

REPORT OF A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR STATISTICS

1. Core Information

Title and link to statistical output	<p>Monthly tuberculosis (TB) in cattle in Great Britain statistical notice (data to November 2018)</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/latest-official-statistics-on-tuberculosis-tb-in-cattle-in-great-britain-monthly</p> <p>Associated datasets</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/tuberculosis-tb-in-cattle-in-great-britain</p>
Name of producer organisation	Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	tbstatistics@defra.gov.uk
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/latest-official-statistics-on-tuberculosis-tb-in-cattle-in-great-britain-monthly
Date of breach report	18 February 2019

2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant principle(s) and practice(s)	<p>Principle T3 Orderly release Practice T3.6 Statistics should be released to all users at 9.30am on a weekday.</p>
Date of occurrence of breach	13 February 2019
<p>The statistical notice 'Monthly tuberculosis (TB) in cattle in Great Britain statistical notice (data to November 2018)', an official statistics publication, and the associated datasets were due to be published on the Defra website at 09:30am on 13 February.</p> <p>The statistical notice and datasets were provided to colleagues in the Welsh Government (WG) under pre-release access rules on 12 February, to enable publication of the Wales data on the WG website at 09:30am on 13 February.</p> <p>Shortly after 09:30am on 13 February, the statistician in the TB statistics team noticed that neither the statistical notice nor the datasets were live on the Defra website. She immediately alerted the publishing team for that area (Farming, Food and Biosecurity) and the lead statistician in TB statistics.</p> <p>The lead statistician contacted all those on the pre-release access list, including those in WG, to advise them of the problem and ensure they did not reference the statistics until she was able to confirm publication.</p> <p>On checking, the publishing team found that that the final step of publishing the information on the Defra website had not been done.</p> <p>It was established that the error was due to human oversight. The team immediately took steps to rectify.</p>	

3. Impact of the breach

Timings on the GOV.UK publishing system confirmed that statistical notice was published at 09:47am with the updated datasets available slightly later at 11:04. There would have been a further slight delay before the publications were visible on the website.

The TB data for Wales, taken only from the statistical notice, was published on time (around 17 minutes before it was available on the Defra website) on the Welsh Government website (<https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/incidence-tuberculosis-cattle-great-britain/?lang=en>). Access to the full statistical release was delayed on both websites until around 11:04am.

We received one message to the [@DefraStats](#) Twitter account at 09:50 asking why only the previous months' statistics were available. The lead statistician responded to say the new statistics had just gone live. We have not received any subsequent further enquiries (either by email or on social media).

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

The breach occurred due to human error during a very busy period.

We are in the process of increasing the number of GOV.UK publishers. Training is being arranged for 5 additional people, which will double capacity.

In the meantime, there will be closer collaboration between publishing teams, making additional checks to ensure all publication requests have been picked up and actioned