

## 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')

Pesticide usage survey reports: Edible protected crops 2015 and Outdoor vegetable crops 2015 <https://www.afbini.gov.uk/articles/pesticide-usage-monitoring-reports>

Name of Producer Organisation

Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute

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

Dr Stephen Jess Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, Newforge Lane, Belfast BT9 5PX  
Telephone 02890 255283 [stephen.jess@afbini.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.jess@afbini.gov.uk)

### 2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Protocol 2 (Release Practices), 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 working hours'.

Date of occurrence

26<sup>th</sup> October 2016

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

Owing to a technical difficulty, the reports were issued at 09.50 on publication due date. The technical difficulty resulted from a software malfunction. An automated deadline attribute, which is set in the publication page in Drupal, the website's content management system, did not activate as expected. When the error was discovered, the upload was completed manually and the system checked for future uploads. There have not been any previous breaches.

## Reasons for breach

The publication was prepared for release at 9:30 by the AFBI Communication Team. There was a technical difficulty, which delayed publication by 20 minutes.

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

AFBI Communication Team was immediately informed of the breach by Lead Official and the publications were uploaded at 09.50. No complaints were received.

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

This was an atypical occurrence in that the technical problem resulting in the publications not appearing on our website at 9:30 had never happened before.

### **5. Links to published statements about this breach**

<https://www.afbini.gov.uk/articles/pesticide-usage-monitoring-reports>

### **6. Any other relevant supporting material**