

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

## 1. Core Information

Title and link to statistical output	Further education and skills inspections and outcomes as at 29 February 2020 <a href="#">Link</a>
Name of producer organisation	The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted)
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	Sarah Pearce 03000 130630
Name and contact details of Head of Profession for Statistics	Jason Bradbury <a href="mailto:Jason.bradbury@ofsted.gov.uk">Jason.bradbury@ofsted.gov.uk</a>
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	
Date of breach report	25 June 2020

## 2. Circumstances of breach

Relevant principle(s) and practice(s)	Trustworthiness: T3.6 - Statistics should be released to all users at 9.30am on a weekday.
Date of occurrence of breach	25 June 2020
<p>At 09:00 on 25 June 2020, half an hour before the scheduled publication of Ofsted's official statistics 'Further education and skills inspections and outcomes as at 29 February 2020' the Head of Data and Analysis, for Further Education and Skills noticed a difference between the official statistics' main findings and a draft copy of the annual report (which was based on similar data). There was a chart over time that showed a declining trend. Five years were on display. An explanatory narrative should have said 'This is the fourth year there has been a decline in the proportion of independent learning providers', however we had written 'fifth' instead of 'fourth'. This was not picked up during our quality assurance checks.</p> <p>At 09:05 the Senior Analytical Officer, who led the official statistics production, contacted the Head of Digital and Publishing in Ofsted's external relations team to make the amendment to the release. Due to internal processing steps, the statistics then became available at 10:34.</p>	

## 3. Impact of the breach

<p>Access to the statistics was delayed by just over an hour. Those stakeholders with pre-release access would have seen the incorrect message in two places within the statistics publication.</p> <p>We are not aware of any public reaction to the non-availability of the publication.</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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

<p><b>Short-term:</b> the situation has been addressed. The statistics were amended before they were published, although they were published late. The pre-release access stakeholders were emailed to notify them of the change at 13:40 on 25 June (same day as release).</p> <p><b>Long-term changes:</b> we will deliver a quality assurance training session within the team to help strengthen the processes. The breach will also be discussed by Ofsted's quality champions group, who will share the knowledge with other producers of Ofsted's official statistics. New notes and additional checks will be added to the desk instructions for this product.</p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------