

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)

Place Survey 2008, England: Further results

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/placesurvey2008update>

Name of Producer Organisation

Communities and Local Government (CLG)

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

On behalf of Head of Profession for Statistics, Communities and Local Government, 23 September 2009

2 Circumstances of Breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Protocol 2, Practice 8 – accidental and wrongful release

Date of occurrence

22 September 2009

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

Additional CLG officials not named on the pre-release access list were given access to material containing some of the statistics from the Place Survey release, by e-mail, in the 24 hours prior to release.

Reasons for breach

Not all officials on the pre-release access list were aware who else had been granted pre-release access and so accidentally sent briefing, including some figures not yet released, to officials who had not been granted this access.

3 Reactions and Impact

There is no evidence to suggest that information entered the public domain due to this breach.

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

All those involved were contacted as soon as the breach became apparent. Procedures for preparing briefing material during the 24 hour pre-release access period will be revised to ensure all officials on the pre-release access list are fully aware of who else can have access to the statistics.

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