

REPORTING A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS

1. Core Information

Title and link to statistical output	DCMS Sectors Economic Estimates: Employment and Trade https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/dcms-sectors-economic-estimates-2017-employment-and-trade
Name of statistical producer	Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	Olivia Christophersen
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	NA
Date of report	26 July 2017

2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant principle/protocol and practice	Protocol 2 Release Practices/Practice 4
Date of occurrence of breach	26 July 2017
<p>The release was scheduled for publication at 9.30am on gov.uk but a problem with the central GDS system meant it was not released on time. The accompanying methodology note was published at 9.30 but the statistical release and data tables were not published until 11am. The lead statistician noticed that it had not been published at 9.30 and worked with a colleague in the Press Office to investigate and overcome the issue by forcing the publication through. Unfortunately because we forced publication, GDS are unable to tell us why our statistical release did not publish as scheduled. GDS said that they had not come across any other issues on that day.</p>	

3. Impact of the breach

<p>We received enquiries from internal policy colleagues who tried to access the data between 9.30 and the actual time of release and wanted to know if the release had been published so that they could start necessary briefing for minister and comms. They were notified when the data became available and, as the delay was reasonably short, we do not think this would have had a significant impact on users. We did not send the release and data tables to these users in the interim time because we were hopeful it would not be long before they were published and then all users would have access to the release and data tables at the same time.</p>
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4. Corrective actions (taken or planned) to prevent re-occurrence

<p>We contacted our comms team once the release had been published at 11am. They replied to say that we had followed all the correct procedures, so they were unsure why the release had not been published as scheduled. They recommended we contacted GDS which we did at 2pm on the day of release. GDS confirmed that they were unable to see what the issue was because we had forced publication, so essentially removed the schedule for publication time and date. We have since published releases using the scheduled time and date facility on gov.uk, and had no issues.</p> <p>We liaised with the Press Office, whose input is needed to publish (2i) all our statistical releases. We established that, if a similar issue occurs in future, someone in Press Office can 'force' publication of releases which do not appear on the website at the scheduled time. In future, we will know to implement this corrective action more quickly and would also</p>

consider alerting users to the delay through DCMS social media channels. We will agree with our digital comms team a protocol whereby if any publications are not live on the website at 9.30am on the day of publication, we will force publication at 9.45 at the latest. If there is a legitimate reason why this cannot happen, then a message on the web page will be added to inform users of the delay.