

# REPORTING A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS

## 1. Core Information

Title and link to statistical output	<a href="#">Land and Property Titles by Country of Ownership, as at 31 December 2017</a>
Name of statistical producer	Registers of Scotland (RoS)
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	Keith Paterson <a href="mailto:Keith.Paterson@ros.gov.uk">Keith.Paterson@ros.gov.uk</a>
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	N/A
Date of report	01/03/2018

## 2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant principle/protocol and practice	Practice T3.6 - statistics not released at the scheduled time of 09:30am (delayed publication)
Date of occurrence of breach	01/03/2018
<i>Give an account of what has happened including roles of persons involved, dates, times etc</i>	
<p>Due to adverse weather conditions, and a government Red Alert weather warning, Registers of Scotland offices were unexpectedly closed on the morning of the day of publication (01/03/2018). Given these circumstances, the Head of Information &amp; Analysis (who is also Lead Official for the organisation) contacted the Communications team (responsible for setting up external releases and making them live at the appropriate publication time) to check that publication would be able to go ahead as scheduled.</p> <p>It was quickly established that, given the office closure, alternative arrangements needed to be implemented (with communication to staff that they should not attempt to travel into the office, and where possible / appropriate should log on from home using a VPN). Communications colleagues, able to implement the technical release, were able to work remotely, but the required change in working methods resulted in a delay, and the publication did not go live on the RoS website until 9.55am on 01/03/2018 (the same day).</p>	

## 3. Impact of the breach

<i>Provide details of the impact of the breach both inside the producer body and externally</i>
<p>The main impact was that users did not get access to the release at 9.30am. The statistics are not considered market sensitive and there should not have been any significant impact on users as a result of this slight delay. We did not receive any complaints or comments.</p>

## 4. Corrective actions (taken or planned) to prevent re-occurrence

<i>Describe the short-term actions made to redress the situation and the longer-term changes to procedures etc</i>
<p>In the short term, Communications colleagues working remotely were contacted straightaway following news of office closure to ensure arrangements were in place to minimise any delay and plans were made for the bulletin to be published as promptly as possible on the RoS website.</p> <p>In order to mitigate any such re-occurrence in the future, RoS will review publication procedures and ensure further appropriate contingency plans are in place (e.g. via a pre-programmed automated release) to enable publication, even in extreme and extenuating circumstances such as those experienced in this instance.</p>