

REPORT OF A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR STATISTICS

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

Title and link to statistical output	Northern Ireland House Condition Survey 2016 main report https://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/corporate/housing_research/house_condition_survey.htm
Name of producer organisation	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	Donna McLarnon donna.mclarnon@nihe.gov.uk
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	
Date of breach report	31 May 2018

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

Relevant principle(s) and practice(s)	Principle T3 Orderly release T3.6 Statistics should be released to all users at 9.30am on a weekday.
Date of occurrence of breach	31 May 2018
<p><i>Give an account of what happened including roles of persons involved, dates, times etc.</i></p> <p>The Northern Ireland House Condition Survey 2016 main report and excel tables were published at 9.30am by the Housing Executive's I.T. department. However the statistics production team noticed that the link to the report was not active. They contacted the I.T. department at 9.31am. The I.T. department couldn't identify any issue that resulted in the link not being active. They carried out a system refresh and the link to the report became active at 9.43am.</p> <p>The statistics production team then asked for further investigations to be carried out. The view from the I.T department was that the issue was caused by the website being 'cached' temporarily in order to provide a faster response time to visitors. Instead of a delay in retrieving a fresh copy of a web page each time it is requested, sometimes a cached (recently saved) copy is displayed to save time. These factors are outside the control of the I.T department as the caching occurs on a visitor's browser, their device or at their Internet Service Provider.</p>	

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

<p><i>Provide details of the impact of the breach both inside the producer body and externally</i></p> <p>As the report was available at 9.43am the impact was minimal. In addition, the excel tables were available at 9.30am so users had access to the data. No users contacted the production team regarding the delay of the report publication.</p>

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 statistics production team will meet with the I.T department to look at possible actions for future. The I.T department advised that it is in the process of procuring a new website and will investigate the possibility of forcing pages to refresh automatically for all visitors to prevent caching. This is not possible with the current Housing Executive website. No further publications are scheduled for release ahead of the new website (due in Autumn 2018).