

## 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

Healthcare Associated Infections (HCAI) Statistics

Name of Producer Organisation

Public Health England (PHE)

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

David Meechan, Public Health England, [David.Meechan@phe.gov.uk](mailto:David.Meechan@phe.gov.uk), 10 July 2014.

### 2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Protocol 2 Release Practices, 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

10 July 2014

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

On the morning of 10 July 2014, publishing processes on the website started at 09:24 and should normally have ended by 09:30. However, due to an unforeseen software issue, that morning, publishing ran for 28 minutes, 28 seconds.

Reasons for breach

A software issue delayed the publication, website publishing logs indicate that publication was complete at 09:52. Mandatory HCAI surveillance team members, carrying out screen refreshes, were able to see all the published content internally at 10:01.

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

None that we are aware of.

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

Colleagues in the mandatory HCAI surveillance team and online services team were in constant contact throughout. Immediately afterwards, an Integrated Governance Information system (IGI) report was raised. IGI is the internal electronic system used by PHE for recording and managing adverse incidents and other issues.

As the HCAI content has subsequently been migrated to GOV.UK, the mandatory HCAI statistics releases can now be scheduled in advance to publish at 09.30 on pre-announced release dates.