

# REPORT OF A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR STATISTICS



## 1. Core Information

<b>Title and link to statistical output</b>	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/latest-official-statistics-on-tuberculosis-tb-in-cattle-in-great-britain-monthly">Monthly TB in cattle in Great Britain statistical notice (data to April 2018)</a> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/latest-official-statistics-on-tuberculosis-tb-in-cattle-in-great-britain-monthly">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/latest-official-statistics-on-tuberculosis-tb-in-cattle-in-great-britain-monthly</a>
<b>Name of producer organisation</b>	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
<b>Name and contact details of person dealing with report</b>	<a href="mailto:TBstatistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk">TBstatistics@defra.gsi.gov.uk</a>
<b>Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)</b>	This breach is being dealt with internally. No statement was published.
<b>Date of breach report</b>	20 July 2018

## 2. Circumstances of breach

<b>Relevant principle(s) and practice(s)</b>	Pre-release statistics shared outside the pre-release list (Principle T3, Practices T3.3, T3.4)
<b>Date of occurrence of breach</b>	<b>18 July 2018</b>
<p>The pre-release documents (submission, release and tables) were circulated at 09:37 on Tuesday 17 July 2018 to named colleagues with agreed pre-release access as per usual Defra processes.</p> <p>The email was titled "OFFICIAL SENSITIVE SUB &lt;lead private secretary&gt;: Pre-Release of April 2018 Statistics on TB in Cattle". The body of the email contained the disclaimer:</p> <p><b>OFFICIAL SENSITIVE</b> These statistics are being sent to you under pre-release access restrictions. <b>You must not forward this email or show or discuss the statistics (including any indication of content or trend e.g. 'favourable', 'unfavourable') with anyone not on the circulation list.</b></p> <p>The statistics will be published on <b>Wednesday 18 July 2018 at 09:30</b> when the security marking and restriction on circulation will expire.</p> <p>If you think you may need to share this information with anyone not on the circulation list, you must first speak to the Head of Profession (Ken Roy).</p> <p><b>Pre-release access may be removed from anyone breaching the rules."</b></p> <p>On 17 July 2018 09:58 the press officer responded to the pre-release statistics to the Policy Deputy Director copying in three other recipients. All 5 of these recipients are on the pre-release access list. The email did not contain the statistics release or tables but discussed additional briefing that referred to the trends in the pre-release statistics.</p> <p>The breach occurred on Wed 18 July 2018 at 06:58 when the Deputy Director replied to this email additionally copying in a shared mailbox "tb comms". The DD email contained further references to the data in the release.</p> <p>The "TB comms" mailbox is a shared mailbox accessible by 7 members of the TB programme who deal with correspondence.</p>	

All the staff have given accounts of what action they took:

HEO - skim read the email, established he could not action anything and then closed it. He did not discuss with anyone.

EO - skim read the email and realised it wasn't for her to work with. She didn't discuss the email with anyone.

EO2 – annual leave

SEO – did not open the inbox between 06:58 and 09:30

G7 – did not open the inbox between 06:58 and 09:30

AO - have access to the mailbox but have not been inside it for a long time (months)

HEO – historic access to the inbox

### **3. Impact of the breach**

Internal impact 7 staff that weren't on the pre-release access list potentially had early access (2 hours 32 minutes) to discussion on trends on the latest statistics. Two staff read the email but did not take any further action.

The statistics were not distributed outside the government department.

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

All members of the TB Programme including those not on the pre-release access list reminded of their responsibilities with respect to pre-release statistics in their final format. All recipients of the Pre-release statistics asked to repeat the statement on protective marking of the statistics on all emails sent within the 24 hour pre-release period.