

## 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')

Operation HERRICK Redeployment Data for Vehicles, Major Items of Equipment and Material (October 2012 to November 2014)

This is an Official Statistic.

Link to publication:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/operation-herrick-redeployment-statistics-2014>

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

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Breach report completed on 13 January 2015.

### 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

Wednesday 17 December 2014.

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

On 17 December Defence Statistics checked the GOV.UK website at 09:30 to ensure the publication had gone live. On discovering it had not, Defence Statistics contacted the Communications Team who then uploaded the publication manually at 09:50.

Reasons for breach

Publications are programmed in advance to 'go live' at 09:30 on publication day. On 17 December the automatic upload failed and the publication was uploaded manually.

The investigation concluded that the fail in the automatic upload was likely to be as a result of human error. The page was programmed on 15 December and scheduled to go live for 17 December. On 16 December the page was accessed by an editor and the scheduling was interrupted. The scheduling was not then re-instated and the publication was unable to go live at the specified time.

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

The publication was available within half an hour of the publicised release time on the pre-announced day of publication, allowing users time to understand and respond to the publication during normal working hours. We are not aware of any adverse reaction or impact.

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

In the days following the breach while the problem was being investigated publications were uploaded manually at 09:30 to avoid any delays.

Following the investigations, procedures have been tightened. Once a statistical report has been provided for publication, the documents are uploaded and the page is prepared. As part of the preparation, the 'go live' time is set. The page is then submitted for a 'second pair of eyes' (SPOE). A second editor reviews the page, if the content and timings are correct they click the 'schedule' button.

Unless the page requires further amendment, it remains in the scheduled list until the page is published at the set time. However, if a scheduled page does require an amendment it has to be unscheduled, edited and then re-scheduled using the same SPOE process.

A final check procedure has also been implemented. At 16:00, the last editor in the office checks that all the statistics due for publication have been scheduled correctly. If any have not been scheduled correctly they click the schedule button to ensure that it will 'go live' at

the correct time.

Once the check is complete the editor emails the Editorial Team to confirm that the statistics have been checked and are scheduled to 'go live' as listed in the release calendar. No changes are made to the scheduled page(s) after this check.