

## BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS

This document reports a breach of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, or the relevant Pre-release Access to Official Statistics Orders, to which the Code applies as if it included these orders.

### 1. Background information

Name of Statistical Output (including weblink to the relevant output or 'landing page')

Individual insolvency statistics by region, 2013

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/insolvency-statistics-individual-insolvencies-by-region-2013>

Name of Producer Organisation

The Insolvency Service

Name and contact details of the statistical Head of Profession (Lead Official in an Arm's Length Body) submitting this report, and date of report

John Perrett (Lead Official for Statistics, Insolvency Service)

020 7291 6858

[John.perrett@insolvency.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:John.perrett@insolvency.gsi.gov.uk)

10 July 2014

### 2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Protocol 2, Practices 7 & 8

Paragraphs 2 and 6(1) of the schedule to the Pre-release Access (PRA) to Official Statistics Order 2008.

Date of occurrence

9 July 2014

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

- At 09:30 on 9 July 2014, 24 hour PRA was given to a list of ministers and officials at the Insolvency Service and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.
- The Chief Executive of the Insolvency Service asked for further briefing from another official about insolvency rates in specific areas in England and Wales. This individual was not on the PRA list and the request went beyond administrative support.
- The official approached the lead statistician at around 11:00 to ask some questions relating to this work. At this point the lead statistician identified that a breach had occurred, and instructed the official not to proceed further with this work, but to hand it over to the lead statistician.
- The lead statistician immediately alerted the Head of Profession's office in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

Reasons for breach

Human error. The Chief Executive did not realise that the official did not have PRA, and the official had the impression that they had PRA as a result of having access to email inboxes of two eligible persons, and that the request represented administrative support.

### **3. Reactions and impact (both within the producer body and outside)**

- On identification of the breach, the lead statistician took action to stop any further circulation of the statistics, and instructed the official to stop briefing activities.
- The deputy Head of Profession (HoP) was advised at the earliest opportunity.
- The lead statistician wrote to the Chief Executive to explain that a breach had occurred, which would need to be reported. The lead statistician carried out the analysis initially requested.
- A public statement was issued on the Insolvency Service website on 10 July.
- The publication hub was updated on 10 July.

### **4. Corrective actions taken to prevent reoccurrence of such a breach (include short-term actions, and long-term changes made to procedures)**

- The Chief Executive has been reminded of their responsibilities under the pre-release access order.
- Guidance on pre-release access will be sent to all eligible persons in the Insolvency Service

### **5. Links to published statements about this breach**

Release page: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/insolvency-statistics-individual-insolvencies-by-region-2013>

Publication hub: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/release-calendar/index.html?newquery=insolvency&lday=10&lmonth=7&lyear=2014&uday=10&umonth=7&uyear=2014&theme=&source-agency=&pagetype=calendar-entry>

A link to the breach report will be linked to from

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/insolvency-statistics-individual-insolvencies-by-region-2013>