

Report of a breach of the Code of Practice for Statistics

Core Information

Information needed	Response
Title and link to statistical output	Historical statistics notices on poultry and poultry meat production, 2020 https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/historical-statistics-notices-on-poultry-and-poultry-meat-production-2020
Name of producer organisation	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	Andrew Scaife andrew.scaife@defra.gov.uk
Name and contact details of Head of Profession for Statistics	Ken Roy ken.roy@naturalengland.org.uk
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	
Date of breach report	18/02/2021

Circumstances of breach

Information needed	Response
Relevant principle(s) and practice(s)	Trustworthiness - T3.6 (Statistics should be released to all users at 9.30am on a weekday)
Date of occurrence of breach	18/02/2021

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

The Historical statistics notices on poultry and poultry meat production, 2020 were due to be published at 09:30 on 18 February 2021.

Just after 09:30 on 18 February, the drafting officer, who had prepared the page the previous day, alerted the authorising officer via email that the historic statistics had not been published as scheduled. This email was read and actioned at 09:36. The page went live at 09:38. Due to an oversight this page had not been authorised for publication the day before, which led to the delay.

Impact of the breach

The historical data was not available for 8 minutes. We were not contacted by any member of the public during this time.

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 final check for publication release includes a thorough check for outstanding pages requiring authorisation. This check is undertaken at close of play on the day before publication and there can be many publications scheduled for the same day. On this occasion, due to human error, one of the outstanding pages was missed.

The Head of Profession Support Team will alert other publication teams in Defra to the circumstances of this breach to try and avoid re-occurrence in other areas.