

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)

Public Sector Finance (topic based summary component - nugget)

Name of Producer Organisation

Office for National Statistics

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

Louise Lindsay-Smith, Web Publishing Team, 21/05/2010

2 Circumstances of Breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Protocol 2, Release practices
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

21/05/2010

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

The Public Sector Finance nugget (<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/ci/nugget.asp?id=206>) was published with new content, including headline figures, before the scheduled release time of 09.30 on 21/05/2010. This was discovered at 09.28am.

Reasons for breach

The reasons for the breach are as yet unknown. The ONS Information Management team are investigating the transfer systems that carry data to the live site

3 Reactions and Impact

No reaction to this breach, but this will impact future timings for setting up nuggets in advance of publication

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

Nuggets will not now be set up in advance of 9 o'clock and will not be sent to business areas for approval before the scheduled time of release

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