

REPORTING A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS

1. Core Information


Title and link to statistical output	Winter Daily Situation Reports, published here: https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/winter-daily-sitreps/
Name of statistical producer	NHS England and NHS Improvement
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	Kerry Evert (Kerry.evert@nhs.net)
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	
Date of report	30 January 2020




2. Circumstances of breach


Relevant principle/protocol and practice	Protocol 2, Practice 4 - statistics not released at the scheduled time of 09:30
Date of occurrence of breach	23 January 2020
<i>Give an account of what has happened including roles of persons involved, dates, times etc.</i> Due to unforeseen circumstances, the analyst responsible for publishing the Winter Daily Situation Reports was unavoidably delayed getting to work to publish the workbooks. Security permissions within our website setup mean that we are unable to queue publications in advance for automatic release as it would mean that users without pre-release access would be able to access the unpublished data. Publication took place at 10:30 that day.	

3. Impact of the breach

<i>Provide details of the impact of the breach both inside the producer body and externally</i> The publication of the statistics was delayed by 60 minutes. Two queries were received, one on Twitter, which was answered with the following comment:
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 **Jon Ware** @Jon_Ware · Jan 23
Hi @NHSEnglandStats are the winter situation reports (week ending 19th January 2020) coming out today?

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 **NHS England Stats**
@NHSEnglandStats [Follow](#)

Replying to @Jon_Ware

Hi. We've experienced some technical difficulties with the publication. The data should be available shortly.

The other query was received by email, the query was responded to by return email.

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

Describe the short-term actions made to redress the situation and the longer term changes to procedures etc

The impact of the delay was low and we received no further enquiries about this following the publication. If a similar incident happens in the future, information will be shared on social media and the statistics published as soon as possible.

In addition, we will work with our internal team to ensure that more than one person has the completed files ready for upload at 09:30 as well as try to implement a change to our systems so that we can queue publications the day before, avoiding issues with last minute access to the website. We will also investigate the feasibility of having people in other locations on standby to publish the data if we are unable to access the system again.