

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 web link to the relevant output or 'landing page')

2011 Census: Results for Ethnicity, National Identity and Religion for Wales

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/population2012/121217/?lang=en>

Name of Producer Organisation

Welsh Government (WG)

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

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WG, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ

Friday 11 January 2013

2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Protocol 2 Practice 4:

Issue statistical releases at the standard time of 09:30 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

17 December 2012

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

IT systems (including telephones) were unavailable across the Cathays Park Welsh Government building therefore there was a delay in publishing. The output was finally published at 13:20.

Reasons for breach

Due to power interruption in central Cardiff late on Sunday evening Information and Communications Technology (ICT) services within Cathays Park were unavailable.

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

We ensured that Press Office and any others with pre-release access were aware that the output would not be published at 09:30. We tweeted that the output would be delayed using the StatisticsWales account but were unable to make any changes to the website to announce the delay.

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

During the day in question, statistical staff could not know the scale of the problem or the length of the delay. The small publication team were focused on seeking an on-site solution. On reflection, after the event it was concluded that we could in future use another WG site to publish. Therefore, as only Cathays Park was affected by this outage if it happened again a member of staff could relocate to another WG site to ensure that outputs are published on time. This was our contingency plan for outputs the following day.

5. Links to published statements about this breach

A note has been put on the website in lieu of the breach report being published <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/population2012/121217/?lang=en>