

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)

These outputs are Official Statistics not National Statistics
PIP Breast Implant Monitoring, Sept 2012:
<http://transparency.dh.gov.uk/category/statistics/pip/>
Hospital Activity Data, August 2012
<http://transparency.dh.gov.uk/category/statistics/monthly-hospital-activity-data/>

Name of Producer Organisation

Department of Health (DH)

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 09:30

Date of occurrence

12 October 2012

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

Release of the PIP Breast Implants data was delayed until around 09:45 and the Hospital Activity data were delayed until around 10:30.

Reasons for breach

Insufficient capacity on the internal web server prevented the loading of data files.

3 Reactions and Impact

No reaction received and no impact

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

The immediate action has been the report of the problem to the DH Digital Communications department who were not aware of the capacity problem. The DH Digital Communications department have since expanded the available capacity by a simple procedure. In the meantime DH statistical staff were taking a manual “workaround” action which led to operational delays.

Going forward we will work with the DH Digital Communications department so our needs are known and that any capacity issues are known about and resolved in advance.