

REPORT OF A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR STATISTICS



1. Core Information

Title and link to statistical output	Land Transaction Tax registration statistics https://beta.gov.wales/land-transaction-tax-registration-statistics
Name of producer organisation	Welsh Revenue Authority
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	Adam Al-Nuaimi adam.al-nuaimi@wra.gov.wales 0300 025 4670
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	N/A
Date of breach report	18 April 2018

2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant principle(s) and practice(s)	Principle T3 – Orderly Release
Date of occurrence of breach	18 April 2018
<p><i>Give an account of what happened including roles of persons involved, dates, times etc</i></p> <p>Due to technical issues with the Welsh Government website, which the Welsh Revenue Authority (WRA) also uses, the publication was not made live until 11.00am on 18 April 2018, 90 minutes after the scheduled publication time.</p> <p>Although the WRA is a separate organisation, it is using some Welsh Government services and is only afforded limited resource for, and has limited control over, some key services. One of these services is web management. The issues here were partly due to volume of work for the person assigned to this work, who has responsibilities that are wider than those for the WRA, but also some technical challenges that were unforeseen in publishing statistics on what is a developing part of the website.</p> <p>The Welsh Government are part way through a migration to the beta site of gov.wales, which aims to adopt a similar approach to gov.uk. This introduced technical and content issues in this case because the WRA data is the first statistical content to adopt this new structure – Welsh Government's own statistics have not yet moved over to this part of the website.</p> <p>This meant that some of the issues unique to statistics including scheduling of documents to be published at 9:30 were underestimated, and underlying webpages weren't properly set up before the content was added. For example, in respect of following specific GDS standards, there are specifics on the use of the “%” symbol as opposed to the wording “per cent” after numbers which wasn't fully understood by all before documents were published, requiring change at a late (post 9.30) stage. (Note this may cause wider issues for the GSS - notably anyone publishing on the gov.uk platform).</p> <p>There was an also an additional change required in this case because we were adding a means to navigate to the statistics content from the WRA home page. This was also underestimated and largely caused by the limited resource referred to above.</p>	

3. Impact of the breach

Provide details of the impact of the breach both inside the producer body and externally

The impact of the breach was the statistical release was not available for around 90 minutes after the scheduled release time, while the issues were fixed. However, I am not aware of any attempt to access during this time and have received no queries on the information while it was missing, so the assumption is that the impact was negligible. A fuller description of the issues faced is given below.

Going forward, these issues are far less likely (if at all) to impact WRA or indeed Welsh Government statistics, as we have hopefully now identified the majority of the issues.

4. Corrective actions (taken or planned) to prevent re-occurrence

Describe the short-term actions made to redress the situation and the longer-term changes to procedures etc

While the fix was addressed, I had to decide between getting the limited resource I had to fix the underlying issue or put up a statement. I had got to the point of giving up on the fix and putting up a statement when the web manager stated it would be fixed in a few minutes, which indeed it was.

The longer-term solution is to achieve more dedicated web resource for WRA, who has a predominant focus on the requirements of the WRA. Whilst the reality is that this will not happen overnight, the breach itself is evidence that this is needed, and which ultimately will be helpful. We have already commissioned further discussions with our Welsh Government colleagues in this regard.

Having a dedicated web resource will ensure that the requirements of GDS publishing are fully understood and time included in the schedule for checking. We have prepared a short statement that could be published promptly in the event of a future delay, including a contact point for advice and access to the statistics if available.

It should be noted that one change that had to be made to the website today was the inclusion of a new section of the WRA home page to hold links to content such as statistics. This was an aspect that took longer than anticipated, but now that has been rectified, it should not be a repeat issue for us.