



Data Retention Procedure
(Appendix 3 to Data Protection Policy)

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Introduction

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) provides that organisations which process personal data must not retain that data for any longer than is *necessary* for the purposes for which the personal data are processed.

Purpose

This procedure details Trafalgar Housing Association's approach to the retention, deletion and destruction of personal data. All members of staff are obliged to familiarise themselves with this procedure and refer to it on an ongoing basis to ensure that its terms are implemented and complied with.

Storage of Personal Data

Trafalgar Housing Association stores personal data in a variety of ways. This includes hard copy documents, emails, digital documents stored on desktop computers, laptops, phones and other devices, data stored on servers and in cloud-based storage along with data stored by third parties on our behalf.

When updating, rectifying, erasing and deleting any personal data, due care must be taken to ensure that all personal data held in all locations (including back-up storage) and in all forms is dealt with securely and to ensure that a consistent and accurate record of personal data is maintained.

Retention of Personal Data

Different types of personal data may need to be retained for different periods of time depending on the purposes for which the data is processed and the legal and regulatory retention requirements that apply to certain categories of data. In determining the appropriate retention period consideration should be given to the following factors:

- the purposes for which the personal data is processed;
- the legal basis for processing that personal data;
- legal requirements for retention (particularly employment and health and safety law); and
- regulatory requirements.

An appropriate retention period should be identified for each category of personal data. Data subjects must be informed of the retention period which applies to their personal data or, if there is no fixed retention period, the criteria used to determine that period and, where the purposes for which the data is processed have changed, any new retention period.

All personal data processed by Trafalgar Housing Association shall be retained in accordance with the periods set out in the Trafalgar Housing Association retention schedule at Enclosure 1.

Personal data will be retained in accordance with the appropriate retention period and permanently deleted and/or securely destroyed in accordance with this procedure. No personal data shall be destroyed or deleted other than in accordance with this procedure.

Review and Deletion of Personal Data

A review of the personal data processed by Trafalgar Housing Association will be carried out at least every 2 years. During the course of this review we will:

- Review the retention periods for each category of personal data processed and whether any alteration to these periods is required;
- Identify personal data which is due for destruction and deletion;
- Arrange for the secure deletion and destruction of personal data which will no longer be retained.

Data Subject Rights

Under the GDPR, data subjects are entitled, in certain circumstances, to require the erasure of their personal data. Any such request from a data subject must be passed to the Data Protection Lead as soon as possible.

A data subject may insist on erasure of their personal data where:

- it is no longer necessary for the purposes for which it was processed;
- where consent has been withdrawn by the data subject;
- where there is no legal basis for the processing of the data; or
- where there is a legal obligation to delete the data.

The data subject's right to erasure is not absolute and does not apply to personal data where processing is necessary for:

- exercising the rights of freedom of expression;
- to comply with a legal obligation in the public interest or in the exercise of an official authority;
- for public health reasons;
- for archiving purposes; and
- for the establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims.

Where personal data is erased following receipt of a request by a data subject Trafalgar Housing Association will confirm in writing to the data subject that their personal data has been destroyed. Such a response shall be issued to the data subject unless it is impossible or requires disproportionate effort to do so. Where any request for erasure is refused, Trafalgar Housing Association will advise the data subject in writing that their request has been refused and detail the reasons for refusal.

Monitoring and Review

This policy shall be regularly monitored and reviewed, at least every two years or in the event of any significant changes.

DATA RETENTION SCHEDULE

Document overview			Retention Schedule				Document management (optional)						
No.	Function	Record type	Retention trigger	Minimum statutory retention period	Recommended retention period	Retention source	Reason for retention	Information Asset Owner	Contains Personal Data	Storage Format	Storage Location(s)	System(s)	System(s) Location(s)
1. Governance													
1.1	Governance	Organisation wide Corporate Plans, Policies, Business Continuity, Risk Management and Strategies	Superseded document	N/A	1 year after superseded (longer if required for historical reasons)		Best practice						
1.2	Governance	Governance documentation		N/A	Life of company		Required for charitable status.						
1.3	Governance	Constitution, Aims and Objectives		Life of company	Life of company		Required for charitable status.						
1.4	Governance	Record of HMRC confirmation of charitable status	End of financial year	Minimum 1 year to end of financial year - required for Annual Return as a minimum	Life of company	ICSA	Annual return and best practice.						
1.5	Governance	Record of charitable registration		Life of company	Life of company	ICSA	Best practice.						

