

## 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')

Accommodation statistics (previously UK Defence Statistics Chapter 6)

This is a National Statistic.

Link to publication:

<http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php?pub=UKDS>

Name of Producer Organisation

Ministry of Defence (MoD) – Defence Statistics

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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Breach report completed on 21 June 2013.

### 2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Protocol 2: Release Practices; Practice 8

Date of occurrence

The breach was discovered on 6 June 2013.

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

On 6 June 2013, the MoD HoP noticed that figures relating to the number (and percentage) of vacant Service Family Accommodation (SFA) as at 30 April 2013 was published on gov.uk as part of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) Key Performance Indicators.

On subsequent investigation it was confirmed that during May 2013, similar figures were released on data.gov.uk on the number and percentage of vacant SFA properties on 31 March 2013. These are due for release in Defence Statistics Accommodation National Statistics (previously UK Defence Statistics Chapter 6) on 4 July 2013. The breach was confirmed on 17 June.

Reasons for breach

The individuals in the MoD DIO team who released the statistics were not aware that these figures should not be published before the National Statistics publication date. DIO was releasing the report as part of the MOD open data strategy. Although they were aware that the validated and cleansed National Statistics should not be released, they were not aware that statistics generated directly from the administrative data source should not be released.

The MoD DIO team was informed of the potential breach on 6 June 2013, and this was confirmed with them on 17 June 2013. The delay in confirming the breach occurred due to the length of time it took to receive confirmation from DIO of the precise definition of the information that had been released and whether it did match with the definitions used for the National Statistic.

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

None.

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

The HoP identified the potential breach on 6 June 2013.

Action was taken to inform DIO on the same day. DIO were informed that they must not circulate these statistics again, prior to the National Statistics publication date.

The relevant DIO Key Performance Indicators were removed from data.gov.uk and gov.uk on 11 June 2013. A briefing is being arranged where a senior Defence statistician will brief the DIO senior management on the organisation's responsibilities under the Code of Practice.

The HoP is meeting the Chief Information Officer team in charge of open data to discuss the transparency agenda and how statistics can support that while complying with the Code.

The HoP is investigating additional methods improve compliance with the Code of Practice in across the MOD, including asking the Permanent Secretary to write to senior staff to

remind them and their teams of the Code and their obligations.  
Contact was made with the UK Statistics Authority on 6 June 2013 giving the broad outline of the breach.

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

When the breach report is published on the UK Statistics Authority website we will link to it from our website <http://www.dasa.mod.uk>.