

REPORTING A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS

1. Core Information

Title and link to statistical output	Northern Ireland Tourism Statistics October 2015 – September 2016 https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/quarterly-tourism-statistics-publications
Name of statistical producer	Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	Jim McColgan 028 9052 9636
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/articles/annual-and-quarterly-tourism-statistics-publications
Date of report	19.01.2017

2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant principle/protocol and practice	Protocol 2, Practice 8
Date of occurrence of breach	18.01.2017
<i>Give an account of what has happened including roles of persons involved, dates, times etc</i>	
<p>On the 18/1/2017 (after 9.30am), pre-release for NI Tourism Statistics October 2015 to September 2016 was issued to the standard pre-release access list (see link).</p> <p>At 5.44pm (18/1/2017), a Dept for Economy official (on the PRA list) issued an email to officials which indicated the numerical direction of the new tourism statistics. This e-mail was sent to some officials on the list but also to four other senior officials not on the pre-release list.</p>	

3. Impact of the breach

<i>Provide details of the impact of the breach both inside the producer body and externally</i>
<p>A number of officials not on the pre-release access list became aware of the direction of tourism performance in Northern Ireland prior to the release of the statistics.</p> <p>The four officials opened and read the e-mail but did not take any action or forward to anyone else. When they were made aware of the breach they deleted the email.</p> <p>There was no public release before the official publication.</p>

4. Corrective actions (taken or planned) to prevent re-occurrence

<i>Describe the short-term actions made to redress the situation and the longer term changes to procedures etc</i>
<p>NISRA will meet with, issue guidance and a note to the relevant officials in the Dept for Economy to remind them of the protocols regarding official statistics pre-release access.</p> <p>NISRA Statisticians in Dept for Economy will also remind policy officials of their obligations under pre-release access legislation. The public statement made is also available here [see link]</p>