

## 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')

Routine Quarterly Improving Access to Psychological Therapies Dataset Reports, Final Q2 summary statistics and related information, England, Experimental Statistics

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/catalogue/PUB09844>

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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4 February 2013

### 2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Release practices, Protocol 2:

Practice 4 "Issue statistical releases at the 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

31 January 2013

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

The publication was unavailable on the HSCIC website and inaccessible via the URLs published on the National Statistics Publication Hub for approximately 40 minutes after its planned release time.

Reasons for breach

Software-related difficulties following the introduction of a new website and problems with system configuration erroneously delayed the release of the publication. The fault could not be anticipated and was only identified when the publication failed to go live.

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

The delay to publication was found promptly at 09:30 as a part of routine internal checking procedures and work began immediately to make the publication live.

No notification was received from any external organisation or potential user that the delay was noted or caused a problem outside the organisation.

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

Technical problems with the HSCIC website have been identified that included short-term issues related to the underlying software.

A system has been created to provide real-time information on the status of all publications which can be checked in advance of 09:30 daily thereby giving sufficient time to take the appropriate steps should a problem be identified.