

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')

- Monthly Improving Access to Psychological Therapies Data Quality Reports Final April 2014 and Provisional May 2014 (<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB14620>)

Name of Producer Organisation

- Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC)

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

Andy Sutherland
Head of Profession for Statistics
Health and Social Care Information Centre
Trevelyan Square, Boar Lane, Leeds LS1 6AE
0113 254 2574
andy.sutherland@hscic.gov.uk

2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

- Protocol 2 - Release practices
 - Practice 7
Subject to compliance with the rules and principles on pre-release access set out in legislation, limit access before public release to those people essential for production and publication, and for quality assurance and operational purposes. Publish records of those who have access prior to release.
 - 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

- 28 July 2014

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

- The briefing co-ordinator at Department of Health (DH) supplied 24-hour pre-release material to an incorrect NHS contact.
- The individual contacted the DH briefing co-ordinator to advise him that the material had been sent in error and confirmed that the material was deleted unread.

Reasons for breach

- There are two contacts with the same name but different email addresses – the wrong email address was used in error.

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

- The recipient confirmed that the email and attachment were deleted unread.

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

- The HSCIC emphasises the confidential nature of all material granted under the Pre-release to Official Statistics Order 2008 and provides clear direction regarding what should be done in the event of a breach. This guidance was followed by the Department of Health briefing co-ordinator and steps were immediately taken to minimise the impact of the breach.
- The HSCIC will continue to stress the terms under which access to pre-release material is granted.

5. Links to published statements about this breach

- <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB14620>