

## 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.

*All breach reports are published on the UK Statistics Authority's website and need to explain (clearly and concisely) what happened to cause the breach and what is being/has been done by the statistical Head of Profession (HoP) to ensure the risk of recurrence is minimised.*

### 1. Background information

Name of Statistical Output (including weblink to the relevant output or 'landing page')

The MOD Health and Safety Annual Official Statistic – this publication can be found at:  
[http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php?pub=MOD\\_HS](http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php?pub=MOD_HS)

Name of Producer Organisation

Defence Statistics (WDS)

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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Breach report completed 14 August 2013

### 2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Protocol 2: Release Practices

Practice 8: "Ensure that no indication of the substance of a statistical report is made public, or given to the media or any other party not recorded as eligible for access before publication. Report to the National Statistician immediately any accidental or wrongful release, and investigate the circumstances.

Date of occurrence

30 July 2013

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

Defence Statistics (Health) provided figures for major injuries during the financial year 2012/13 to Defence Safety and Environment Authority (DSEA) on a quarterly basis. As the 2012/13 figure are not due for publication in the official statistic until 31 October 2013, these figures were provided on a restricted basis for management purposes only. DSEA were advised that these

figures should not be released externally as this would be a breach of the Code of Practice. However, DSEA released the 2012/13 figures on the www.gov.uk website in their MOD Safety and Environmental Protection Assurance report on 30 July 2013. The breach was discovered by Defence Statistics (WDS) on 13 August 2013 during a periodic trawl of published statistics.

The report can be found at the following link:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/226597/20130730-MOD\\_S\\_EP\\_Assurance\\_Report\\_\\_2012-13-U.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/226597/20130730-MOD_S_EP_Assurance_Report__2012-13-U.pdf).

The figures provided to DSEA are not definitively in the final form of the statistics due to be published in October, as further QA and late submission of data may mean there are changes. However, the DSEA report did not explain that, and the figures released in the official statistics can be up to 25% higher than those in the internal management information report.

Reasons for breach

DSEA released data externally in error that was provided for internal management purposes only.

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

At this stage, there has been no adverse impact of the early publication.

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

Defence Statistics (Heath) notified the MOD HoP that a breach had taken place on 13 August 2013, as soon as it was discovered.

Defence Statistics will review the provision of figures to DSEA prior to the publication of the data in the Official Statistic publication.

DSEA will be required to amend the published annual report to note that the figures are provisional and may change, and that final figures will be published in October as Official Statistics. DSEA will also be required to brief the relevant Minister to ensure that the provisional figures are not used incorrectly by the MOD.

The HoP plans to meet with the Director of DSEA in September 2013 to explain both the Code of Practice and the note issued in July 2013 by the Permanent Secretary that required MOD staff to discuss all statistics planned for release with professional statisticians. The HoP will seek reassurance that the messages will be conveyed to DSEA staff.