

## 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')

- Business investment in the UK, provisional: Apr to Jun 2016  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/businessinvestmentintheukprovisionalaprtojun2016>
- UK index of services: June 2016  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/indexofservicesjune2016>
- UK GDP, second estimate: Apr to Jun 2016  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/ukgdpsecondestimateaprtojun2016>
- Sub-regional productivity in the UK (supplementary tables): Mar 2016  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/subregionalproductivityintheuksupplementarytablesmar2016>

Name of Producer Organisation

Office for National Statistics (ONS)

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

Glenn Everett,

ONS Statistical Head of Profession, Office for National Statistics, Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, NP10 8XG.

26/8/16

### 2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Protocol 2 release practices/Practice 4 issue releases at 09:30 - 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

26 August 2016

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

Releases not published at 09:30 on the ONS website.

Reasons for breach

A bug in the ONS publishing system prevented the automated publishing processes to occur causing releases to fail to publish at 9:30. The ONS publishing team made the content available on the back up website at 9:35. All content was manually published by 9:43

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

ONS received 3 negative comments on Twitter. Links to the bulletin published on the backup site were provided shortly at 9:35. The ONS Media Relations Office received a small number of queries asking when the data would be available.

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

The bug was identified at 9:30 when the publishing team noted the statistical bulletins had failed to publish. The bug was in the system which stores all content for publishing. A fix has been identified and successfully implemented to resolve the issue. For contingency purposes, the ONS publishing team have extended their automated tests to capture additional scenarios. The team are confident with the automated tests and the fix put in place this issue will not reoccur.

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

None

**6. Any other relevant supporting material**

None