

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

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

<b>Title and link to statistical output</b>	MOD Regional Expenditure with UK Industry and Support Employment 2018/19; <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mod-regional-expenditure-with-uk-industry-and-supported-employment-index">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mod-regional-expenditure-with-uk-industry-and-supported-employment-index</a>
<b>Name of producer organisation</b>	Ministry of Defence
<b>Name and contact details of person dealing with report</b>	MOD Chief Analyst DefStrat-Stat-ChiefStatsOffice@mod.gov.uk
<b>Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)</b>	
<b>Date of breach report</b>	30 January 2020

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

<b>Relevant principle(s) and practice(s)</b>	<b>Practice T3.3, T3.4</b> - 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>	29 January 2020
<p>The pre-release was correctly sent to all named participants at 09:30 on 29 January 2020. Secretary of State's office, who received the pre-release, were preparing a brief for HMT and intended to use two of the new headline figures from the publication. They were not going to send the brief until after the publication date. This fact was established before consenting to them using the figures and it was highlighted that they must not be shared further until after 09:30 on Thursday 30 January.</p> <p>SofS Private Secretary sent an email to the Responsible Statistician at 11:03 to check they were using the correct headline figures but also copied the response to another individual who had put the original brief together but wasn't on the pre-release access list. The breach was identified immediately.</p>	

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

<p>Minimal. No information was released externally prior to the report being published on Thursday 30 January at 09:30. The recipient had access to two of the headline statistics for just under 20 minutes and as soon as the breach was identified, they were contacted and instructed to delete the email. They provided confirmation at 11:31 that they had not and would not share further. They did not see the full report or any of the other key findings.</p>
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#### 4. Corrective actions (taken or planned) to prevent re-occurrence[\[guidance\]](#)

The Responsible Statistician emailed the recipient of the statistics at 11.22 to inform them that they did not have the right to access this information and that it shouldn't have been shared with them. They confirmed that they hadn't shared the information any further and that they would delete all emails containing the figures.

In addition, the Responsible Statistician also contacted the Private Office to inform them that they had caused a breach of the pre-release access guidelines and were reminded of their responsibility to not share the figures or content of the publication any further until after 09:30 on Thursday 30 January.

If the situation arises again when SofS' (or other) teams are preparing high-level briefs, we will ensure we are absolutely explicit about not sharing with anyone that is not on the pre-release access list, which includes copying in to emails.

MOD wide communications to all publication producers will be updated to include this example e.g. in briefings, email cascades, workshops etc. to ensure learnings are cascaded to all.