

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')

Council Tax Reduction in Scotland, April to June 2016

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/08/5662>

Name of Producer Organisation

Scottish Government, Local Government and Analytical Services Division

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 practices – Practices 7 and 8

Date of occurrence

30/08/2016

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

The publication was accidentally published on the gov.scot website a day early. Once the statistics team became aware, the publication was immediately removed. The publication was live on the website for approximately 1-2 hours.

Reasons for breach

A contractor accidentally re-used an old ISBN number which led to the SG publications team wrongly issuing the publication as an update to the previous publication in the series and so publishing it as soon as they received it.

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

Media and social media were checked and we found nothing relating to the figures before the publication time. It is unlikely that anyone saw the restricted information as it was not in an obvious place and was removed as soon as we became aware. The information is not market-sensitive.

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

Intend to engage with colleagues who manage the contract; the contractors themselves and the SG publications team to further investigate how the issue arose and how it can be prevented from occurring again in the future.

Will also add 'checking ISBN number' to list of pre-publication checks. We will alert other statistics teams so that they are also aware.

5. Links to published statements about this breach

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/About/nsbreaches>

6. Any other relevant supporting material