

REPORT OF A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR STATISTICS



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

Title and link to statistical output	Conceptions in England and Wales: 2016
Name of producer organisation	Office for National Statistics
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	Debra Prestwood Director General, Office for National Statistics, Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, NP10 8XG.
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	
Date of breach report	27/03/2018

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

Relevant principle(s) and practice(s)	Principle 3: Orderly release Practice 6: Statistics should be released to all users at 9.30am on a weekday.
Date of occurrence of breach	27/03/2018

Conceptions in England and Wales: 2016 release failed to publish as scheduled at 9:30.

The breach was caused by human error, due to a change in how interactive content is published. Conceptions in England and Wales: 2016 contained an interactive chart. The process for publishing interactive content has recently changed. The new process requires a step where the whole release needs to be removed from the publishing queue by a member of the publishing team, for the link to the interactive content to be updated. Due to human error once the link was updated and approved, the release was never re-added to the publishing queue before 9:30.

The Publishing Team monitor the website at 9:30 every morning to check releases go live. This breach was identified by the Publishing Team at 9:30 by watching the publishing queue and monitoring the website. The Publishing Team published the release to the back-up site by 09:34, but were unable to publish to the website until 09:50. This was due to the interactive content being edited by the Data Visualisation Team between 09:00 and 09:30 on the morning of release. If this content had not been edited at this time, the Publishing Team would have been able to manually publish the release to the website at 09:34, significantly reducing the delay in publish time.

The release was live on the website by 9:50.

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

Conceptions in England and Wales: 2016 release was delayed by 20 minutes. Public Health England (key user) enquired where the release was.

No other scheduled collections, publications or releases were affected by this issue.

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

Conduct refresher training for the whole of the Publishing team to ensure they are aware of the new process for publishing interactive content on ons.gov.uk.
Remind teams not to edit visualisations or any other content after 9:00am on day of publishing, as per the agreed process.