

REPORT OF A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR STATISTICS



1. Core Information

Title and link to statistical output	Experience of Irish culture and heritage in Northern Ireland 2018/19 Experience of Ulster-Scots culture and heritage in Northern Ireland 2018/19 https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/experience-irish-and-ulster-scots-culture-and-heritage-northern-ireland-201819
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Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	This will appear on the following page: https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/experience-irish-and-ulster-scots-culture-and-heritage-northern-ireland-201819
Date of breach report	27/11/19

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	27/11/19
<p>On 27/11/19 at 9.30 am pre-release versions of the 'Experience of Irish culture and heritage in Northern Ireland 2018/19' and 'Experience of Ulster-Scots culture and heritage in Northern Ireland 2018/19' reports were sent in error to two senior members of DfC who were not on the pre-release access list.</p> <p>The member of staff issuing the email had used the pre-release access list for a different publication with a similar title that was due to issue the following week. One of the staff members, who received the email in error, had opened the email but taken no further action; the other staff member is on leave and is not due to return until after the reports are published.</p> <p>The responsible statistician contacted the member of staff who was in the office as soon as the breach was identified. Confirmation that the email and reports had been deleted by that member of staff was received by the responsible statistician.</p> <p>The reports were promptly issued to the correct pre-release access list.</p>	

3. Impact of the breach

Two senior members of DfC staff, who were not on the pre-release access list, were sent the pre-release versions of these reports. Only one recipient accessed the email, the other recipient is on leave until after the publication date for the reports. The email and reports received by the member of staff in the office have subsequently been deleted.

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

All future pre-release emails will be drafted by one member of staff and the correspondence list and content of the email will be checked by a second staff member before issue.

The pre-release access lists are clearly labelled, however, the error occurred as the publications were similarly titled. This error would almost certainly have been identified if a second member of staff had checked the email.