

REPORTING A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS

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

Title and link to statistical output	MOD regional expenditure with UK industry and commerce and supported employment 2015/16 https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mod-regional-expenditure-with-uk-industry-and-supported-employment-index
Name of statistical producer	Ministry of Defence
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	MOD Chief Analyst DefStrat-Stat-ChiefStatsOffice@mod.uk
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	N/A
Date of report	16 March 2017

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

Relevant principle/protocol and practice	Protocol 2 - Release Practices: Practice 7
Date of occurrence of breach	Wednesday 15th March 2017
<p><i>The pre-release of the bulletin was sent out at 9.30 on the 15th March, a member of the Devolution team was included on the pre-release as the team leads on matters relating to the devolved administrations. At 15:03 Wednesday 15th March (pre-release day) a member of the Devolution team called the statistician (who sent the pre-release report) to ask how some figures from the report compared to previously published figures. The statistician requested that the member of the Devolution team email the information to look at. At 15:21 the statistician received the email and realised that the member of the Devolution team was not on the pre-release access list, and the breach was identified.</i></p>	

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

<p><i>No information was released externally prior to the report being published on Thursday 16th March at 09:30. The individual had access to the statistics for up to 6 hours. Immediately after the breach was identified steps were taken to ensure that this access was removed.</i></p>
--

4. Corrective actions (taken or planned) to prevent re-occurrence [\[guidance\]](#)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The statistician rang the member of the Devolution team who was not listed on the pre-release as soon as the breach was identified. They were informed that they did not have the right to access this information and that it should not have been shared with them. The individual agreed to delete all copies of the report that they had access to and to cease working on the figures until the report was released on Thursday 16th March at 9:30.</i> <i>The member of the Devolution team who was listed on the pre-release was notified of the breach on Wednesday 15th March at 15:53, and was verbally briefed on their responsibilities as a recipient of pre-release access (this is in addition to the written instruction that they received when the pre-release was first sent out). They were told that in future they could not share pre-release information with anyone who was not a named recipient on the pre-release.</i> <i>The statistical team will review the pre-release access briefing with stakeholders to ensure it is completely clear that access is for named individuals only. We will engage with stakeholders to check whether the original message is sufficiently clear and put in place any suggestions to clarify the wording. Possible changes could be to include 'NOT TO BE FORWARDED ON' in the subject line of the pre-release email.</i>
