

REPORTING A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS

1. Core Information [\[guidance\]](#)

Title and link to statistical output	<p>NHS Combined Performance statistics, published here:</p> <p>https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/combined-performance-summary/</p> <p>This comprises the following publications:</p> <p>Referral to treatment waiting times statistics for consultant-led elective care for August 2017</p> <p>Waiting times for suspected and diagnosed cancer patients for August 2017</p> <p>Diagnostics waiting times and activity for August 2017</p> <p>Early Intervention in Psychosis Access and Waiting Time Experimental Statistics for August 2017</p> <p>Monthly hospital activity data for August 2017</p> <p>NHS 111 Minimum Data Set (September 2017 data)</p> <p>A&E attendances and emergency admissions for September 2017</p> <p>Delayed Transfers of Care for August 2017</p> <p>Ambulance Quality Indicators: Clinical Outcomes (May 2017 data)</p> <p>Ambulance Quality Indicators: Systems Indicators (August 2017 data)</p>
Name of statistical producer	<p>NHS England</p>
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	<p>Clare Hiblin</p>
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	<p>Notification was via the @NHSEnglandMedia and @NHSEnglandstats twitter:</p> <p>https://twitter.com/NHSEnglandMedia/status/918393239597649920</p> <p>https://twitter.com/NHSEnglandStats/status/918396966127665157</p>
Date of report	<p>13 October 2017</p>

2. Circumstances of breach [\[guidance\]](#)

Relevant principle/protocol and practice	Protocol 2, Practice 4 - statistics not released at the scheduled time of 09:30
Date of occurrence of breach	12 October 2017
<i>Give an account of what has happened including roles of persons involved, dates, times etc.</i>	
<p>Due to a fire alarm at 09:05 the statisticians responsible for publishing the statistics were required to evacuate the building and so were unable to publish the data until they were allowed to re-enter the building. Security permissions within our website setup mean that we are unable to queue publications in advance for automatic release as it would mean that users without pre-release access would be able to access the unpublished data. A member of staff was working from home and had access to the NHS England Statistics Twitter account, so notifications were put out via social media before 09:30 to inform users that publication would be delayed (see links above) and publication took place at 10:00 that day.</p>	

3. Impact of the breach [\[guidance\]](#)

Provide details of the impact of the breach both inside the producer body and externally

The publication of the statistics was delayed by 30 minutes.

4. Corrective actions (taken or planned) to prevent re-occurrence [\[guidance\]](#)

Describe the short-term actions made to redress the situation and the longer term changes to procedures etc

The public were notified of the delay via social media prior to the scheduled publication time, and the publication was carried out in an orderly way at 10:00. The impact of the delay was low and we received no further enquiries about this following the tweets being sent. If a similar incident happens in the future, information will be shared on social media and the statistics published as soon as possible.

In addition, we will work with our internal web team to try to implement a change to our systems so that we can queue publications the day before, avoiding issues with last minute access to the website. We will also investigate the feasibility of having people in other locations on standby to publish the data if we are unable to access the system from QH again.