

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

Insolvency Statistics

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/insolvency-statistics-january-to-march-2014>

Name of Producer Organisation

The Insolvency Service

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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11 July 2014

2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Protocol 2, Practice 7

Date of occurrence

November 2012 and ongoing since

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

The published list of individuals who have pre-release access (PRA) to the Insolvency Statistics National Statistics release has been out of date. Named individuals on the PRA list have changed as new people have moved into posts and Ministerial Offices.

The posts themselves have not changed in this time – the release still goes to Ministers at the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and Her Majesty's Treasury (HMT), the Prime Minister (PM), Deputy Prime Minister (Deputy PM), officials and Special Advisers (SPADS) in the Insolvency Service, BIS and HMT.

The PRA list was not migrated to the GOV.UK website when the Insolvency Service transitioned to the new digital platform in March 2014.

This breach was identified following the submission of the breach report submitted 10 July.

Reasons for breach

Human error - oversight. The PRA list has never been particularly prominent on the Insolvency Service website, and was not migrated to the Insolvency Service's area of the GOV.UK website.

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

Upon identification of the breach on 10 July, the deputy Head of Profession for Statistics at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was informed. The National Statistician's Office was notified on 11 July.

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

A "Collections" page on the GOV.UK website was already in development; with the intention that the pre-release access lists would be linked to this page, improving the visibility of this information. The publication of the "Collections" page was expedited, and went live on 14 July 2014 at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/insolvency-service-official-statistics>.

The pre-release access lists which applied prior to the 10 July release were published at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/insolvency-statistics-pre-release-access>, but amended in order to remove the names of individuals, retaining just the job titles, in line with practice of other statistical producers.

All statistical publications will now include a PRA list, specific to that publication. This was implemented for the 29 July publication <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/insolvency-statistics-april-to-june-2014>. Instructions for statistical production have been updated to include the need to check and if necessary update the PRA list for each new edition. This includes maintaining a 'master' PRA list which is updated when permanent changes are made to the list of recipients. Copies will then be made and tailored to each specific publication.

5. Links to published statements about this breach

A link to the breach report will be provided on the new PRA page of the Insolvency Service website - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/insolvency-statistics-pre-release-access>.