

## 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')

Operational Fatality and Casualty Statistics  
<http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php/publications/health/operational-casualties/fatality-and-casualty/2013-08-31>

Name of Producer Organisation

Ministry of Defence (MOD)

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

Simon Mahony, Head of Profession (HoP) for Statistics,  
MOD, Main Building, London, SW1A 2HB, Telephone: 020 7218 1466

17 September 2013

### 2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Protocol 2: Release Practices  
Practice 4: "Issue statistical releases at a 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

17 September 2013

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

The publication due to go out on 17 September 2013 was not made available until 10:05 on that date, a delay of 35 minutes. The breach was discovered by a member of the publication team at 09:31 and the web team was informed at 09:35.

## Reasons for breach

The publication had not been uploaded to the automatic publication release mechanism on the Defence Statistics website, so was not available for automatic release at 09.30 on 17 September 2013.

The team member who is responsible for the release was unable to attend the office at the specified time, arriving shortly after. At this point, the publication was uploaded to the release mechanism and available on the website by 10.05.

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

The publication was available for users within an hour of the release time on the pre-announced day. At this stage, there has been no adverse impact of the late publication.

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

Defence Statistics (WDS) notified the MOD HoP immediately that a breach had taken place on 17 September 2013.

To prevent the reoccurrence of such a breach, Defence Statistics will review and implement new procedures into the web and publication teams. Both teams will be required to check that the publication has been uploaded to the automatic publication release mechanism the day before the release date. Both teams will also check the website at 09:30 on the day of any release to ensure that the automatic release process has been successful. A trained member of the web team must be in the office at this time to address any potential issues. This will ensure that corrective action, if necessary, will take place immediately.