

TEMPLATE FOR REPORTING BREACHES OF THE PRINCIPLES IN THE CODE OF PRACTICE OR PROTOCOLS:

Definition: A Breach of one or more provisions within the Code or Protocols occurs in situations where a non-observance of the Code was not approved by the National Statistician or Head of Profession (Chief Statisticians in the devolved administrations) in advance of its happening. An example would be either a deliberate or an inadvertent ‘leak’ to the press.

Report submitted by: (e.g. HoP/CS) Peter Helm 7/1/09

Date of initial Report: Email to National Statistician on 19 December 2008

Reporting Organisation: Defra

Producer Organisation: AEA under contract to Defra

RELEVANT DOCUMENT The National Statistics Release “UK emissions of Air Pollutants 2007 results” (Code , Protocol) Pre-release access

Relevant Principle / Paragraph	Protocol 2, Practice 8 on pre-release access, Code of Practice for Official Statistics.
Circumstances of Breach e.g. Date of occurrence, nature of breach, reasons (where known) for breach	It was discovered on 18 December 2008 through the European Environment Agency (EEA) restricted website that UK air emissions figures had been sent to the EU, as part of our legal duty under the National Emission Ceilings Directive (NECD), following submission to Ministers by new policy colleagues who were unaware of their National Statistics status nor of their publication in January.
Public/Commission reaction / Impact on reputation (if any)	No reaction so far, as the public did not have access to the restricted EEA data. These data have now been removed from the site and will not be reinstated until after publication of the National Statistic. A reference to the breach will be put on the Defra website.
Corrective action taken	The National Statistician was informed of the breach and corrective action was agreed. The release date was moved forward to 8 January 2009 from 22 January 2009 so the public had access to the

	<p>data as early as possible after the breach. This was the earliest practical given the Christmas holiday period, ensuring that key staff were available and that sufficient notice was provided to users.</p> <p>A reference to the breach will be placed on the Defra website, indicating that the data has been transferred to the EEA earlier and that some officials have seen the figures as part of the process.</p> <p>Policy colleagues have been informed of the situation, and appreciate that the figures are not for circulation or use prior to official publication. The EEA were asked to remove the data from the website, and have done so. It will not be reinstated until after publication of the National Statistic.</p>
<p>Immediate Outcome</p>	<p>The National Statistic will be published earlier, on 8 January 2009.</p>
<p>Final Outcome (e.g. any resulting change in procedure)</p>	<p>New procedures will be put in place to ensure no further breaches occur.</p> <p>The release will be brought further forward in the future to December each year to co-ordinate with submission to the EU</p> <p>The EU will be asked to put an embargo on the figures until the UK publication.</p>