

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

1. UK Armed Forces Mental Health Report - Quarterly Report (Previously known as Armed Forces Psychiatric Morbidity Report) 7 Oct 2001 - 28 Feb 2013

<http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&thiscontent=1320&date=2013-04-04&pubType=0&PublishTime=08:30:00&from=home&tabOption=1>

This is not a National Statistic

The publication was scheduled for release at 09:30 on 4 April 2013.

2. Monthly Op TELIC and Op HERRICK UK Patient Treatment Statistics - RCDM and DMRC Headley Court 8 Oct 2007 - 28 Feb 2013

<http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&thiscontent=1350&date=2013-04-04&pubType=0&PublishTime=08:30:00&from=home&tabOption=1>

This is not a National Statistic

The publication was scheduled for release at 09:30 on 4 April 2013.

3. British Casualties - Afghanistan 7 Oct 2001 - 31 Mar 2013

<http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&thiscontent=1360&date=2013-04-18&pubType=0&PublishTime=08:30:00&from=home&tabOption=1>

This is not a National Statistic

The publication was scheduled for release at 09:30 on 18 April 2013.

Name of Producer Organisation

Ministry of Defence (MOD)

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

Simon Mahony,

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Breach report completed on 18 April 2013.

2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Protocol 2 : Release Practices,

Practice 4. Issue statistical releases at a 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

4 April 2013 and 18 April 2013

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

The publications due on 4 April 2013 were not made available until 09:55 on that date, a delay of 25 minutes. The breach was discovered by the statistical production team at 09:35 and the web team was notified at 09:40.

The publication due on 18 April 2013 was not made available until 10:25, the date of publication, a delay of 55 minutes. The breach was discovered by the statistical production and publications team at 09:30.

Reasons for breach

On 4 April 2013 a technical issue resulted in failure of the automatic publication release mechanism on the Defence Statistics website. This was not identified immediately by the web team.

Corrective action commenced as soon as the team were notified of the error, and the publications were released within 15 mins.

Defence Statistics are investigating the mechanism failure, and a temporary manual fix was implemented on 10 April to the release mechanism. This fix requires a member of the web team to be in office at 09:30 to release the publication. Two team members had the knowledge and training to do this on 18 April.

On 18 April 2013 the team member who was responsible for the release had a personal issue and was unable to attend the office at the specified time, arriving at 10:15. At this point the manual process was started, with

publications available by 10:25.

The breach was identified at 09:30, and the second team member (who was authorised to be away from the office) was contacted and asked to come in. However, due to travelling time they arrived after the publication was released in the breach

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

The publications were available within one hour of the publicised release time on the pre-announced day of publication, allowing users time to understand and respond to the publication during normal working hours. We are not aware of any adverse reaction or impact

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

Defence Statistics are investigating the cause of the failure of the automatic release mechanism, and once identified, will implement corrective action.

From 10 April, and until the cause of error is identified and the process fixed, publications will be released manually at 09:30 to minimise the risk of publications being delayed. This involves a member of the web team to be in the office by 09:30.

A third team member is being trained in the interim manual upload process to provide extra cover and reduce the risk of future breaches.

Once the automatic release mechanism is fixed Defence Statistics will implement new procedures into our web team and production teams. Both will be required to check the website at 09:30 to ensure the automatic release process has worked. A trained member of the web team must be in office to address any potential issues. This will ensure that corrective action, if necessary, will commence immediately