

REPORT OF A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR STATISTICS



1. Core Information

Title and link to statistical output	Statistics on International Development (SID)
Name of producer organisation	Department for International Development (DFID)
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	Michael Morris
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	None
Date of breach report	28 November 2018

2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant principle(s) and practice(s)	Practice T3.3, T3.4 - content of a statistical report has been shared before publication with someone not on the relevant pre-release access list.
Date of occurrence of breach	28 November 2018
<p>In an email at 10.42am on 28 November, the day prior to the release of annual Statistics on International Development (SID), a member of staff emailed some draft Tweets, which included a summary infographic, with some headline figures, to four individuals: three from DFID Communications team, the other being the deputy Chief Statistician.</p> <p>The purpose of the email was to prepare effective dissemination of the statistics through social media channels. However, the deputy chief statistician and one of the communications team were not on the pre-release access list and the fact that the email contained pre-release statistics was not adequately flagged.</p> <p>This was quickly spotted and a correcting email was sent at 11.25am. The statistics had not been passed on any further and both the individuals not on the pre-release access list deleted the email chain that included the statistics.</p>	

3. Impact of the breach

<p>The impact of the breach was limited. The draft tweets were only circulated to two individuals internally, one of whom was the deputy chief statistician, the other the head of digital and creative content – both individuals were very aware of the importance of the Code of Practice and the need to adhere to pre-release access rules, so both were able to take quick corrective action. The two DFID officials who accidentally received some pre-release headline stats were aware of the Code of Practice. They also acknowledged that it was a mistake and promptly ignored the message and notified the responsible statistician.</p>

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

<p>In the short term, both individuals who received the statistics deleted the email string. For the longer term, the SID production team will be reviewing desk notes and induction for new staff to ensure that all recipients of any emails containing pre-release statistics are double-checked against pre-release access lists, and that all emails containing pre-release statistics are appropriately flagged as such.</p>
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