

REPORT OF A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR STATISTICS

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

Title and link to statistical output	Motoring Offences 2017/18 report https://www.psnl.police.uk/globalassets/inside-the-psni/our-statistics/motoring-offences-statistics/2018/march/motoring-offencespsni-monthly-update-to-end-march-2018.pdf
Name of producer organisation	PSNI Statistics Branch (NISRA)
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	Deborah Lyness
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	https://www.psnl.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/
Date of breach report	1 June 2018

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

Relevant principle(s) and practice(s)	Protocol 2 release Practices, Practice 4 – Issue statistical releases at the standard time of 9.30am on a weekday..
Date of occurrence of breach	31 May 2018
<p><i>Give an account of what happened including roles of persons involved, dates, times etc</i></p> <p>The publication was prepared on the PSNI Website the evening before release date with links set to go live at 9.30am on 31st May. On checking the website just prior to 9.30am it was noted that other links to documents were not allowing download due to a Server Error. This issue applied to the 'downloadability' of all documents on the PSNI website. At 9.30am this scenario also applied to the Motoring Offences pdf and supporting Excel files. The Deputy Principal lead immediately notified Head of Branch who contacted the Digital Hub (9.40am) to flag the issue. Digital Hub were unaware and went to investigate. They reported back to HoB at 10.00am to say the issue needed to be referred to the Web software managers. PSNI IT were also notified. The issue was resolved at 10.10am on 1st June.</p>	

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

<p><i>Provide details of the impact of the breach both inside the producer body and externally</i></p> <p>Ready access to the report was unavailable for 24 hours after the scheduled publication team. However, while this was a preannounced report, it was deemed a low key release with no statistical press release or pre release access involved. There were no requests for access from users.</p>
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4. Corrective actions (taken or planned) to prevent re-occurrence[\[guidance\]](#)

<p><i>Describe the short-term actions made to redress the situation and the longer term changes to procedures etc</i></p> <p>PSNI Statistics Branch holds distribution lists for individuals who have expressed interest in receiving our statistics. The report was provided to these individuals just after 9.30am on 31st May.</p> <p>A notification of the issue was placed on the PSNI Statistics webpage and users have been asked to contact us through our generic email address should they require a copy of the report via email. We continue to liaise with PSNI Digital Hub and have stressed that we have a requirement under the Code to publish on time. Points of learning will be distilled as soon as a solution to the failure is identified.</p>
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The web provider confirmed that the issue was caused by human error within their software team, who failed to update part of their processes following an Episerver (website software) upgrade. This was resolved by the web provider and they have subsequently introduced an automated check within their deployment team to prevent this from happening in future.