

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')

National Rail Passenger Survey

<http://www.transportfocus.org.uk/research/national-passenger-survey-introduction>

Name of Producer Organisation

Transport Focus

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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Date of report: 18/07/16

2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Protocol 2 (release Practices), Practice 8

Ensure that no indication of the substance of a statistical report is made public, or given to the media or any other party not recorded as eligible for access before publication.

Date of occurrence

27 May 2016

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

Bag containing a subset of NRPS results left on underground train.

Reasons for breach

Transport Focus carried out a pilot of a shorter, more online NRPS questionnaire in Spring 2016. Analysis of the results included comparisons with a sub-set of shifts from the Spring 2016 NRPS (matched shifts). The results of the pilot were presented to Transport Focus on the 24th May. The results do not correspond with any NRPS findings published from the spring 2016 survey. However one staff member at Transport Focus (who was on the pre-release list) printed off the NRPS presentation (including the spring 16 results) and took it home to read, but got off an underground train leaving his ruck sack behind on the train on the evening of 27th May.

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

The breach was first spotted by the member of staff who left their bag on the train. We are not aware of any other comment or reaction to the matter.

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

Short Term Actions:

1. The loss of the bag was reported to TfL lost property soon afterwards, but the bag has not been recovered.
2. Discussions have been had with the member of staff involved reinforcing the need for Official Statistics to be kept confidential before publication.

Longer Term Action:

1. To reduce the risk of future breaches of this protocol, the 24 hour pre-release list will be actively reviewed with a view to making reductions from the next publication onwards (Autumn 2016 wave scheduled for publication end January 2017).

5. Links to published statements about this breach

<http://www.transportfocus.org.uk/research/national-passenger-survey-introduction>