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')

Accommodation statistics (previously UK Defence Statistics Chapter 6)
This is a National Statistic.

Link to publication:
http://www.dasa.mod.uk/index.php?pub=UKDS

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

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Breach report completed on 22 May 2013

2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Protocol 2: Release Practices; Practice 7

Date of occurrence

The breach was discovered on 20 May 2013.

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

On 13 May 2013, a draft copy of the MoD Annual Report and Accounts was distributed to senior MoD officials for comment. The draft contained figures due for release in Defence Statistics Accommodation National Statistics (previously UK Defence Statistics Chapter 6). Release is planned for July 2013. The specific figures quoted included the number of Service Families Accommodation properties in the UK, their Standard for Condition and the proportion that are empty.

The Annual Reports and Accounts team received the statistics from the MoD Defence Infrastructure Organisation team, who also supply the figures used in UK Defence Statistics.

The figures were not made available externally to the department.

Reasons for breach

The individuals in the MoD Defence Infrastructure Organisation team and the Annual Accounts team who released the figures were not aware that these figures should not be made available internally before the National Statistics publication date.

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

MoD Defence Infrastructure Organisation team and the Annual Accounts team were informed on 22 May 2013 that a breach had occurred. We are not aware that any wider use has been made of the figures, either internally or externally.

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

The HoP identified that there had been a breach on 20 May 2013.

Action was taken to inform MoD Defence Infrastructure Organisation team and the Annual Reports team on 22 May 2013 to prevent any wider circulation on the figures. Both teams were informed that they must not circulate these statistics again, prior to the National Statistics publication date.

All individuals who received the draft Annual Report have been contacted to explain that they must not use or circulate the figures further inside the Department, or release them outside the Department.

The responsible statistician briefed the data suppliers on 29 May 2013 to explain the Code of Practice and their responsibilities under the Code. Publication date of the National Statistic will be moved forward to 4 July 2013 to reduce the likelihood of further breaches and the release date has been made available on the Publication Hub (Bulletin 6.02 – Accommodation).

Contact was made with the UK Statistics Authority on 20 May 2013 giving the broad outline of the breach.

The HoP for Statistics takes responsibility for the following action*:*

- The Code of Practice for Official Statistics will be re-emphasised to the MoD Defence Infrastructure Organisation team and the Annual Reports team and a copy of the breach report will copied to the Directors of the two areas to prevent any further breaches.

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 http://www.dasa.mod.uk.