

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

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

<b>Title and link to statistical output</b>	Cereals usage by Millers, Brewers, Distillers and Maltsters UK <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/cereal-usage">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/cereal-usage</a>
<b>Name of statistical producer</b>	Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
<b>Name and contact details of person dealing with report</b>	Nick Olney Nick.olney@defra.gsi.gov.uk 02080 266398
<b>Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)</b>	This breach resulted in a minor delay to the publication. No statement was published.
<b>Date of report</b>	<b>8 February 2018</b>

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

<b>Relevant principle/protocol and practice</b>	Protocol 2 (Release Practices), Practice 4 "Issue statistical releases at the standard time of 09:30 on a weekday, to maintain consistency and to permit time for users to understand and respond to the information during normal working hours"
<b>Date of occurrence of breach</b>	8 February 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cereals usage by Millers, Brewers, Distillers and Maltsters UK are published quarterly. It is a National Statistic.</li> <li>• This latest release was due to be published at 09:30 on Thursday 8 February 2018.</li> <li>• A delay in the publication process resulted in this release not being available on the GOV.UK until 10.07 on the same day.</li> <li>• Statistical notice and attachments were sent through to the publication team on 7 February, in preparation for publication the next day. The data was loaded onto the system on 7 February but human error resulted in no 'second eyes' check being completed and the notice did not go live on 8 February at 9.30 am.</li> <li>• A combination of circumstances meant that no-one from the statistics team was available to check that the release was published at 09:30.</li> <li>• We received an email from the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) that the new data had not been loaded. A member of the statistics team alerted the publication team who loaded the data at 10.07 am on 8 February.</li> </ul> <p>There have been two other breaches for this release: 8 January 2015 <a href="https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/cereal-usage-by-millers-brewers-distillers-and-maltsters-uk-department-for-environment-food-and-rural-affairs/">https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/cereal-usage-by-millers-brewers-distillers-and-maltsters-uk-department-for-environment-food-and-rural-affairs/</a> 4 August 2016 <a href="https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/cereals-usage-by-millers-brewers-distillers-and-maltsters/">https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/cereals-usage-by-millers-brewers-distillers-and-maltsters/</a></p>	

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

There were no internal impacts and the AHDB were content that the data were loaded so promptly.

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

This breach was as a result of human error.

Publication of statistics releases is handled in 2 stages, by different members of the publishing team: 'preparation' and 'approval (second eyes)', This was an extremely rare occurrence. The procedures in place work very effectively with up to 30 releases per month.

The publication team will be reminded of the need for vigilance. The team will provide a schedule of upcoming releases each week to ensure all are aware of the actions required and when these need to take place.

All statistics teams will be asked to arrange for a colleague from another team to check publication at 09:30 if they cannot.