

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')

Pesticide Usage Survey Reports

<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/pusstats/surveys/documents/softFruit2014.pdf>

Name of Producer Organisation

Health & Safety Executive

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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26 October 2015

2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Protocol 2 Release Practice 4.

Date of occurrence

9 September 2015

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

The Pesticide Usage Survey reports have dates and times of publication agreed with the Chemicals Regulation Directorate at the Health and Safety executive. It is responsibility of The Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) to publish at the agreed time and date.

The agreed date and time of publication for the Soft Fruit Pesticide Usage Survey Report (Report 264) was 09:30 am on 9 September 2015.

The report was not published at the standard time of 9.30am.

A Fera member of staff noticed and reported the breach at 09:35 and Fera's IT department dealt with the issue and published the report as soon as possible.

Reasons for breach

Human Error: The reminder for report publication failed to remind the person responsible and publication did not go ahead until 09:49.

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

Immediate action was taken to resolve the error and the soft fruit report was published at 09:49.

At the time of writing this report, 26 October 2015, no complaints have been received.

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

This breach was the result of human error.

For the future actions will include using automated and personal reminders for the publication of the reports 15 minutes before the time of publication.

The publication is published by staff within Fera's IT department but it is members of the survey team who will be responsible for clearly setting out the requirements for each publication and the reminders for each publication.

5. Links to published statements about this breach

This breach resulted in a minor delay to publication. No statement was published.

6. Any other relevant supporting material