

## 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)

Pesticide Usage Northern Ireland (NI) <http://www.afbini.gov.uk/index/services/services-specialist-advice/pesticide-usage.htm>

Name of Producer Organisation

Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute for Northern Ireland (AFBI)

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.

Date of occurrence

All publications after 2009.

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

Pesticide usage reports not published according to schedule on National Statistics (NS) Publication Hub.

## Reasons for breach

Delays in publication have been primarily due to oversight and a lack of understanding among AFBI staff regarding the importance of meeting the precise publication timetable.

### **3. Reactions and Impact**

Main users were informed of delays. No complaints or requests for information were received.

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

The AFBI Lead Official for statistics has been engaged in NS training courses at Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) and is in regular contact with senior statisticians at NISRA and Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD). Consequently, there is more awareness within AFBI of the requirements within the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This information has been relayed to all AFBI staff engaged in production of Pesticide Use Statistics. A timetable for report production of AFBI statistics is now on the NS Publication Hub and AFBI adhere to scheduled publication times and dates. Publications are normally prepared in pdf on our website, which has decreased production time and costs considerably. Changes to the production process mean the reports are now prepared more efficiently and are finalised in advance of the due publication date. The web team in AFBI have been made aware of the importance of ensuring all releases are available on the NS Publication Hub and AFBI website according to the published timetable.