

# REPORTING A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS

## 1. Core Information

<b>Title and link to statistical output</b>	International student migration research update: Aug 2017
<b>Name of statistical producer</b>	Office for National Statistics
<b>Name and contact details of person dealing with report</b>	Neil McIvor: 01329 447193 (xtn: 7193)   07407 142237
<b>Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)</b>	
<b>Date of report</b>	23 August 2017

## 2. Circumstances of breach

<b>Relevant principle/protocol and practice</b>	
Protocol 2, Practice 8: Ensure that no indication of the substance of a statistical report is made public, or given to the media or any other party not recorded as eligible for access before publication. Report to the National Statistician immediately any accidental or wrongful release, and investigate the circumstances	
<b>Date of occurrence of breach</b>	<b>23 August</b>
<p>During the afternoon of 23 August 2017 ONS' Media Relations Office circulated the media lines to take document ahead of the 24<sup>th</sup> August release on an internal communications database, the document was available to all ONS staff. These lines included unpublished key messages from the ONS statistics. The database is one of many separate databases open to all ONS staff, but only a few were informed of the presence of the new document so it would be unlikely to have been stumbled across in the small time window it was available.</p> <p>The document was also circulated to five members of ONS staff - working in media relations, digital publishing and private Office, who should not have seen the results. One of these members of staff had an out-of-office response on their email account and the remainder were contacted and confirmed they had not opened, or had not acted on the contents.</p> <p>Once the error was noticed, the lines were removed from the document at 15.08, having been available for five minutes.</p>	

## 3. Impact of the breach

The breach was of a technical nature. There is no evidence that any information left ONS.
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## 4. Corrective actions (taken or planned) to prevent re-occurrence

Staff have been reminded of the need to take care with media lines to take, and not to enter them on the portal till after publication date and time, as not all with access to the communications division portal may have authority to see lines ahead of publication.
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