

REPORTING A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR STATISTICS

Title and link to statistical output	Occupation turnover rates in adult social care: England, 2012 to 2016
Name of statistical producer	Office for National Statistics (ONS)
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	Debra Prestwood, Head of Profession for Statistics, Office for National Statistics, Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, NP10 8XG
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	
Date of report	23 May 2018

1. Circumstances of breach

Relevant pillar, principle and practice	Trustworthiness – Orderly release T3.3 – Access to statistics before their public release should be limited to those involved in the production of the statistics and the preparation of the release, and for quality assurance purposes.
Date of occurrence of breach	21/05/2018
<p>ONS shared unpublished data on adult social care workforce turnover rates with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Government Office for Science (Go-Science) to be considered for inclusion in the upcoming government consultation documentation on adult social care. ONS were waiting for confirmation from DHSC and Go-Science that the analysis provided was appropriate to include in the upcoming DHSC and Go-Science publication before it was published on the ONS website. Three working days passed before this confirmation was received, in the meantime, the data had been included in a draft version of the publication by DHSC and GO-Science and circulated for external peer review on 21 May 2018. ONS discovered the breach 24 hours later when the latest draft of the document was circulated to ONS on 22 May 2018. As soon as the breach was identified, the respective data was published immediately on the ONS ad-hoc request website in line with the Code of Practice.</p>	

2. Impact of the breach

<p>The breach resulted in minimal impact. It was an accidental occurrence due to a misunderstanding between DHSC and GO-Science and ONS; DHSC and Go-Science were under the belief the data had been published by ONS and ONS were awaiting confirmation that the analysis was appropriate for inclusion in the government consultation document before publishing on the ONS ad-hoc website. The breach was contained to a small group of 7 academics and a minister. As soon as the breach was identified on 22 May 2018, the respective data was published in the public domain on the ONS ad-hoc site.</p>
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3. Corrective actions (taken or planned) to prevent re-occurrence

As soon as the breach was identified, the data was immediately published as an ad-hoc customer request and published on the ONS website in the public domain.

Going forward, to avoid unpublished ONS data being accidentally circulated by others to those who do not have the correct permissions to view ONS unpublished data prior to publishing, it has been agreed with DHSC/Go-Science that ONS will have sign-off of any draft document(s) that contains ONS data to ensure that all the data is accurate and published before it is circulated more widely. This practice will be stipulated by the relevant ONS teams with other government departments to ensure a data breach such as this is avoided in the future.