

## BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS

A breach of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics occurs where one or more provisions of the Code were not followed in situations where an exemption or exception had not been approved by the UK Statistics Authority's Head of Assessment, as required in paragraph (xii) of the Code's preamble. Rules on pre-release access to statistics are covered in the relevant Pre-Release Access to Official Statistics Orders; the Code applies as if it includes these orders.

### 1 Background Information

Name of Statistical Output (including web link if relevant)

Financial Statistics, No. 582, October 2010

Name of Producer Organisation

Office for National Statistics

Name and contact details of person submitting this report, and date of report

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Telephone: 01633 455643  
Date of report: 25 October 2010

### 2 Circumstances of Breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Protocol 2, Release practices  
Practice 2, Publish a timetable of statistical releases for twelve months ahead.

Date of occurrence

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2010

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

On 8<sup>th</sup> October 2010, it came to light that the monthly Financial Statistics publication did not have a timetable of statistical releases for twelve months ahead (Protocol 2, practice 2).

Reasons for breach

Responsibility for the monthly Financial Statistics publication has recently moved to Newport. The October release was the first time that Newport staff had had full responsibility for the publication including its release. Unfortunately, they had not been

made aware that the 12 month timetabling requirement had not been entered onto the Publication Release Calendar. This is now in the process of being rectified.

### **3 Reactions and Impact**

No emails or telephone calls were received from users regarding this breach.

### **4 Corrective Actions Taken (include short-term actions, and long-term changes made to procedures)**

Staff responsible for the production and release of monthly Financial Statistics have been made aware of the Code of Practice requirement to enter a timetable of statistical releases for twelve months ahead. They are now in the process of entering the timetable onto the Publication Hub Release Calendar.

Related to this, the relevant staff have also been made aware of the National Statistician's Guidance: Presentation and Publication of Official Statistics that states that 'the planned date of release must be added to the Publication Hub Release Calendar no later than four weeks in advance of the release date, or six months in advance in the case of market sensitive statistics' (NS guidance, page 6, para 28).

### **5 Any other relevant supporting material (including link to published statements about this breach)**