

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')

Vocation and Other Qualifications July – October 2013

Higher Qualifications July - October 2013

Name of Producer Organisation

Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual)

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

Alison Fisher. Report dated 22 February 2014

Email: Alison.Fisher@Ofqual.gov.uk

Tel: 02476 716809

2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Protocol 2.3 Ensure that all National Statistics can be accessed from the National Statistics Publication Hub.

Date of occurrence

27 November 2013

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

The publication was available on our website from 09:30 on the 27 November 2013 but was not available through the National Statistics Publication Hub.

Reasons for breach

The web link to the publication was not included in the general release edition details for both publications. This is partly due to the fact that all changes made to the release could not be approved by the HoP as she hasn't been able to access her Tridion account for the last 6 months. The publishing support team had to approve the changes.

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

No feedback received

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

Immediate communication was undertaken between the statistics team and the publishing support team to resolve the breach as soon as possible. This included an e-mail sent to the publishing support team with the details of the release and the associated web link. The publishing support team included the link to the publications on the same day (22 January 2014).

To prevent the breach from happening again, the stats team made sure that all future releases have a web link in the General Edition release details. A process was also put in place to make sure the National Statistics Publication Hub has a live link to the publication on the day of release and that the web link is included in the release when it is created.

The HoP will be meeting with our IT team to see if the problems accessing Tridion are at our end. She will also continue discussions with the publishing support team to resolve the access issue.