

## 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')

Building Price and Cost Indices Quarterly Update December 2012  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bis-quarterly-constuction-price-and-cost-indices-3rd-quarter-2012>

Name of Producer Organisation

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)

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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20 December 2012

### 2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Principle 2 Practice 1: Publish statistical reports in an orderly manner, in accordance with Protocol 2.

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)

A member of the production team checked the BIS website shortly after 09:30, to see if the release had been published. This is a routine check carried out for all releases. He discovered that the release had not appeared.

He then contacted the BIS digital publications team, who are responsible for uploading documents onto the department's website. They sorted out publication of the release at 10:10, approximately 40 minutes later.

Reasons for breach

The breach occurred because the release files had not been set up correctly for publication at 09:30. This was due to unfamiliarity with the publication system – BIS transferred to [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) on 13 December, and this was the first BIS statistical release to be published on the new site. Specifically, the publication team were not aware that working on the release after 09:00 would "turn off" the preset publication time of 09:30 and result in the release joining the standard publication queue.

### **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 was alerted as soon as the problem was discovered. The digital publications team were then contacted to find out whether there was a problem and to ask them to resolve it.

The digital publications team were aware of the need to publish statistics at 09:30, and had engaged with the statistics team prior to the transfer of the departmental website to [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) to ensure that the existing statistics pages were transferred properly and that our requirements were understood. They had also met with counterparts in other departments to discuss the publication of statistics on the new site. The breach was caused by this being the first time that BIS had published to the new publishing system, which staff were unfamiliar with.

The digital publications team have updated their procedures to ensure that statistical releases are not worked on after 09:00. They have also issued updated guidance to all BIS statisticians.

The digital publications team have subsequently tested publishing speeds, and this does not appear to be an issue. They are also going to double-check the scheduling functionality, although this is not thought to be an issue as it has been used successfully for subsequent publications.

Publication of statistics to the previous BIS website was carried out by the statistical computing team. Members of this team will be trained to publish to the new site, and will then take over publication of all of the BIS statistical releases.

## 5. Links to published statements about this breach

A statement was published on the release page, as well as on the Publication Hub.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bis-quarterly-constuction-price-and-cost-indices-3rd-quarter-2012>

[http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/release-calendar/index.html?newquery=\\*&newoffset=10&theme=&source-agency=Business%2C+Innovation+and+Skills&u day=&u month=&u year=&l day=&l month=&ly ear=&coverage=&designation=&geographic-breakdown=&title=Building+Price+and+Cost+Indices&pagetype=calendar-entry&sortBy=releaseDate&sortDirection](http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/release-calendar/index.html?newquery=*&newoffset=10&theme=&source-agency=Business%2C+Innovation+and+Skills&u day=&u month=&u year=&l day=&l month=&ly ear=&coverage=&designation=&geographic-breakdown=&title=Building+Price+and+Cost+Indices&pagetype=calendar-entry&sortBy=releaseDate&sortDirection)