

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')

Deaths during or following police contact: Statistics for England and Wales 2014/15
<http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/page/deaths-during-or-following-police-contact>

Name of Producer Organisation

Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC)

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

David Blunt, Home Office - david.blunt3@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk
23 July 2015

2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Protocol 2 – point 4

Date of occurrence

23 July 2015

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

The report did not go live at the standard time of 9.30am on the Independent Police Complaints Commission website – it was live at approximately 10:08am

Reasons for breach

While internally steps were taken to be ready for publication at 9.30, due to overnight technical issues with both the internal IT infrastructure and the external website server, it was not possible to publish the annual report at 9.30. Immediate steps were taken to identify and rectify the issue and the report was published as soon as possible.

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

None

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

There has been followed up at the IT providers (Steria) board meeting and with website managers. A process to flag server issues that impact on the content management system (CMS) has been put in place and a mechanism has been put in place to allow publication via another route if the CMS connection is not available. It is noted that there may still not be possible if the servers are out

The incident has also been flagged with Steria's Skyscape Account Manager as this is essentially an issue with Skyscape that would have affected all Skyscape users who use its infrastructure as a cloud service provision.

5. Links to published statements about this breach

None

6. Any other relevant supporting material

Response from Big Blue Door (website server) *'The document upload issue was a result of the file systems becoming read-only again. This is linked to the VMs which are controlled by Skyscape, and has occurred a number of times in recent weeks. There was a brief outage yesterday as well (6 mins). The OS moves the files to read only when it detects a problem with the disk to prevent corruption. Rebooting the VMs restored access to the file system.'*