

## 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 Quarterly National Accounts: April to June 2017

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/ukquarterlynationalaccountsaprtojune2017>

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: 29/09/2017

### 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

29/09/2017

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

All components of the release were affected and publication was delayed by 4 minutes.

Reasons for breach

The breach was as a result of human error.

To add time series to the release in readiness for publication at 09.30, it is taken out of the publishing queue and the time-series file (which has run over night) added. This is then reviewed and approved in the Content Management System (CMS) and added back into the queue. Once in the queue the Business Area can check that the data is correct.

All 7 releases that required time series, were pulled out of the queue and the time-series files were added. They were all reviewed and approved, except Quarterly National Accounts which was reviewed but not approved.

The system is not automatic and we have a limited amount of time to do this work before 09.15 when all content should be in the queue.

The publication was not approved and because of this the system did not publish the release.

Once the content had passed its scheduled publishing time without approval, the system required manual intervention to publish the content. This manual intervention was delayed until checks revealed the release was not published on the live website.

The release was published at 09:34.

**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 now run an additional check on the preview site (part of the CMS) to ensure all time-series due to be published are present in the preview. This check will identify any similar instances where content due to be published has not been approved.

**5. Links to published statements about this breach**

None

**6. Any other relevant supporting material**