

Report of a breach of the Code of Practice for Statistics

Core Information

Information needed	Response
Title and link to statistical output	Access arrangements for GCSE, AS and A Level: 2019 to 2020 academic year
Name of producer organisation	Ofqual
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	Ben Cuff – ben.cuff@ofqual.gov.uk
Name and contact details of Head of Profession for Statistics or Lead Official	Vikas Dhawan – vikas.dhawan@ofqual.gov.uk
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	N/A
Date of breach report	16/12/2020

Circumstances of breach

Information needed	Response
Relevant principle(s) and practice(s)	Pre-release
Date of occurrence of breach	16/12/2020

Please give an account of what happened including roles of persons involved, dates and times:

Impact of the breach

Provide details of the impact of the breach both inside the producer body and externally:

The pre-release was sent out this morning 9.30am. An approved pre-release recipient from the Department for Education (DfE) informed us in the afternoon that they had mistakenly sent a summary of main trends to an individual at DfE who was not on the pre-release list (along with a few others who were on the pre-release access list).

We were also informed that the individual who should not have received the summary have confirmed that they have deleted the email.

Because this person was notified and deleted the email soon after receiving it, and because only a summary of main trends was sent, there should be minimal negative impact of the breach.

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 person who mistakenly sent the summary has been reminded of the need to maintain confidentiality as per the pre-release conditions in the future. We will also look to strengthen the text that we send out as part of the pre-release process.