

REPORT OF A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR STATISTICS

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

Title and link to statistical output	Housing Statistics https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/housing-statistics
Name of producer organisation	Homes England
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	Mike Shone 01234 242537 Mike.Shone@homesengland.gov.uk
Name and contact details of Head of Profession for Statistics/Lead Official	Sandra Tudor Sandra.Tudor@communities.gov.uk
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	
Date of breach report	14 July 2020

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

Relevant principle(s) and practice(s)	Principle T3.3
Date of occurrence of breach	14 July 2020
<p><i>Give an account of what happened including roles of persons involved, dates, times etc</i></p> <p>The Head of Communications in Homes England was given access to the draft statistics data by Mike Shone (the producer of the statistics release) on 8 July for the purpose of preparing a press release. Restrictions around the sharing of data contained within the draft statistics data was not communicated in writing at this point as it should have been. The draft press release, containing figures from the statistics release, was then shared with the Senior Press Officer at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) (Homes England's sponsor body) at 8 a.m. on 14 July, one day prior to pre-release access.</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 breach was contained within Homes England and the MHCLG Press Office, and therefore had minimal consequences in terms of its effect on public trust and confidence.</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>In the short term, all individuals who were erroneously provided with the figures due to be published were contacted as soon as the error was noticed, advised not to share them more widely and asked to delete the information they received.</p> <p>In preparation for the next statistical release, work will begin immediately to draw up clearer guidelines detailing the procedures around the production of and access to statistical data prior to its publication, including marking all written communication with appropriate restrictions.</p> <p>The Directorate responsible for the production of Homes England's housing statistics changed as of the 1 of July 2020 and the new team will undergo training to ensure that the Code of Practice is understood and adhered to during future publications.</p>
