

REPORT OF A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR STATISTICS



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

Title and link to statistical output	Civil Service Statistics https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/civil-service-statistics
Name of producer organisation	Cabinet Office
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	Martin Stopher
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	N/A
Date of breach report	23 July 2019

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

Relevant principle(s) and practice(s)	Trust: Orderly release Practice T3.3, T3.4
Date of occurrence of breach	23 July 2019
Following the distribution of pre-release material, an official named on the pre-release access list showed some lines to a senior official who was not on the pre-release access list. Whilst the official took the precautionary step of redacting figures before sighting their colleague, this still gave a clear 'indication of travel' of the statistics.	

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

<i>Provide details of the impact of the breach both inside the producer body and externally</i> The impact is considered low. The breach centred on clearance of lines only and did not involve further distribution of any material subject to pre-release arrangements e.g. statistical bulletin or data tables. Given the breach was internal and with one senior official, we consider the risk of a negative external impact on users to be low. We are not aware of any external communications relating to the statistics occurring ahead of the formal published release date.

4. Corrective actions (taken or planned) to prevent re-occurrence [\[guidance\]](#)

<i>Describe the short-term actions made to redress the situation and the longer term changes to procedures etc</i> Whilst the statistics in question are not considered market sensitive or particularly high-profile, officials have nevertheless already agreed to instigate changes to their internal procedures in light of this breach. Separately, a discussion has been arranged between the Head of Profession and the Chief Statistician with relevant officials in order to remind them of their obligations when handling official statistics subject to pre-release access arrangements. This meeting has been scheduled to take place ahead of the next release of official statistics. In addition, the producing statistics team will review their current processes and update these as necessary so as to minimise the chance of similar breaches in the future.
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