

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')

Walking and Cycling in Wales

<http://www.sportwales.org.uk/research--policy/surveys-and-statistics/statistics.aspx>

Name of Producer Organisation

Sport Wales

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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2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Protocol 2, Release 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 work hours.

Date of occurrence

12 August 2014

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

On 12 August 2014, the 'Walking and Cycling in Wales' release was published at 11:30. The delay was due to Precedent's, (our webhost) datacentres experiencing connectivity issues with their provider, Teleticity. The connectivity issues were caused by hardware failures.

This was an exceptional and global issue that was reported by the BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-28786954>.

Reasons for breach

The delay was due to Precedent's datacentres experiencing connectivity issues with their provider, Teleticity. The connectivity issues were caused by hardware failures.

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

The responsible statistician, member of our Senior Management Team and statistical colleagues in Welsh Government were notified immediately of the delay to publication, in order to prevent any data being supplied to users ahead of the releases' publication.

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

Immediate corrective action was taken. This involved new hardware being installed by Precedent's provider – Teleticity.

Precedent is currently reviewing their datacentres' providers and how they can better meet our requirements to provide multiple connections and providers so that this does not happen again in the future.

Sport Wales acknowledges that technical issues arise from time to time, as part of our on-going management of our contract with Precedent we will monitor the frequency and nature of technical issues to ensure that a quality service is maintained.

5. Links to published statements about this breach

From our Sport Wales Twitter handle (www.twitter.com/sport_wales)

We tweeted 'We apologise that our website is currently experiencing problems – we are working to get it up and running again as quickly as possible' as soon as we were aware of the problem.

Once the website was back up and running, we issued another tweet:

'Walking and cycling data from our School Sport Survey and Active Adults Survey has been released today'.

Once published, a link to the breach report will also be put on the Sport Wales website.