

# Report of a breach of the Code of Practice for Statistics

## Core Information

Information needed	Response
Title and link to statistical output	<b>Latest cattle, sheep and pig slaughter statistics – October 2020</b> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/cattle-sheep-and-pig-slaughter">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/cattle-sheep-and-pig-slaughter</a>
Name of producer organisation	<b>Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)</b>
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	<b>Nick Olney</b> <a href="mailto:nick.olney@defra.gov.uk">nick.olney@defra.gov.uk</a>
Name and contact details of Head of Profession for Statistics or Lead Official	<b>Ken Roy</b> <a href="mailto:ken.roy@naturalengland.org.uk">ken.roy@naturalengland.org.uk</a>
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	
Date of breach report	<b>12 November 2020</b>

## Circumstances of breach

Information needed	Response
Relevant principle(s) and practice(s)	<b>T3.6 Statistics should be released to all users at 9.30am on a weekday</b>
Date of occurrence of breach	<b>12 November 2020</b>

The publication update (statistical bulletin and accompanying dataset) did not go live at 09.30am on 12 November 2020 due to an oversight by the publishing team. The web page was updated, however, it was not reviewed and approved by the 2i who is the individual that checks everything is acceptable and then schedules the document for publication. This meant the updated page did not get scheduled for publication. The error was discovered shortly after 09.30am on 12 November 2020 when the publisher responsible did not receive an update notification email from gov.uk. The issue was promptly raised with a Senior publisher who manually published the release by 10.03am.

## Impact of the breach

This breach was detected internally and was fixed before any comments were received from external stakeholders. Internally this did not cause any issues. No comments have been received since.

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

Part of the problem was that new publishers were involved in the statistical update to the webpage and the 2i (individual that checks everything is acceptable and schedules for document for publication) was busy with other work. The publication not going live at 9:30am was discovered by the publishing team (this team is separate to the team producing the statistics publication). Short term actions involved raising the issue with a senior publisher who manually published the release which meant it was live by 10:03am. Longer term actions involve producing a simple check list for the publishers highlighting the tasks required and an official sign off that the stats notice have been

scheduled for publication. We will also remind the owners of the statistical notice to check that their publications are on-line at 9.30am as an additional check.