

# REPORTING A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS

## 1. Core Information [\[guidance\]](#)

<b>Title and link to statistical output</b>	Vehicle & Aircraft Holdings within the scope of the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe Treaty: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/conventional-armed-forces-in-europe-equipment-holdings-statistics-2017">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/conventional-armed-forces-in-europe-equipment-holdings-statistics-2017</a>
<b>Name of statistical producer</b>	Ministry of Defence
<b>Name and contact details of person dealing with report</b>	MOD Chief Analyst <a href="mailto:DefStrat-Stat-ChiefStatsOffice@mod.uk">DefStrat-Stat-ChiefStatsOffice@mod.uk</a>
<b>Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)</b>	N/A
<b>Date of report</b>	02 March 2017

## 2. Circumstances of breach [\[guidance\]](#)

<b>Relevant principle/protocol and practice</b>	<b>Protocol 2 - Release Practices: Practice 7</b>
<b>Date of occurrence of breach</b>	<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017</b>
<p><i>At 18:31 Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February (pre-release day) an email was sent by a Media &amp; Comms Officer to the Statistician (who sent the pre-release report) to approve some Lines to Take* ahead of publication date (23<sup>rd</sup> February). The Lines included statistics from the final report and indications of trends. This email was copied to a number of individuals (including two other Media and Comms colleagues) who were not on the pre-release access list. The breach was identified by the Statistician the following morning shortly before the output was due to be published at 09:30.</i></p> <p><i>*Reactive lines prepared in advance of publication for potential external media enquiries.</i></p>	

## 3. Impact of the breach [\[guidance\]](#)

<p><i>Given the timing of the email (18:31 on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February) and that output was being published the following day, the impact of the breach was minimal. No information was released externally prior to the report being published on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 09:30.</i></p>
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## 4. Corrective actions (taken or planned) to prevent re-occurrence [\[guidance\]](#)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Having been briefed on their responsibilities as a recipient of pre-release access on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February, the Media &amp; Comms Officer was notified of the breach on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> and told that Lines which include statistics in the final report (and indication of trends) should not have been shared beyond those on sent the pre-release email.</i></li> <li><i>MOD Chief Analyst (Head of Profession for Statistics) is scheduled to meet with the Director of Defence Communications (DDC) to re-emphasise the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.</i></li> <li><i>Responsible Statisticians have been asked to remind all the individuals involved in the production of MOD Official Statistics of the protocols for pre-release access.</i></li> <li><i>Strengthen the briefing provided to recipients of pre-release access (particularly in the Media &amp; Comms teams) that statistics in Lines to Take and internal briefings are also covered by the pre-release access rules.</i></li> </ul>
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