

REPORT OF A BREACH OF THE PRINCIPLES IN THE CODE OF PRACTICE OR PROTOCOLS.

Definition: A Breach of one or more provisions within the Code or Protocols occurs in situations where a non-observance of the Code was not approved by the National Statistician or Head of Profession (Chief Statisticians in the devolved administrations) in advance of its happening. An example would be either a deliberate or an inadvertent 'leak' to the press.

Statistical series: ONS Cancer Survival Statistics for England.

<p>Circumstances of Breach e.g. Date of occurrence, nature of breach, reasons (where known) for breach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ONS Cancer Survival Statistics for England were announced for release on 10 December. • On 9 December ONS cancer statistics staff e-mailed material to agreed DH pre-release recipients. • This e-mail was sent 13.06, rather than the expected time of 09.30. • A DH press officer on the list forwarded the e-mail to a single NHS SHA colleague – this latter person was not on the agreed PRA list. (Evidence indicates that this was to meet a request from the SHA). • This was both an error of judgement and a breach of the new Pre-Release Access Order. • The 'protect' markings on the original ONS communication were present and correct, but it is not clear whether the DH press officer was familiar with the new 'Protect' security marking. However, the meaning was explained in the ONS pre-release e-mail.
<p>Public/Statistics Authority reaction / Impact on reputation (if any)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None – the figures did not go further than a single NHS official.
<p>Corrective action taken</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DH wide Stats Team officer reminded press officer immediately that this was not acceptable under the Order. • DH Statistics Head of Profession wrote to DH Head of News (i.e. the senior official in charge of DH press office) reminding him of the rules and asking him to ensure that his staff were aware of them and respected them. In particular, no sharing of stats in advance of publication with people not on PRA list, without checking with the supplier of the statistics. He has stressed this message to his staff. • DH wide Stats Team officer also wrote to DH press officer with 'regional' remit to indicate that prior sharing with NHS regions is not allowed. • [Prior to the introduction of the Order, the DH Head of Profession and the DH-wide Statistics

	<p>Team issued advice and guidance to DH Ministers and officials concerning the Order and its implications. The DH HoP and her team will continue to work with colleagues to help them understand and apply the rules, and avoid breaches]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ONS Cancer Team will endeavour to pre-release all future outputs up to the maximum 24 hours before publication allowable under the new Pre-Release Access Order.
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