

BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS

A breach of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics occurs where one or more provisions of the Code were not followed in situations where an exemption or exception had not been approved by the UK Statistics Authority's Head of Assessment, as required in paragraph (xii) of the Code's preamble. Rules on pre-release access to statistics are covered in the relevant Pre-Release Access to Official Statistics Orders; the Code applies as if it includes these orders.

1 Background Information

Name of Statistical Output (including web link if relevant)

Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components: September 2011
<http://stats.bis.gov.uk/UKSA/construction/sa20111005.htm>

Name of Producer Organisation

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

Name and contact details of person submitting this report, and date of report

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2 Circumstances of Breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Protocol 2, Practice 4 – issue statistical releases at the standard time of 9.30am 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

5 October 2011

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

Monthly Statistics of Building Materials and Components is published on the BIS statistics website, and also made available through the UKSA Publication Hub. The

release entitled September 2011 was due to be published at 9.30am on 5 October 2011. Although the link from the Hub went live at 9.30am, it went to an error message - the release itself was not published on the BIS statistics website until just after 11am.

Reasons for breach

While the release page is set up in advance of publication, it is not currently possible for it to be published at 9.30am automatically. This must be done manually by a member of the web publication team. A calendar reminder is set to ensure that this is done on time, but the reminder failed on this occasion, and the prepared pages were not released.

3 Reactions and Impact

The breach was noticed by a member of the production team carrying out a routine check on the publication. We are not aware of any user reaction or impact.

4 Corrective Actions Taken (include short-term actions, and long-term changes made to procedures)

The production team immediately contacted the web publication team on discovery of the problem, and the release was published just after 11am.

BIS statistics are currently published on a separate specialist website <http://stats.bis.gov.uk>. We are in the process of developing a statistics section on the main BIS website <http://www.bis.gov.uk> and this will start hosting publications later this month. As part of this development, it will be possible to set up releases in advance for automatic publication at 9.30am.

An additional publication date and time publishing diary has been put in place.

5 Any other relevant supporting material (including link to published statements about this breach)

Statements apologising for the delay in publication were placed on the building materials statistics home page, and on the specific release page to which the Publication Hub links for this edition of the Statistics. These will be updated as necessary:

<http://stats.bis.gov.uk/construction/building/>
<http://stats.bis.gov.uk/UKSA/construction/sa20111005.htm>