

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')

Tenanted Agricultural Land in Scotland 2013

www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/01096

Name of Producer Organisation

Scottish Government: Rural & Environment Science & Analytical Services

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

Roger Halliday, 1N.04, St Andrews House, Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Tel: 0131 244 0442 e-mail: roger.halliday@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Protocol 2: Release practices

Practice 4. Issue statistical releases at the standard time of 9.30am 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

29th April 2014

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

Delay in publication until 10:05. The problem was noticed by the statistics team at about 9:35 and investigated immediately.

Reasons for breach

One element of the publication procedure had not been implemented by the statistics team at an earlier stage. The system however does not stop subsequent steps being completed, and the statistics team was sent confirmation that the whole process was complete and the document was now queued for publication. It took some time to identify what had happened and resolve the issue.

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

Delay in availability of results to media. However there was no impact on the amount or accuracy of coverage.

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

A check-list will be produced to ensure that all elements of the procedure have been completed. In the longer term there could be an improvement in the system to accurately identify whether all steps have been completed.

5. Links to published statements about this breach

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/About/nsbreaches

6. Any other relevant supporting material