

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)

National Curriculum Assessments of 7, 11 and 14 Year Olds, 2010
(<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/schools2010/100818/?skip=1&lang=en>)
NHS Dental Services, 2009-10
(<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/health2010/100818/?lang=en>)

Name of Producer Organisation

Welsh Assembly Government

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

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Wednesday 18th August 2010

2 Circumstances of Breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Protocol 2: Release Practices:
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

Wednesday 18th August 2010

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

The two outputs detailed above did not appear online until between 11:30am and 12pm

Reasons for breach

A technical issue with the server and a large queue of publishing forming. This is currently being investigated by the Assembly's Central Web Team.

3 Reactions and Impact

Outputs were several hours late appearing online and during this time a telephone call was received in the department from people awaiting the information.

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

As all publishing was delayed it wasn't possible to post a notice explaining the problem but any enquiries received were replied to promptly with an explanation and apology. The emails announcing publication were also not distributed to avoid inconsistent levels of access.

The Deputy Head of Profession has written to the Central Web Team requesting assurances that this will not happen again and an explanation of the circumstances. The technical issue is currently being investigated to confirm the cause.

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