

REPORT OF A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR STATISTICS



1. Core Information

Title and link to statistical output	Labour Force Survey 2018 Annual Report – Summary https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/labour-market-and-social-welfare/labour-force-survey
Name of producer organisation	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA)
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	Carly Gordon - Carly.Gordon@nisra.gov.uk
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	None
Date of breach report	13.03.2019

2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant principle(s) and practice(s)	T3: Orderly Release – Access to statistics before their public release date
Date of occurrence of breach	12/03/2019
<p>Annual Labour Force Survey data for 2011 – 2018 have been revised, based on the 2017 mid-year estimates, and due to be released on 20th March 2019.</p> <p>On 12/03/2019 a data request was answered using the revised annual data, rather than the published data. The data provided contained economic activity numbers and rates by ethnicity (white/non-white, 16-64), and a specific age group (16-29 year olds) in NI in 2017.</p> <p>The table was published on the NISRA website at 10.53am and the person requesting the data, a NISRA statistician, was provided with a link to it. Following discovery of the error, the data requested was removed from the NISRA website (by 13.17pm) and the recipient was contacted and asked to delete the data. Web activity data showed that they were the only person who had accessed the data online and they confirmed deletion.</p> <p>Any difference between the data provided and the published data will be due to the reweighting. The currently published data is weighted using the 2015 mid-year estimates. The revised data is weighted using the 2017 mid-year estimates.</p>	

3. Impact of the breach

<p>Minimal impact as the recipient, another NISRA statistician, had not used, shared or saved the data.</p> <p>The recipient has also since been supplied with the requested statistics based on published data and will be informed that revised data will be available the following week.</p>
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4. Corrective actions (taken or planned) to prevent re-occurrence

To prevent onward dissemination of the data the table was removed from the website.

Analysis of web activity was undertaken to assess the number of people having accessed the data (only one person). The NISRA statistician who requested the data deleted the information they received.

All Labour Force Survey data requests are now on hold until after publication of the Annual Dataset and First Release bulletin on 20th March 2019.

Following this there will be a full review of the data request process including the storage and labelling of the datasets and checking procedure.