

## 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')

Driver and rider testing and instructor statistics Q4 2014/15 (Jan-Mar 15)  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/driving-tests-and-instructors-statistics>

Name of Producer Organisation

Department for Transport

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 8:**

Ensure that no indication of the substance of a statistical report is made public, or given to the media or any other party not recorded as eligible for access before publication. Report to the National Statistician immediately any accidental or wrongful release, and investigate the circumstances.

Date of occurrence

24 June 2015

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

- updated data tables (DRT0501, DRT0502, DRT0503) were due for publication at 09.30 on Thursday 25 June 2015
- an updated page containing the new tables was created on the draft GOV.UK server on Wednesday 24 June 2015
- at 14.39 the draft web page was accidentally published when it was being scheduled to publish at 09.30 the next day
- this breach was noticed immediately and actions were taken to republish the old data tables over the new data tables
- the web page and old data tables were published at 15.00, 21 minutes after the breach was noticed

Reasons for breach

- this breach was caused by human error
- specifically, Department for Transport digital publishing staff missed that the page was not set to 'schedule' when saving, and then when scheduling the page for publishing

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

- a GOV.UK email alert was automatically sent to subscribers at 14.40
- between 14.39 and 15.09 Google Analytics showed that 11 people visited the web page with the incorrectly published tables
  - 5 (possibly external) people visited the page after receiving the GOV.UK email alert
  - 6 DfT staff (digital and statistics team) visited the pages
- it is not possible to tell if any of the 11 people downloaded the tables
- no external reaction has come to our notice
- in addition to digital and statistics staff responsible for taking corrective action, senior DfT official and communications staff are being briefed

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

- the breach was discussed at one to one staff meetings and at digital team meetings and all staff were reminded of the
  - seriousness of statistical breaches
  - importance of attention to detail
  - of being extra diligent during the second eye checking process
- a process has been put in place whereby the person drafting statistical content must schedule the content for the correct release time and date before saving the content.

**5. Links to published statements about this breach**

**6. Any other relevant supporting material**