

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')

Quality Outcomes Framework (QOF) Recorded Dementia Diagnoses - August 2015
(<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB18668>)

Name of Producer Organisation

Health and Social Care Information Centre

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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02 October 2015

2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

- *Protocol 2 - Release practices*
 - *Practice 4 - Issue statistical releases at the standard time of 9.30am 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

02 October 2015

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

- The HSCIC publishes its Official and National Statistics on its website and links to the publication page from gov.uk.

- Because of operational issues within the HSCIC web content management system (CMS), the publication did not go live at 9.30am.
- On checking this at 9.30am, the Statistical Governance Officer liaised with the web team contact, letting them know that, while the release was publicised on the HSCIC splash page and HSCIC calendar page, the actual publication page displayed an error.

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- The publications were confirmed as live on the HSCIC site at 2.18pm, which is five hours late (however see box 4 below re data live on gov.uk site at 10.01am).

Reasons for breach

As part of the publication process, the online document repository has “data from” and “data to” dates. As this was a snapshot of data, only the “data to” field was completed. As both fields were required, the page failed to go live.

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

The publication team was kept informed at all points and did not report any contact from customers about the issue.

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

Short term action:

- While the cause of the breach was being investigated, the Statistical Governance Officer uploaded the files to gov.uk and sent the link to the Responsible Statistician for information and distribution among stakeholders.
- Also liaised with web team to redirect the HSCIC links to this page: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/quality-outcomes-framework-qof-recorded-dementia-diagnoses-august-2015> - went live at 10.01am.

Long term change:

- The Responsible Statistician has discussed at length the issues raised by this breach with Statistical Governance colleagues, and the wider team in order to share knowledge.

- The information about the lack of validation on some fields and the requirement to currently populate them in full in the publication planner is being added to the web section of the publications process training (conducted quarterly at the HSCIC).
- Field validation has been included in the specification for the new database that will carry HSCIC publications.
- The web and ICT teams have held a meeting to discuss this issue along with a discussion on the web publication process.