

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)

April 2012 Betting and Gaming Bulletin
<https://www.uktradeinfo.com/Statistics/Pages/TaxAndDutybulletins.aspx>

Name of Producer Organisation

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC)

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

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2 Circumstances of Breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Principle 1, Practice 4: Publish statistical reports according to a published timetable that takes account of user needs.
Protocol2, Practice 1: Release statistical reports as soon as they are judged ready
Protocol2, Practice 4: Issue statistical releases at the standard time of 09:30 on a weekday

Date of occurrence

23 May 2012

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

The Bulletin was published two days later than the pre-announced date.

Reasons for breach

The principle statistician responsible for publishing the statistics was on a training course at the time the bulletin should have been sent to the web team. She made arrangements with another member of her team to send the bulletin to the web team in her absence. However, this was not done, and the publication date was missed.

3 Reactions and Impact

There have been no reactions to the delay to publication, and we have not had any feedback from any users (internal or external).

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

The following corrective actions will now be taken:

- HMRC principal statisticians will avoid booking leave or attending training courses around the time their Official and National Statistics are due to be published.
- HMRC principle statisticians will also perform a check in advance of each of their publications to ensure that the publication has been sent to the web team.
- Should the HMRC principle statistician be absent around the time of publication, responsibility for ensuring the publication has been sent to the web team will be passed onto another member of staff who is equivalent or higher in grade.
- In addition to this, the responsible statistician in HMRC will also set up an email reminder that can be sent to the member of staff involved just before the deadline.

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

A statement about the breach was made on the HMRC Statistics Announcements page: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/ann_index.htm