

BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS

This document reports a breach of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, or the relevant Pre-release Access to Official Statistics Orders, to which the Code applies as if it included these orders.

1. Background information

Name of Statistical Output (including weblink to the relevant output or 'landing page')

British Casualties – Afghanistan 7 Oct 2001 - 28 Feb 2013

<http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&thiscontent=1360&date=2013-03-14&pubType=0&PublishTime=09:30:00&from=home&tabOption=1>

Name of Producer Organisation

Ministry of Defence (MoD)

Name and contact details of the statistical Head of Profession (Lead Official in an Arm's Length Body) submitting this report, and date of report

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2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Protocol 2 : Release Practices,

Practice 4: "Issue statistical releases at the standard time of 09:30 on a weekday, to maintain consistency and to permit time for users to understand and respond to the information during normal working hours."

Date of occurrence

14 March 2013

Nature of breach (including links with previous breaches, if any)

The publication was not made available until 10:14 on the date of publication.

Reasons for breach

A security fail-safe mechanism prevented the publication from being automatically released at the set time.

Although this issue was identified immediately, corrective action was delayed due to fact that secured passwords to the website database were not accessible.

3. Reactions and impact (both within the producer body and outside)

The publication was available within forty-five minutes of the publicised release time on the pre-announced day of publication, allowing users time to understand and respond to the publication during normal working hours. We are not aware of any adverse reaction or impact.

4. Corrective actions taken to prevent reoccurrence of such a breach (include short-term actions, and long-term changes made to procedures)

The internal process for publication is currently being re-written in anticipation of the migration to the gov.uk website. The existing fail-safe code used for release is being checked and re-written to ensure correct operating.

We have identified a secure location for the storage of passwords on each Defence Analytical Services Agency (DASA) site, and additional staff has been provided with access to these.