

REPORT OF A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR STATISTICS

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

Title and link to statistical outputs	<p>Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland Monthly Update to 31st July 2019 https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics/</p> <p>Domestic Abuse Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland Quarterly Update to 30th June 2019 https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/domestic-abuse-statistics/</p> <p>Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland Monthly Update to 31st July 2019 https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/anti-social-behaviour-statistics/</p> <p>Incidents and Crimes with a Hate Motivation Recorded by police in Northern Ireland Quarterly Update to 30th June 2019 https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/hate-motivation-statistics/</p> <p>Motoring Offences Statistics for Northern Ireland 1st July 2018 – 30th June 2019 https://www.psni.police.uk/inside-psni/Statistics/motoring-offences-statistics/</p>
Name of producer organisation	PSNI Statistics Branch (NISRA)
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	Head of Branch Statistics@PSNI.pnn.police.uk
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	N/A
Date of breach report	29/08/19

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

Relevant principle(s) and practice(s)	Practice T3.6 - statistics not released at the scheduled time of 09:30am
Date of occurrence of breach	29/08/19
<p><i>Give an account of what happened including roles of persons involved, dates, times etc</i></p> <p>Statistical Publications are loaded onto PSNIs Web Platform by statistics branch one day prior to release and scheduled to be available from 09:30. Before 09:30 it was noticed that links on the PSNI corporate website were not functional. IT support was notified at 08:00 - initial contact for reporting this type of incident in PSNI is the IT support team and this was</p>	

done as soon as the issue was identified.

The issue had not been resolved by 09:00 and at that time attempts were made by statistics branch to contact Corporate Communications team to escalate the IT support request. Unfortunately due to a team meeting Corporate Communications team were unavailable until 09:40.

Corporate Communications team liaised with the website hosting company through a dedicated IT resource; investigation and resolution of the issue took 1 hour with content being available at 10:40. Email notifications were then sent to the circulation lists for each publication between 10:40 and 10:50 to inform users that the publications were available. Reason for breach – On the morning of the breach a member of staff at the company which hosts the PSNI website was working on an unrelated issue and changed the configuration settings on the live platform to match those on their User Acceptance Testing environment for a short time. These were reset to default but changes were not saved and this resulted in downloads being affected for some users. The consequences of the change in the configuration setting were not apparent to that team member as they still had the ability to download and view files in their own environment.

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

Provide details of the impact of the breach both inside the producer body and externally

The publications listed above were not available for a period of 1hr and 10mins after the pre-announced time. However these reports are deemed low key with no statistical press release or pre-release access involved.

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

Corrective actions on behalf of website hosting company – The responsible team leader carried out an investigation and met with staff to discuss the breach, instructions have been issued around modifying configuration settings on the live environment. Assurance has been provided to PSNI that the same issue will not arise again.

Corrective actions on behalf of PSNI Statistics branch – While initial contact will still be made with the IT support team as per internal guidance we will notify Comms team at the same time via email and with a follow-up call so there are no delays. It has been agreed that this notification will be directed to the Digital Hub staff within Corporate Communications who are responsible for liaising with the website provider. Should we be unable to raise the issue with Digital Hub staff in a timely manner we have been provided with contact details of their dedicated IT resource to escalate any issues.