

# REPORT OF A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR STATISTICS

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

<b>Title and link to statistical output</b>	<a href="#">Estimating suicide among higher education students, England and Wales: Experimental Statistics</a>
<b>Name of producer organisation</b>	Office for National Statistics
<b>Name and contact details of person dealing with report</b>	Sarah Caul <a href="mailto:sarah.caul@ons.gov.uk">sarah.caul@ons.gov.uk</a> 01633 456490
<b>Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)</b>	
<b>Date of breach report</b>	

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

<b>Relevant principle(s) and practice(s)</b>	<b>T3.4</b>
<b>Date of occurrence of breach</b>	<b>19 June</b>
<i>Give an account of what happened including roles of persons involved, dates, times etc</i>	
<p>An email from PHE was sent to ONS, PHW and Samaritans staff who had been provided with pre-release access. The email was to discuss 'lines to take' for the release of suicide in higher education statistics. The email contained a small summary of the article, including bullet points on the general trend in the last ten years, the comparison with the general public and indication of the size of the number of suicides.</p> <p>In reply to this email, ONS asked the Samaritans contact with pre-release access about the possibility of the them monitoring the ONS twitter page on the day of the release. In response to this, on 19 June 2018 at 10:48 the member of staff from Samaritans copied in three members from the Samaritans digital team to give a response, the three members of staff did not have pre-release access.</p> <p>On 19 June 2018 at 10:53, a high priority response was sent stating that all staff needed to delete the email due to unpublished information and a new email chain was started which did not have the unpublished information. There was no email confirmation that colleagues had actioned the request to delete the email, but all further correspondence was through the clear chain.</p> <p>The statistics were published on June 25th</p> <p>The statistics were not market sensitive.</p>	

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

<i>Provide details of the impact of the breach both inside the producer body and externally</i>
No information was published or made publicly available before the release. Statistics were not market sensitive.

## 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*

In the short-term an email was sent stating that the email needed to be immediately deleted and that information shouldn't be shared with those without pre-release access. The G6 and DD for HALE were immediately made aware of the breach and agreed the mitigating actions to be taken.

In the future we will make sure to put in the title of the email that the information is confidential, and request that stakeholders also follow this procedure.