

## 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')

1. Medical Discharges in the UK Regular Armed Forces  
This is not a National Statistic.

Link to publication:

[http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php?pub=MED\\_DIS](http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php?pub=MED_DIS)

2. UK Armed Forces - Monthly Personnel Report  
This is a National Statistic.

Link to publication:

<http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php?pub=MPR>

3. Naval Service - Monthly Personnel Situation Report  
This is not a National Statistic.

Link to publication:

<http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&pubType=0&thiscontent=2710&PublishTime=08:30:00&date=2013-07-11&disText=June2013&from=listing&topDate=2013-07-11>

Name of Producer Organisation

Ministry of Defence (MOD) – Defence Statistics

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

Simon Mahony, Head of Profession (HoP) for Statistics

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Breach report completed on 16 July 2013.

## 2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Protocol 2 : Release Practices

Practice 4. Issue statistical releases at a 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

11 July 2013

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

- At 09:15 on 11 July a member of Defence Statistics reported to the Web Team that the external website – [www.dasa.mod.uk](http://www.dasa.mod.uk) - was not loading.
- The team immediately started investigating for any issues locally, and made a call to the website and sever host, Rackspace to check whether any external issues were affecting the site.
- Troubleshooting with Rackspace to find the source of the problem, and a solution, lasted about an hour.
- The problem was due a security incident on the MOD's Joint Server Farm (affecting all MOD websites), following which automated security protection measures were triggered to protect the websites. These automated measures temporarily blocked access to the site.
- Once the problem was identified, the Defence Statistics team negotiated that access to the site should be reinstated. The site started working again at about 10:30.
- The publications were uploaded to the website at 09:30, however for the reasons above, the website was not accessible until 10:30.

Reasons for breach

The reason for the breach was that access to the MOD's websites was blocked due to automated security measures following a security incident. These automated security procedures resulted in the Defence Statistics website being inaccessible.

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

The publications were available within one hour 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 HoP was alerted to the breach, as soon as he was contactable that morning, at 10:00 on 11 July 2013.

The website downtime was as a result of MOD automated procedures following a security incident, and was therefore not avoidable.

However, Defence Statistics have requested that we are informed immediately of any actions made by Rackspace and the Army Information Services Branch which may affect accessibility to [www.dasa.mod.uk](http://www.dasa.mod.uk) in future. Early notification will enable Defence Statistics to ensure the relevant statistical teams are aware that statistics will be temporarily inaccessible, enabling them to deal with any user queries.

Although we do normally warn known users of any delay to the release of publications, given the delay was expected to be short it was decided this action was not necessary.

Defence Statistics publications will be moving to gov.uk later this year, which will prevent recurrence of such a breach.

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

When the breach report is published on the UK Statistics Authority website we will link to it from our website [www.dasa.mod.uk](http://www.dasa.mod.uk)