

REPORT OF A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR STATISTICS

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

Title and link to statistical output	Timber Price Indices: Data to September 2019
Name of producer organisation	Forestry Commission
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	Sheila Ward
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	Sheila Ward Sheila.ward@forestresearch.gov.uk Tel: 0300 067 5236
Date of breach report	Initial report - 14 November 2019 Revised report - 3 December 2019

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

Relevant principle(s) and practice(s)	T3.6 - statistics not released at the scheduled time of 09:30am
Date of occurrence of breach	14 November 2019
<p><i>Give an account of what happened including roles of persons involved, dates, times etc</i></p> <p>The Timber Prices Indices: Data to September 2019 was published almost 20 minutes after its scheduled publication time. The data was scheduled to be published on the Forest Research website at 9.30am on 14th November 2019. The producers of the statistics used the website user interface to upload the content and schedule the time of release for 9.30.</p> <p>A new web development company was being used to undertake development work on the Forest Research website. This company changed the publication time settings for all releases to 1 minute past the hour (as this was their default) without consulting with the producers. This meant that the data would have been published at 10.01 rather than 9.30.</p> <p>The statistics producers checked to ensure their publication had gone live at 9.30 on 14th November and quickly realised that it had not. They manually published the pages within 20 minutes.</p>	

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

<p><i>Provide details of the impact of the breach both inside the producer body and externally</i></p> <p>The issue was identified, and action taken to publish the output within 20 minutes of the release time, so there has been no known impact within the Forestry Commission or externally.</p>

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

<p><i>Describe the short-term actions made to redress the situation and the longer term changes to procedures etc</i></p> <p>The Statistics team followed up with technical colleagues to establish why the scheduled amendments did not occur on time.</p> <p>The developers had been hired to work on the Forest Research website but were unaware that the scheduled updates had been set for 30 minutes past the hour (to enable the release</p>
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of official statistics at 9.30) and had amended the setting to 1 minute past the hour (their usual default).

The setting for scheduled updates has now been amended by the developers and tested by the Statistics team. In order to avoid any reoccurrence, procedures have also been set up to re-test the system after any website developments and before each release.