

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')

Delayed transfers of care, May 2014

www.wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/delayed-transfers-care

Name of Producer Organisation

Welsh Government (WG)

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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2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and 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

26 June 2014

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

On 26 June 2014, the “Delayed transfers of Care, May 2014” first release was published 20 minutes late at 09:50.

This was due to the wrong pdf attachment (a previously published release) initially being uploaded to the webpage in error, instead of the Delayed Transfers of Care release.

Reasons for breach

The wrong pdf attachment was selected for upload to the website due to ambiguity in the naming convention for the files.

The circumstances were such that two similar releases, within the same sub-folder, were being published that month – both files had the same name and the wrong one was selected for upload.

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

The error was picked up and rectified instantly by our statistics web publisher. However it took the servers 20 minutes to update and refresh the relevant webpage – the webpage was still showing the incorrect release during that time.

The number of people who visited the delayed transfers of care webpage, during the 20 minute period where the wrong attachment was present, is unknown. However we were not contacted by any users during this period, querying the absence of the correct release.

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

We have immediately introduced a new naming convention for files in our publication processes. The file names are now unique, containing the title of the statistical release as well as the month and year of publication.

In addition, our statistics web publisher now knows it is possible to fast track refreshing a web page by contacting our central web team. This will decrease the amount of time taken to update webpages and correct future errors, should they occur.

5. Links to published statements about this breach

A link to the breach report (once published) will be put on the website.