

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')

Local authority population projections for Wales (2014-based): Variant projections

Name of Producer Organisation

Welsh Government

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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2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Protocol 2, Release 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 work hours.

Date of occurrence

6 October 2016

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

On 6 October 2016, the "Local authority population projections for Wales (2014-based): Variant projections" first release, intended for publication at 9:30am, was not published until

12:11pm. This was due to the wrong pdf attachment being uploaded to the release webpage in error. The incorrect file was the principal projections release that had already been published a week earlier.

Reasons for breach

The wrong attachment was sent to the publishing team for upload to the website due to similarities in the naming convention for the files. Both releases had very similar file names and were held in the same folder.

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

When checking the webpage at midday with the stats web team to look at the layout of the page, this was picked up. The incorrect file was immediately replaced with the correct one by our statistics web publishing team. The number of people who visited the projections webpage between 9.30 am and midday was 37, and there were no downloads of the incorrect document. Because the file was in a PDF format, users would need to have downloaded the file in order to view it. We were not contacted by any users during this period, querying the absence of the correct release.

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

Originally it was planned that the “principal projections” and the “variant projections” releases would be published together, however it was not possible in the timescales for this round. In future the projections and the variants releases will be stored in separate folders and it is planned they will be published on the same day.

Generally the stats web team double check the outputs before publication but on this occasion the similarity between the names of the documents led to this error being missed. We will reinforce the need for that process to be robust.

5. Links to published statements about this breach

A link to the breach report (once published) will be put on the website.

6. Any other relevant supporting material