

TEMPLATE FOR REPORTING BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS

A breach of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics occurs where one or more provisions of the Code were not followed in situations where an exemption or exception had not been approved by the UK Statistics Authority's Head of Assessment, as required in paragraph (xii) of the Code's preamble. Rules on pre-release access to statistics are covered in the relevant Pre-Release Access to Official Statistics Orders; the Code applies as if it includes these orders.

1. Background Information

Name of Statistical Output (including web link if relevant)

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/analysis/statistics/construction-statistics/building-materials>
Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components – October 2011

Name of Producer Organisation

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)

Name and contact details of person submitting this report, and date of report

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2. Circumstances of Breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Protocol 2, Practice 4 – issue statistical releases at the standard time of 9.30am on a weekday to maintain consistency and to permit time for users to understand and respond to the information during normal working hours

Date of occurrence

2 November 2011

Nature of breach (including links with previous breaches, if any)

Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components is published on the BIS statistics website, and also made available through the UK National Statistics Publication Hub. The release covering October 2011 data was due to be published at 9.30am on 2 November

2011. Although the link from the Publication Hub went live at 9.30am, and the landing page was updated on time, the document links did not work until 10am.

Despite affecting the same publication, this is not related to the breach of the same Protocol last month, as the cause was different.

Reasons for breach

Following preparation of the release by the Statistical Computing team, a member of the main web team carried out a routine check on the release documents for consistency with accessibility standards and BIS best practice. Unfortunately she did not realise the importance of the release time, and this work was not completed in time for the documents to be published at 9.30am.

3. Reactions and Impact

The problem was spotted by a BIS statistician at 9.35am. We have had no contact from users.

4. Corrective Actions Taken (include short-term actions, and long-term changes made to procedures)

The links were corrected as soon as the problem was noticed by the Building Materials team, and the release was published by 10am. The fix would have been made more quickly but was delayed by a server performance issue.

The statistical computing team have met with the main web team, and agreed the following procedures for the future:

- Only the statistical computing team will publish statistical releases to the web.
- All efforts will be made to do this in time for accessibility checks. However where this is not possible, statistical releases must be released at 9.30am on the pre-announced day, and any accessibility changes made later.
- Details of accessibility standards and BIS best practice will be circulated to statistical producers
- The central web team will inform the statistical computing team as soon as possible if there are any future server issues.

5. Any other relevant supporting material (including link to published statements about this breach)

None