

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')

Winter situation reports

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/winter-daily-sitreps/>

Name of Producer Organisation

NHS England

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

Mark Svenson

Lead Official for Statistics

NHS England

5E24 Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE

(0113) 825 0551

mark.svenson@nhs.net

2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Protocol 2: Statistical reports should be released into the public domain in an orderly manner

Date of occurrence

14 and 21 November 2014

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

The reasons for not publishing the reports on 14 and 21 November 2014 were not explained in advance of the pre-announced date.

Reasons for breach

Report due for publication on 14 November:

The proposed report consisted of a data file and accompanying document containing statistical and operational comment. The latter document was not finalised in time to publish it on the pre-announced date. The decision was taken that the data file should not be released without the accompanying material.

Report due for publication on 21 November:

Users were not engaged at a sufficiently senior level in deciding what information should be collected and reported. It was felt the content of the collection should be reviewed further before publication, in order to ensure its relevance and the right balance between benefit and burden. The decision was taken to postpone publication while a review is completed.

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

Reporting by national media organisations.

Social media comment from political organisations, think tanks and others.

Parliamentary questions.

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

Further review of the collection, in order to ensure its relevance and the right balance between benefit and burden.

Separation of statistical and operational material in the published documents.

Consider what extent of user engagement should be undertaken for any new or resumed collections/reports or changes to existing collections/reports.

5. Links to published statements about this breach

A statement about the breach is included in our publications calendar at

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2012/04/12-month-plan-21-November.pdf>.