REPORT OF A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR STATISTICS



1. Core Information

Title and link to statistical output	(Disabled Persons Railcard) DPRC and assisted journeys data https://dataportal.orr.gov.uk/browsereports/18
Name of producer organisation	Office for Rail and Road
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	Shaha Ali Shaha.ali@orr.gov.uk
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	http://orr.gov.uk/statistics/publication-dates
Date of breach report	5/4/2018

2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant principle(s) and practice(s)	T3.4 - Statistical content has been made public or supplied to parties not essential for statistical production without prior permission for access, through accidental or wrongful release.
Date of occurrence of breach	4 April 2018
The Passenger Assist data tables were accidentally released to ORR and DfT addressees on the pre-release list for another release on passenger complaints by the lead statistician one week early. The Passenger Assist tables were scheduled for release along with the	

DPRC table on 12/4/18.

3. Impact of the breach

Very low-impact. These are not market sensitive or high-profile statistics and have a small specialist audience. Furthermore, the breach was limited to the pre-release copy list for the passenger complaints release: 11 recipients in total – 8 from ORR and 3 from the DfT statistics team.

As our main corrective action was to release the breached table a week early:

- ORR Comms needed briefing to ready the website and related tweets to incorporate the additional materials into the release, and
- DfT were informed of the corrective action and prepared additional lines to their consumer complaints briefing at short notice.

In publishing these statistics early, any accidental pre-release access then fell within 24hours of public release.

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

We released the extra table (DPRC) early on the 5/4/2018 alongside the complaints statistical release as it was ready to publish. This ensured that our users have equal access to the data (subject to our 24-hour pre-release access practice). We also published the remaining tables on assisted journeys alongside these for completeness.

We added a notice to the publication schedule on the ORR website page, alerting users that these statistics would be released one week early and explaining the reason for this decision. This notice will remain on the page for one week, until the original publication date has passed.

We immediately alerted key users who may have been impacted by the changes to the publication schedule (including DfT).

We have restructured our filing systems for the two series to prevent accidental release of this nature reoccurring.