

REPORT OF A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR STATISTICS

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

Title and link to statistical output	General Pharmaceutical Services in England 2008/09 - 2018/19 https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/general-pharmaceutical-services/in-2008-09---2018-19-ns
Name of producer organisation	NHS Digital
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	Steve Barber-Hayes, NHS Digital; Stephen.barber1@nhs.net John Bates, DHSC; john.bates@dhsc.gov.uk
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	N/A
Date of breach report	15Nov19

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

Relevant principle(s) and practice(s)	Principle T3 - Pre-release statistics shared outside the pre-release list
Date of occurrence of breach	06Nov19
<p>The General Pharmaceutical Services publication was due for publication on Thursday 7th November at 9:30am. Although formally published by NHS Digital, colleagues in the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) have pre-release access to the data to prepare Ministerial briefing 24 hours before publication. NHS Digital approved a suitable Pre-release access request list from DHSC and sent the statistics as per the correct and approved Pre-Release Access form to the designated point of contact at DHSC.</p> <p>In the course of sharing material with colleagues on the PRA list, a policy colleague accidentally replaced the name of one person on the list with another known contact. As a result, this contact received the pre-released statistics via email. The individual works for a third party organisation, Ordnance Survey, and the materials were shared in error.</p>	

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

<p>The error was spotted within 10 minutes of the statistics being sent and the contact at Ordnance Survey was instructed to delete the email. They confirmed that they had done so.</p> <p>This publication is relatively low profile and not market sensitive. The recipient of the data at Ordnance Survey has recently been commissioned to provide analysis on the travel distances and time between community pharmacies in order to administer the Pharmacy Access Scheme and has access to much of the underlying management data included in the publication anyway. Therefore, the risk of further disclosure or harm to trust in official statistics is very low and there is no advantage from early sight of the publication.</p>
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4. Corrective actions (taken or planned) to prevent re-occurrence [\[guidance\]](#)

<p>The Ordnance Survey colleague was contacted and asked to delete the material. They confirmed that they had done so.</p>
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Emails sharing the material already contain a relevant disclaimer, and colleagues have been reminded of the privileged status of their pre-release access, to help in ensuring that this error does not recur. Colleagues have been reminded to check that the correct contacts are included on the email before sending.