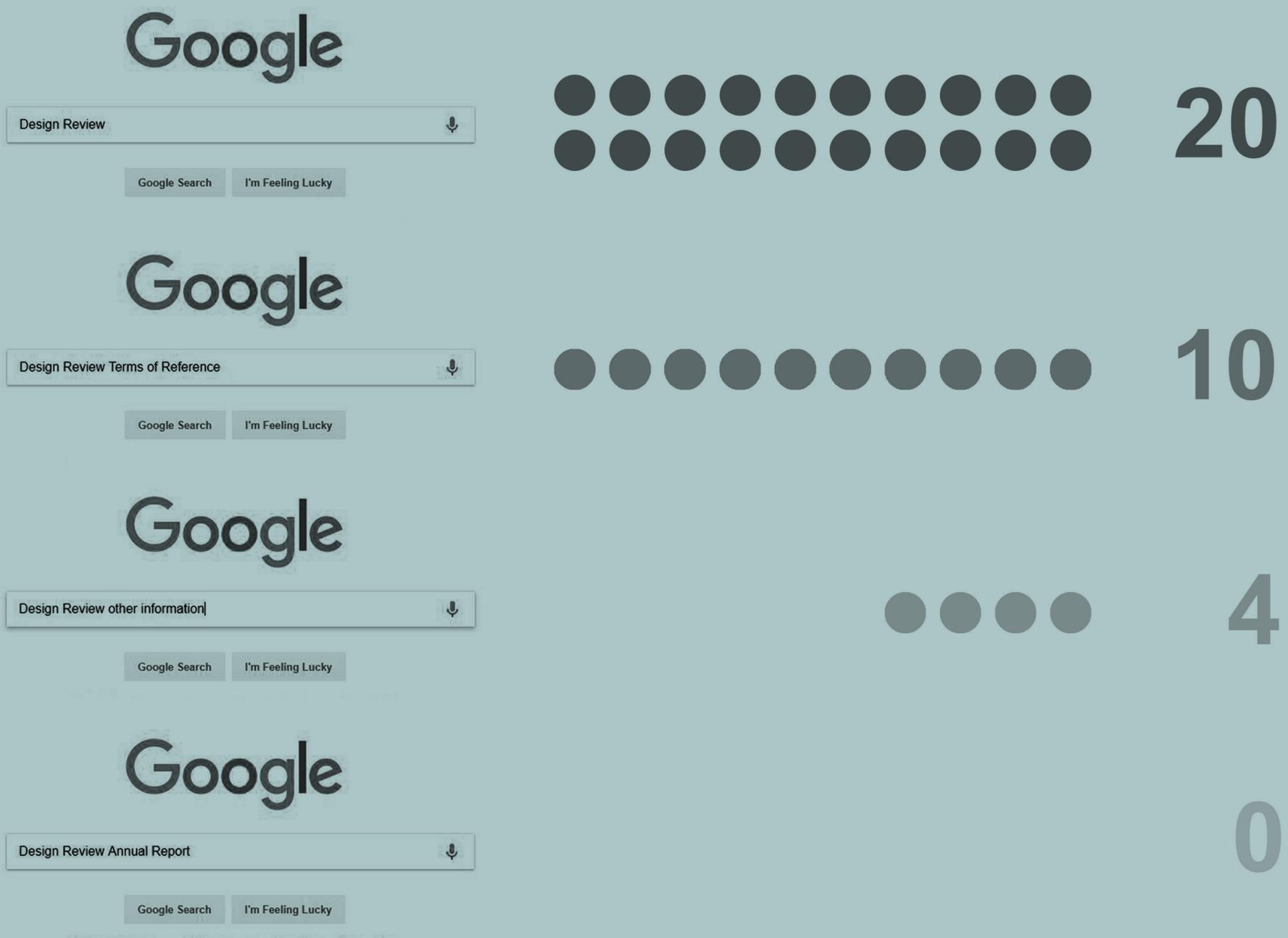




PUBLIC PRACTICE

How can Authorities measure the impact of design review?



20 London Boroughs note on their websites that they have a design review panel. 10 have the design review panel terms of reference available on their website. Four have other information but no terms of reference. None have a design review annual report readily available online.

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Design, Quality or Place Review is becoming embedded in planning and regeneration departments in England, as recommended in the NPPF (2018) for 'assessing and improving the design of development.' Its primary purpose is to raise design quality in buildings and places for the benefit of local communities. The main principles of design review include being accountable, transparent and accessible, but how much is currently known, or able to be publicly discovered, about the process and its impact? An initial review of Authority websites reveals a lack of readily accessible information on monitoring and evaluating design review. Establishing a transparent process could be supported by the development of a template for an annual report, to measure the impact of the process of design review on developments and

participants, as well as the outcomes. It would suggest ways that a local authority can gather information on every review it undertakes, and how to create a public document that helps capture the quantitative and qualitative impacts of design review. The annual report could also enable local authorities to investigate and monitor the 'hidden' values of design review; in supporting organisational change, embedding design culture, skills development, cross-departmental working and confidence in policies. The research involves speaking to a variety of stakeholders - from local authority officers to applicants, panel chairs, members, managers, and members of the public - to gain a clearer understanding of the impacts of design review in the round, and to test how these can be accessibly monitored, evaluated and presented.