

Report of a breach of the Code of Practice for Statistics

Core Information

Information needed	Response
Title and link to statistical output	The Blue Book UK National Accounts, The Blue Book: 2020
Name of producer organisation	Office for National Statistics (ONS)
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	Vanessa Wood Vanessa.wood@ons.gov.uk
Name and contact details of Head of Profession for Statistics	Iain Bell, Office for National Statistics, Cardiff Road, Newport, NP10 8XG. stat.hopoffice@ons.gov.uk
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	
Date of breach report	30/10/2020

Circumstances of breach

Information needed	Response
Relevant principle(s) and practice(s)	Trustworthiness: T3: Orderly release Practice 6: Statistics should be released to all users at 9.30am on a weekday.
Date of occurrence of breach	30/10/2020

The National Accounts Blue Book was due to be published at 09:30 on 30 October 2020.

At 9:30 the compendium was published on time, however the link to the supplementary tables was missing. The data within the supplementary tables was in fact available at 9:30 on the web if users were familiar with updating the Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) such as below:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/grossdomesticproductgdp/compendium/unitedkingdomnationalaccounts/bluebook/2019/supplementarytables>

However, in order to access the newest version, a user would need to change the end of the URI from 2019 to 2020.

This issue with the link was discovered at 11:30 that morning, when the business area alerted the publishing team that the link was not in the compendium. It took 2 hours to restore the link.

Impact of the breach

No impact has been raised, the business area noticed the issue and alerted the publishing team.

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

Describe the short-term actions made to redress the situation and the longer-term changes to procedures:

The publishing team are reviewing and updating their guidance related to what checks they need to carry out for compendiums and specific tasks around the Blue Book.

The team plan to update their training procedures to ensure the team and any new team members are fully informed on what steps they need to action to ensure accuracy at publishing time for all future releases.