REPORT OF A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR STATISTICS

Government Statistical Service

1. Core Information

Title and link to statistical output	**UK trade in goods by classification of product by activity - time series** https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/internationaltrade/datasets/uktradeingoodsbyclassificationofproductbyactivity
Name of producer organisation	**Office for National Statistics**
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 breach report	15/06/18

2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant pillars, principles and practices	**T3 Orderly release** T3.6 Statistics should be released to all users at 9.30am on a weekday
Date of occurrence of breach	15/06/18

The dataset "UK trade in goods by classification of product by activity" was released 4 minutes late.

A technical error occurred when uploading the dataset file in the collection being prepared for publication. As a result of the error, the Publishing Team uploaded the data file a second time. However, the second upload resulted in the file being deleted, while a reference to it was retained, which hid the error from the Publishing Team.

The output area was not contactable prior to 9:30 publication to check the release. A pre-release check to confirm the completeness of the publication would have identified the error.

3. Impact of the breach

No reports or complaints were received.

The correct data was published at 09:34

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

Routine post-publication checks revealed that the dataset was not available, and it was re-published. Investigation by the website development team uncovered the chain of events and identified corrective actions.

Should the initial error occur again while uploading a file, the Publishing Team will delete the file and re-upload it. This will ensure that there is no discrepancy between the status of a file and references to that status in the publishing system.

An item will be added to the website backlog to address the inconsistency between the state of the file and references to the file.

The Publishing Team will continue to ensure content is checked by output areas prior to publication.