

## 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')

Psychological Therapies, Annual report on the use of Improving Access to Psychological Therapies Services - England 2013-14  
(<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/psycther1314>)

Name of Producer Organisation

Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC)

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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17 September 2014

### 2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

#### **Protocol 2 - Release Practice 8**

Ensure that no indication of the substance of a statistical report is made public, or given to the media or any other party not recorded as eligible for access before publication. Report to the National Statistician immediately any accidental or wrongful release, and investigate the circumstances.

Date of occurrence

17 September 2014

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

At roughly 01:30 in the morning of 17 September 2014 the link to the 'Psychological Therapies, Annual report on the use of IAPT services - England 2013-14' publication went live, 8 hours before the intended publication time of 09:30.

Reasons for breach

The folder in our internal Microsoft SharePoint Repository had its publication date incorrectly set to the 15 September 2014 on the 16 September 2014, an error which was missed by both the production team and our web team. When the website was indexed overnight (where it references the Microsoft SharePoint repository and updates the publication pages and their associated files, among other updates) the link to the publication was made live. Our web team spotted the error and reset the publication so that it would only go live at 09:30 before 07:40 on the morning of 17 September 2014.

We checked Google Analytics and it recorded two unique views of the publication page between 01:30 (Indexing completion time) and 07:40 (time Web reset the publication time to 09:30). One unique viewer is our own internal web team, but we cannot account for the other, and both the publication report and data quality statement were downloaded.

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

We have not been contacted nor have we managed to find any public mention resulting from the unintended early access.

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

This was a human error in inputting the incorrect publication date when uploading the files into the Microsoft SharePoint Repository and both the approving manager and the web team not noticing the mistake when the upload was approved by both the manager and the web team.

Internally we have raised this as an incident which will be investigated further with a view to process improvement, in the meantime both the publication production team and the web team have committed to a more vigilant approach to checking details when approving publications.

### **5. Links to published statements about this breach**

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/psycther1314>