

## 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')

[Incidence of Tuberculosis \(TB\) in Cattle in Great Britain](#)

Released on 16 January 2013

Name of Producer Organisation

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

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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Date of report: 16 January 2013

### 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 working hours."

Date of occurrence

16 January 2013

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

- The 'Incidence of Tuberculosis (TB) in Cattle in Great Britain' statistics are published monthly. The release due to be published at 09:30 on Wednesday 16 January 2013 was inadvertently published at 09:00 instead.
- The breach was identified by a member of the team responsible for the publication of the statistics on the Defra website, and reported to the lead statistician at 09:15

Reasons for breach

Human error. At 09:00, the individual responsible for uploading the statistics on the Defra website was preparing the documents for release. Whilst they believed they had stored the files in a draft area of the website, they had actually uploaded them onto main website and they had consequently been released.

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

- On identification of the breach, the lead statistician considered whether the statistics could be removed from the Defra website and re-issued at 09:30. Due to the proximity to the announced release time, it was decided that withdrawal of the release was not a viable option. The Head of Profession is in agreement with this decision.
- The Head of Profession was advised at the earliest opportunity, and subsequently advised the National Statistician.
- As these are GB level statistics, the Devolved Administrations were informed.
- A public statement was issued on the Defra website.
- At the time of writing this report, no complaints have been received.

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

The breach was as a result of human error.

The individual responsible for the error, and the wider publication team, will be advised on the reason for the breach. Further training will be provided to reduce the risk of similar breaches occurring in future.

Consideration will be given to the feasibility of the introduction of a failsafe warning prior to publishing on the live site once Defra moves to the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website on 31 March 2013.

### **5. Links to published statements about this breach**

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/national-statistics/breaches-of-the-code-of-practice/>