

Forestry Commission Breaches of Code of Practice

Last reviewed:

March 2021

Next review due:

March 2023/ as required

Introduction

This document provides summary information about any identified breaches of the Code of Practice for Statistics that may be reportable by the Forestry Commission to the UK Statistics Authority. More detailed information on breaches is available in the breach reports available from the UK Statistics Authority website at <https://uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/>.

The document only covers breaches reported since 2019 and covers all Official Statistics. If you require information on earlier breaches, please contact us at statistics@forestresearch.gov.uk.

Sheila Ward

Lead Statistician

Forest Research

Forestry Commission Key Performance Indicators: Headline Performance Update at 30 June 2019

August 2019

Within the 24-hour pre-release period, one member of the relevant Defra policy team who had been granted privileged pre-release access to the output shared a draft summary briefing about it with one policy colleague within their own team who was not included in the pre-release access list for this specific release.

The people receiving the pre-release for this output all had, as usual, been given clear firmly worded handling instructions prohibiting pre-publication sharing beyond the agreed pre-release access list, along with direct access to the names of people who had been granted access. The person who shared beyond this was new to the team and this was the first pre-release they had received on this statistical output.

The situation will be redressed by a) reminding the person who shared of the correct pre-release protocol, b) committing to add a copy of the handling instructions to the emails accompanying draft briefing on the output, and c) committing to strengthen further the wording of handling instructions accompanying the pre-release material.

There was no impact within the Forestry Commission, no impact within Defra, and no external impact.

Timber Price Indices: Data to September 2019

November 2019

Relevant pages on the Forest Research website were amended and scheduled to publish at 9.30, but the pages failed to update on time and had to be published manually.

The issue was identified and action taken to publish the output within 20 minutes of the release time, so there has been no impact within the Forestry Commission or externally.

The Statistics team followed up with technical colleagues to establish why the scheduled amendments did not occur on time. Developers had been hired to work on the Forest Research website but were unaware that the scheduled updates had been set for 30 minutes past the hour (to enable the release of official statistics at 9.30) and had amended the setting to 1 minute past the hour.

The setting for scheduled updates has now been amended by the developers and tested by the Statistics team. In order to avoid any reoccurrence, procedures have also been set up to re-test the system after any website developments and before each release.