

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



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

<b>Title and link to statistical output</b>	<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey pilot: England, 9 July 2020</a>
<b>Name of producer organisation</b>	<b>Office for National Statistics</b>
<b>Name and contact details of person dealing with report</b>	Debra Prestwood Statistical Head of Profession, Office for National Statistics, Government Buildings, Cardiff Road, Newport, NP10 8XG.
<b>Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)</b>	
<b>Date of breach report</b>	<b>10/07/2020</b>

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

<b>Relevant principle(s) and practice(s)</b>	Principle 3: Orderly release Practice 6: Statistics should be released to all users at 9.30am on a weekday.
<b>Date of occurrence of breach</b>	09/07/2020

Publishing processes are built around publishing at 9:30am. Our response to Coronavirus has included a change of time to 7:00am for a small number of releases. This has included rapid adaptations to processes and changes to working patterns, in addition to an unprecedented increase in content being released.

The infection survey release was unusually scheduled for 2:00pm, but on this occasion the publication time was set in error as 2:00am on the following day in our publishing system.

The error was spotted by the Publishing Team through routine checks at the scheduled publish time, which are carried out to ensure each publication has published correctly and is available to all users. Having discovered the error, the release was manually published, at 2:08 pm.

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

The delay was queried by the BBC after publication didn't occur at 2:00pm
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## 4. Corrective actions (taken or planned) to prevent re-occurrence [\[guidance\]](#)

Releases had not been published in the afternoon until the COVID-19 Infection Survey bulletin. The Publishing Team are now fully alert to variations in time when preparing releases for publication and will routinely double check the scheduled time. We are confident that this will provide sufficient additional oversight to mitigate the risk of a recurrence. As a one-off human error, no further action is proposed.
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