

## 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')

Attendance at grant-aided primary, post-primary and special schools 2013/14: Summary statistics

[http://www.deni.gov.uk/statistical\\_bulletin\\_-\\_attendance\\_at\\_grant\\_aided\\_primary\\_post-primary\\_and\\_special\\_schools\\_2013\\_14\\_-\\_summary\\_statistics\\_r1.pdf](http://www.deni.gov.uk/statistical_bulletin_-_attendance_at_grant_aided_primary_post-primary_and_special_schools_2013_14_-_summary_statistics_r1.pdf)

(National Statistics Publication)

Name of Producer Organisation

Department of Education (DE)

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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Final Report complete: 5 February 2015

### 2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

**Code of Practice: Protocol 2, Release 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 work hours.

Date of occurrence

29 January 2015

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

- On 29 January 2015, the “Attendance at grant-aided primary, post-primary and special schools 2013/14: Summary statistics” was published 32 minutes late at 10:02.
- IT Assist is responsible for publishing online and was due to publish the Bulletin at 09:30 on 29 January 2015.
- At 09:35 on 29 January 2014, a statistician in the producing department discovered that the publication was not online. After conducting a series of procedure checks, IT Assist was contacted at 09:53.
- The delay was due to a technical issue which caused a replication conflict. As there is a 30 minute replication cycle for documents uploaded to the website, there was a delay of 30 minutes until the 10:00 cycle before the publication was available on the website.
- Further discussions to determine the reason for the delay were held with the Livelink expert in IT Assist who was on leave until 3 February.

Reasons for breach

The breach was caused by a replication conflict technical issue. As the time of the initial report upload was the same time as the start of the replication cycle i.e.09:30, the upload was not detected until the replication had started to run. As a result, there was a conflict that the database was not able to resolve until the replication cycle had finished running. Therefore the next available opportunity for uploading the report was 10:00

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

The responsible statisticians were notified immediately of the delay to publication. No complaints were received.

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

Short term:

The senior statistician informed DE senior management that a breach had occurred and that a report of the breach would be produced.

Details of the breach have been included on the relevant statistics website.

Long term:

IT Assist and DE statisticians have revised current upload procedures to ensure publications are available on the website at the specified times. These new procedures have been tested by DE and have resulted in successful upload of reports.

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

A note explaining that the bulletin was late being published was put on the relevant page of the Department of Education website

[http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/facts-and-figures-new/education-statistics/32\\_statistics\\_and\\_research\\_-\\_statistics\\_on\\_education-pupil\\_attendance/content-newpage-15.htm](http://www.deni.gov.uk/index/facts-and-figures-new/education-statistics/32_statistics_and_research_-_statistics_on_education-pupil_attendance/content-newpage-15.htm)

This note was put on the relevant page of the GOV.UK website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/attendance-at-grant-aided-primary-post-primary-and-special-schools-2013-to-2014-summary-statistics>

Once published, a link to the breach report will also be put on the website.