

REPORTING A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS

1. Core Information [\[guidance\]](#)

Title and link to statistical output	Review outcomes of the key stage 2 national curriculum assessments in England, 2017 (provisional) https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/key-stage-2-national-curriculum-test-review-outcomes-2017
Name of statistical producer	Department for Education
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	Mike Jones – Deputy HoP – 0783 348 4201
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	n/a
Date of report	2 November 2017

2. Circumstances of breach [\[guidance\]](#)

Relevant principle/protocol and practice	Protocol 2, principle 7
Date of occurrence of breach	1 November 2017
<p><i>A Statistical First Release (SFR) pre-release meeting was held at 9:30 am on 1 November. Papers for this meeting were circulated to the Pre-Release Access (PRA) list with a restricted tag in the email title, and also warning text highlighted at the top of the email. Further, the restricted nature of the information and the reminder not to forward outside of the PRA list was made verbally at the opening of the pre-release meeting. Immediately following the pre-release meeting, key SFR production staff, comms colleagues and press office team members (all on original PRA list) discussed media handling lines.</i></p> <p><i>Following this meeting, at 10:36 the press office team circulated the media lines and headlines containing restricted statistics for approval to the PRA group involved in the discussion. Approval was given to send to the Minister and SPADS. There was no tag in the email title referring to the restricted nature of the contents, nor a warning in the body of the email. This was sent at 15:08 and included two shared mailboxes not on the PRA list; Comms Education and Schools and Press Office Newsdesk. A total of 16 people not on the PRA list had access to these mailboxes. SPAD approval was given in a reply to all in the email, including the two shared mailboxes not on the PRA list, at 15:10.</i></p> <p><i>The Chief Press Officer spotted the breach had occurred and reported to the HoP for statistics at 16:03.</i></p>	

3. Impact of the breach [\[guidance\]](#)

<p><i>16 people not on the pre-release access list had access to some of the headline results.</i></p> <p><i>No statistics were released in advance of publication.</i></p>

4. Corrective actions (taken or planned) to prevent re-occurrence [\[guidance\]](#)

<p><i>The Deputy HoP has engaged with the Head of media in the department to stress concerns around PRA breaches. Training has been arranged with DfE communications teams on handling of PRA with the aim to provide awareness. HoP is also engaging with the perm sec on this matter.</i></p>
