

# REPORT OF A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR STATISTICS

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

<b>Title and link to statistical output</b>	Mefloquine Prescribing in the UK Armed Forces Official Statistic
<b>Name of producer organisation</b>	MOD, Defence Statistics Health <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/mefloquine-lariam-prescribing-in-the-uk-armed-forces-12-september-2016-to-31-march-2019">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/mefloquine-lariam-prescribing-in-the-uk-armed-forces-12-september-2016-to-31-march-2019</a>
<b>Name and contact details of person dealing with report</b>	Responsible Statistician, Defence Statistics Health DefStrat-Stat-Health-Hd@mod.gov.uk
<b>Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)</b>	NA
<b>Date of breach report</b>	13.05.19

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

<b>Relevant principle(s) and practice(s)</b>	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
<b>Date of occurrence of breach</b>	13.05.19
<p>The official (to be published) version of the official statistic was sent to three email addresses within the MOD's external communication area who should not have received it.</p> <p>This occurred because the statistic was due to be sent to the team to schedule the upcoming publication, however it was mistakenly sent to the 'Secretariat' email address rather than the 'Internet team' (at 11:41 on 13/5/19) who forwarded it on to two other emails while trying to find the correct team.</p> <p>The breach was identified when the Internet team contacted us to state that they had received the statistic. This was at 14:57.</p> <p>Defence Statistics Health emailed the incorrect addressees to ask them to delete the email as a matter of urgency, explaining that they were not to have received the information.</p>	

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

Minimal. The breach was identified quickly and those who received the information that shouldn't have were instructed to delete the email from their inbox. The recipients all work within the same communications division, however in different teams. Information was not released outside the organisation or shared more widely. The statistic was released on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May.

#### **4. Corrective actions (taken or planned) to prevent re-occurrence**[\[guidance\]](#)

- 1) The incident has heightened awareness of using the correct email address. The breach will be discussed at the team meeting so that people who do not regularly send official statistics or who are new to the process are also reminded.
- 2) Talk given by Head of Profession to Defence Statistics Health branch on breaches.
- 3) Guidance on the correct email address exists in the desk instructions.
- 4) Header to be added at the top of all emails containing pre-release statistics stating that the email must not be forwarded nor the statistics shared more widely than the individuals on the pre-release access list.