

REPORT OF A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR STATISTICS

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

Title and link to statistical output	Edible Protected Crops in the UK https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/pusstats/surveys/documents/edibleProtected2017.pdf
Name of producer organisation	Health and Safety Executive and Fera Science Ltd
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	Julie.howarth@hse.gov.uk 02030281191
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	
Date of breach report	19 December 2018

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

Relevant principle(s) and practice(s)	Principle T3 Orderly release Practice T3.6 Statistics should be released to all users at 9.30am on a weekday.
Date of occurrence of breach	18 December 2018
<i>Give an account of what happened including roles of persons involved, dates, times etc</i>	
<p>The Pesticide Usage Edible Protected Crops 2017 report was due to be published at 9.30 am on 19th December. The report was accidentally made live on the Fera website at 12.05 pm on 18th December.</p> <p>There have been a number of recent staff changes at Fera and the Land Use & Sustainability team manager is new to the pesticide usage survey (PUS) work. This was the team manager's first involvement in the report publication process. The team manager interpreted the publication date as the deadline for publication, and therefore did not know that the report needed to be published at exactly 9.30 am on Wednesday 19th December. As a result, the manager emailed the report to the technical Lead in the Information Technology Systems development (ISTD) team on Tuesday 18th December at 11.52 am and requested that the report be published online on that day. As a result, the report was published on Tuesday 18th December at 12.05 on the Fera website.</p>	

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

<i>Provide details of the impact of the breach both inside the producer body and externally</i>
<p>The report was published on Tuesday 18th December at 12.05 a day earlier than the announced publication date of Wednesday 19th December at 9.30 so all interested parties were able to view it before they should have done. As such no-one had an unfair advantage. There were no downloads of the report prior to the planned official release time. As of 11.30 am on Wednesday 19th December, the data we have from IT confirms that there was not a single download of the report. No press reports are associated with this report which is of relatively low political, commercial and public importance.</p>

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

The Chief Statistician at HSE was informed of the breach at 1pm on Tuesday 18th December and advised the report remain on the website.

A PUS consultant at Fera, who has more than 30 years of PUS working experience will brief the PUS team on the publication process and protocols, as outlined in the Code of Practice for Statistics so that everybody fully understands and adheres to the protocol. This training session will be captured in staff training records and countersigned by the trainer.

The Chief Statistician at HSE will send an email to the Fera team reminding them of the Code of Practice for Statistics requirements.

The Land Use & Sustainability Team manager will make sure that this information is fully documented in PUS protocols so that existing and new members of staff within the PUS team are in the know.