

REPORTING A BREACH OF THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS

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

Title and link to statistical output	Annual Estimates of Scottish Farm Business Income (FBI) 2015-16 http://www.gov.scot/stats/bulletins/01273
Name of statistical producer	Rural and Environment Science and Analytical Services (RESAS) – Scottish Government (SG)
Name and contact details of person dealing with report	Kirsty McLellan Kirsty.mclellan@gov.scot 0300 244 9718
Link to published statement about the breach (if relevant)	n/a
Date of report	27th April 2017

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

Relevant principle/protocol and practice	Protocol 2, Practice 4
Date of occurrence of breach	27th April 2017
<p><i>Give an account of what has happened including roles of persons involved, dates, times etc</i></p> <p>The statistics were due to be published at 9.30am on 27th April 2017. Due to an issue with the server, the publication of the statistics document was delayed by over 24 hours. However, a statistical news release covering the headline statistics was published at 9.30am on 27th April.</p> <p>This issue was first noticed by RESAS just after 9.30am on 27th April when the statistics were not appearing on the website and was immediately reported to the SG Digital team.</p> <p>The Digital team confirmed there was a problem with the server. The SG Website is hosted externally by a third party company and the issue was that their systems were not letting the SG upload service communicate with it. They were working to get this resolved as soon as possible and confirmed that once it was fixed the statistics publication would be uploaded to the website.</p> <p>RESAS sent a PDF of the publication to SG Communications on 27th April so that it could be sent to anyone who requested it. Any users who got in contact with RESAS about the publication were also sent a copy of the PDF.</p> <p>On 28th April the server issue was still not resolved. At 1.30pm, SG Communications added the PDF of the publication as a download option on the news release page so the publication could be accessed by users. We had also explored various alternative ways to publish the release, but these had not been possible.</p> <p>The problem was fixed at some point over the weekend of 29th April.</p>	

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

Provide details of the impact of the breach both inside the producer body and externally

As the news release was published but the full publication could not be accessed this caused some confusion for users. However, they were able to email RESAS or SG Communications and were then sent a copy of the PDF publication.

Journalists were able to produce newspaper articles for the 28th April, so it did not cause them any delay in their reporting of the statistics.

Anyone visiting the SG website would have very likely been able to find the statistical news release under the News section. We find that the stats news releases are a good way to provide the main findings, and those users interested in more detail are then directed to the full publication. (We actually get almost no traffic from the gov.uk release calendar.)

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

Describe the short-term actions made to redress the situation and the longer term changes to procedures etc

The team responsible for the main Scottish Government website investigated the cause of the problem and are taking steps to minimise the chances of it happening again. The hosting company will be providing a full report on the issue and we will update this breach report accordingly.

In the unlikely event that this was to happen again we have identified a workaround in that we could publish the pdf publication alongside the statistical news release.