

REPORTING A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS

1. Core Information

Title and link to statistical output	UK Environmental Accounts: Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Economy Survey, final estimates: 2015
Name of statistical producer	Office for National Statistics (ONS)
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	ONS – Gemma Thomas (gemma.n.thomas@ons.gov.uk) Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) – Sam Trewin (sam.trewin@beis.gov.uk)
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	N/A
Date of report	19/06/17

2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant principle/protocol and practice	Pre-release data shared with someone not on the pre-release access list (Protocol 2, principle 7)
Date of occurrence of breach	05/04/17
<p>As the BEIS statistical lead was out of office on the day of pre-release, a BEIS colleague with pre-release access was deputised with circulating the statistical report to the named colleagues on the BEIS pre-release access list. The pre-release statistical report was erroneously sent by the nominated BEIS colleague to a shared mailbox, rather than the intended recipient's direct email address. As such, up to three BEIS staff could have gained access to the report without pre-release clearance. A BEIS member of staff with access to the shared mailbox forwarded the pre-release email to the named individual (the intended recipient) – none of the staff with access to the shared mailbox read the statistical report. ONS was notified of the breach the following day.</p>	

3. Impact of the breach

BEIS has assessed that this breach had no significant impact around the statistical release. Staff with access to the shared mailbox did not read the release.
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4. Corrective actions (taken or planned) to prevent re-occurrence

BEIS staff connected to this publication were reminded about the correct protocol around using only direct email addresses for pre-release access, to ensure a breach does not occur again. Since then there has been an (unrelated) change in pre-release access rules to ONS statistics, which means that BEIS will no longer gain pre-release access to this publication.
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