

REPORT OF A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR STATISTICS



1. Core Information

Title and link to statistical output	Department for International Trade inward investment results 2017 to 2018 https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/department-for-international-trade-inward-investment-results-2017-to-2018
Name of producer organisation	Department for International Trade
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	Tom Knight, Chief Statistician Tom.Knight@trade.gov.uk +44 (0)7765795771
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	N/A
Date of breach report	15 August 2018

2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant principle(s) and practice(s)	Principle T3 – Orderly Release Practice T3.3, T3.4
Date of occurrence of breach	25/6/18
<p>A table containing a detailed breakdown of inward investment results was provided over email to the Director of Inward Investment and the Managing Director at London & Partners 24 hours prior to publication (9:30am 25/6/18) as part of the pre-release access list. London & Partners are one of our key delivery partners and essential in the production of these statistics in providing intelligence on inward investment products into the UK. Pre-release access allows them to prepare coherent briefing, but not to influence the content of the reporting.</p> <p>The data provided was not the entirety of the publication which would be released at the official scheduled time, but a London-specific cut.</p> <p>The Director of Inward Investment forwarded the pre-release to an individual not on the pre-release access list, the Head of Corporate Communications & Public Affairs (at London & Partners) at 11:04am. Following this, London & Partners emailed an inquiry to our media handling representative to ask for any planned DIT press release that would go hand in hand with the main publication.</p> <p>The Head of Investment at DIT, followed up on this request by emailing London & Partners reiterating pre-release protocols and explaining that anyone with access to the data not on the pre-release list must delete it immediately. This response was sent at 6:14pm on the same day. London & Partners acknowledged the response at 6:42pm and apologised for the breach.</p>	

3. Impact of the breach

<p>To our understanding, due to the small scale of the breach and the individuals involved, there was no significant impact of the breach. Moreover, as the data provided to London and Partners for pre-release access included only London relevant data any potential impact of the breach would have been substantially reduced.</p>
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4. Corrective actions (taken or planned) to prevent re-occurrence

The immediate reaction to the breach was an instruction for anyone not on the pre-release access list to delete the data in question and a reminder of the protocols involved in pre-release.

Despite a pre-existing strong warning in the cover email, we intend to make the warning clearer and more explicit. The existing wording was as follows:

From: []

Sent: 25 June 2018 09:31

Cc: [Copy list]

Subject: Pre-release notification of DIT's Inward Investment Results 2017/18 - London & Partners

RESTRICTED: 24 HOUR PRE-RELEASE ACCESS TO OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Dear All

Please find attached the **Department for International Trade Inward Investment Results 2017/18**, which will be published at 9:30am tomorrow, Tuesday 26 June, as Official Statistics. The following documents attached are:

- The pre-release list
- A table containing a detailed breakdown of the results for your area
- A **pre-release declaration form that needs to be completed on receipt and returned** (scanned copies accepted)

Media handling is being coordinated by [named individual] on behalf of DIT.

CONFIDENTIALITY WARNING:

Pre-release Official Statistics – please treat as **OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE**, with limited circulation to individuals named on the pre-release access list. Not for sharing or discussion with anyone else (including DIT colleagues) before publication – OFFICIAL thereafter. Accidental or wrongful release (including to internal DIT colleagues) should be reported immediately. Wrongful release includes indications of the content or the trend of the figures, including descriptions such as “favourable” or “unfavourable”. If there are any issues please contact DIT Chief Statistician Tom Knight, or [], who will help resolve.

Lastly, the Chief Statistician will draw this breach report to London & Partner's attention and advise that pre-release access may be withdrawn if they were to breach pre-release again.