

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



## 1. Core Information

<b>Title and link to statistical output</b>	<b>NI weekly deaths report – week ending 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021</b> <a href="https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/weekly-deaths">https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/weekly-deaths</a> .
<b>Name of producer organisation</b>	<b>Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA)</b>
<b>Name and contact details of person dealing with report</b>	<b>Carly Gordon tel 028 90 255390</b> <b>Carly.gordon@nisra.gov.uk</b>
<b>Name and contact details of Senior Statistician/Lead Official</b>	<b>Siobhan Carey, NISRA Chief Executive and Registrar General,</b> <b>Siobhan.carey@finance-ni.gov.uk</b>
<b>Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)</b>	<a href="https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/weekly-deaths">https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/weekly-deaths</a> .
<b>Date of breach report</b>	<b>12/3/2021</b>

## 2. Circumstances of breach

<b>Relevant principle(s) and practice(s)</b>	<b>Practice T3.4:</b> The circulation of statistics in their final form ahead of their publication should be restricted to eligible recipients.
<b>Date of occurrence of breach</b>	<b>12/3/2021 at 9.20am</b>
<p><i>Give an account of what happened including roles of persons involved, dates, times etc</i></p> <p>The weekly death statistics were scheduled for publication at 9.30am on 12<sup>th</sup> March.</p> <p>The Vital Statistics Unit were notified at 9.24am by their Grade 5 (who is part of their production team) that at 9.20am the Weekly bulletin was visible on the ‘publication’ section of the NISRA website. The team tried to establish if the publications were blank documents (sometimes used to check the page layout in advance of publication) or if they were the live documents. By the time this was established it was 9.30am when the publication was due to go live. It was later confirmed by the Grade 5 that the bulletin (which she had opened) was the live document.</p> <p>No one internal or external to NISRA, who wasn’t already part of the production team, picked up on the visible documents on the publication page prior to the 9.30am announcements.</p>	

## 3. Impact of the breach

<p><i>Provide details of the impact of the breach both inside the producer body and externally</i></p> <p>Key statistics relating to Covid-19 deaths in NI were available online publically. These statistics have high public and media interest. However, no one appears to have accessed the documents prior to the publication time so the impact of the breach is minimal.</p>
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#### 4. 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 etc*

The Vital Statistics Unit reviewed the step-by-step publication processes with NISRA's Dissemination Branch (who are responsible for the website) and it was confirmed that all correct processes were followed as understood at the time. However, Dissemination Branch have taken the incident forward with the website support unit in IT Assist and identified how the incident happened and what steps to take to prevent it happening again. Dissemination Branch have sent out updated instructions via email and plan to hold training as well as making an updated manual available to all branches.