

From: Oliver Hawksley
To: Authority Enquiries
Date: 19/07/2015
Subject: Potential breach of Code of Practice for Official Statistics

Dear Mr Pullinger,

I write to you as there appears to behave been a breach of your code of practice by a minister using your statistics without them being available to all (Contrary to Principle 2 of your code of practice).

I refer to Mr Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State for Health, who has said there are 6000 excess deaths a year due to admission over the weekend. According to the BBC their sources in DoH say this comes from an as yet unpublished analysis of Hospital Episode Statistics 2013/14. I cannot find anything regarding this analysis on <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/hesdata> and was wondering if you could direct me to it as excess mortality is methodologically difficult to ascertain, especially on such large numbers.

What is the process for penalising the breaching the code of practice if this is the case? Should the secretary and his team no longer be given this information and directed to open source information only?

I look forward to your reply.

Kind Regards,

Oliver Hawksley