

BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS

This document reports a breach of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, or the relevant Pre-release Access to Official Statistics Orders, to which the Code applies as if it included these orders.

All breach reports are published on the UK Statistics Authority's website and need to explain (clearly and concisely) what happened to cause the breach and what is being/has been done by the statistical Head of Profession (HoP) to ensure the risk of recurrence is minimised.

1. Background information

Name of Statistical Output (including weblink to the relevant output or 'landing page')

UK labour market statistics: Aug 2017

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/uklabourmarketstatisticsaug2017>

National Statistic

Regional labour market statistics in the UK: Aug 2017

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/regionallabourmarketstatisticsintheukaug2017>

National Statistic

Labour market economic commentary: Aug 2017

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/labourmarketeconomiccommentaryaug2017>

Name of Producer Organisation

Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Name and contact details of the statistical Head of Profession (Lead Official in an Arm's Length Body) submitting this report, and date of report

Glenn Everett, Director General, Office for National Statistics,
Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, NP10 8XG.

Date: 17/08/2017

2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant Principle/Protocol and Practice

Protocol 2: Release practices, Practice 4 - Issue statistical releases at the standard time of 9:30am on a weekday, to maintain consistency and to permit time for users to understand and respond to the information during normal working hours.

Date of occurrence

16/08/2017

Nature of breach (including links with previous breaches, if any)

All components of the release were affected.

Reasons for breach

All releases were published at 9:30, however they were initially unavailable to some users. This was due to a website mechanism, designed to improve the speed of availability for users, displaying a previous version of the site stored in memory. This problem was resolved with a manual intervention from the Publishing team at 9:35.

The system is set to clear the website memory at 9:30 but a delay to content publishing can sometimes cause some releases to miss this clearing, and become unavailable for a short time.

3. Reactions and impact (both within the producer body and outside)

None

4. Corrective actions taken to prevent reoccurrence of such a breach (include short-term actions, and long-term changes made to procedures)

The Publishing Team are on stand-by to manually intervene in the event it occurs again. Longer-term changes to the publishing process are being considered.

5. Links to published statements about this breach

None

6. Any other relevant supporting material

None