1.6	Governance	Certificate of Incorporation		Life of company	Life of company	Companies Act 2006 section 15	Legal compliance							
1.7	Governance	Memorandum of Association		Life of company	Life of company	Companies Act 2006 section 32	Legal compliance							
1.8	Governance	Articles of Association/ Model Rules		Life of company	Life of company	Companies Act 2006 section 32	Legal compliance							
1.9	Governance	Certificate of registration with housing regulator		Life of company	Life of company	ICSA	Best practice							
1.10	Governance	Record of registration and certificate of incorporation for change of name		Life of company	Life of company	Companies Act 2006 section 80	Legal compliance							
1.11	Governance	Registration documentation (Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies)		Life of company	Life of company	Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 section 3	Legal compliance							
1.12	Governance	Internal Audit correspondence, terms of reference, meeting minutes, related papers and reports	After audit	N/A	5 years		Best practice							
1.13	Governance	Board member documents – apt letters, SLAs, bank details etc.	Membership ceases	6 years after board membership ceases though some details should be destroyed when	6 years	GDPR Article 5(1) (e) requires that personal data shall be kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary CA 2006 recommendation for docs post termination of directorship	Legal compliance							

				members hip ceases e.g. bank details etc.											
2. Data Governance															
2.1	Data Governance	Emails	No longer active	receipt of email	Archived after 6 months Destroyed after 2 years	Ofcom archive guidance ranges from 90 days to four years.	National	Best practice							
2.2	Data Governance	CCTV	Date of recording	Minimum time necessary	30 days	DPA		Best practice							
2.3	Data Governance	Call Recordings	Date of recording	Minimum time necessary	6 months	FCA Handbook, conduct of business 11.8		Best practice							
2.4	Data Governance	Data Subject Access Requests	Data sent	6 months	1 year	ICO		Best practice							
2.5	Data Governance	Films / Videos	Date of recording	Minimum time necessary	3 years			Best practice							
2.6	Data Governance	Data Breach Records	Date of recording	N/A	6 years			Best practice							
2.7	Data Governance	Fraud Records	Date of recording	6 years	6 years	FCA Handbook		Best practice							
2.8	Data Governance	Data Subject Access Requests	Data sent	6 months	1 year	ICO		Best practice							
3. Meetings															
3.1	Meetings	Notice of meetings		N/A	6 years			In case of challenge to validity of meeting							

							or resoluti ons							
3.2	Meetings	Executive meeting agendas, papers, minutes and resolutions		N/A	10 years		Best practice							
3.3	Meetings	Board and Committee meeting minutes and resolutions	Date of meeting	10 years from the date of the meeting of extant company or life of company	10 years from the date of the meeting of extant company or life of company	Companies Act 2006 section 248 and 249	Legal compliance							
3.4	Meetings	Board and Committee meeting agendas and papers	Date of meeting	10 years from the date of the meeting of extant company or life of company	10 years from the date of the meeting of extant company or life of company	Companies Act 2006 section 248 and 250	Best practice (if required to support minutes and resolutions)							
3.5	Meetings	Shareholder meeting minutes and resolutions	Date of meeting	Life of company	Life of company	Companies Act 2006 section 356	Legal compliance							
3.6	Meetings	Shareholder meeting agendas and papers	Date of meeting	N/A	Life of company		Best practice (if required to support minutes and resolutions)							
3.7	Meetings	Minutes and resolutions of trustees (charities)	Date of meeting	Life of company	Life of company	Charity Commission requirement CC48	Legal compliance							

4. Regulations and Statutory Returns													
4.1	Regulations and Statutory Returns	Audited financial statements	Submission	Minimum of 3 years	6 years	Companies Act 2006 section 388 and Professional Standards Authority and National Archives recommendations for best practice	Legal compliance and best practice						
4.2	Regulations and Statutory Returns	Sealing register		Life of company	Life of company	Companies Act 1985	Legal compliance						
4.3	Regulations and Statutory Returns	Annual Statutory Returns to the Regulator	Submission	Minimum of 1 year from submission	Life of company	Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 section 90	Legal compliance and best practice						
4.4	Regulations and Statutory Returns	Register of directors and secretaries		Life of company	Life of company	Companies Act 2006 section 162	Legal compliance						
4.5	Regulations and Statutory Returns	Register of shareholding members		Life of company	Life of company	Companies Act 2006 section 113	Legal compliance						
4.6	Regulations and Statutory Returns	Register of share certificates		Life of company	Life of company	Companies Act 1984 s.325	Legal compliance						
4.7	Regulations and Statutory Returns	Declarations of interest		Life of company	Life of company	Company Act 2006 section 177 (implied)	Legal compliance						
4.8	Regulations and Statutory Returns	List of members (Communities & Benefit Society')		Life of company	Life of company	Registrar of Friendly Societies	Required by Registrar of Friendly Societies						
4.9	Regulations and Statutory Returns	Nursing home and residential care homes registration certificates	End of management	N/A	7 years following end of management	Care Quality Commission Guidelines	Best practice						

4.1 0	Regulations and Statutory Returns	Nursing home and residential care homes inspection reports	End of management	7 years following end of management	7 years following end of management	Care Quality Commission Guidelines and Limitation Act 1980	Legal compliance and best practice							
5. Strategic Management														
5.1	Strategic	Business Plans and supporting documentation	End of Business Plan Period	N/A	5 years		Best practice							
6. Insurance														
6.1	Insurance	Current/former policies: - crime cover - engineering inspection - motor insurance - property damage - loss of commercial rent - housing contents - office contents - works in progress cover - business interruption cover - all risks cover - engineering insurance - personal accident for staff - professional indemnity - crime/fidelity cover	End of policy term	Life of company	Life of company	Limitation can commence from knowledge of potential claim and not necessarily the cause of the claim. N.B. Housing Association Boards must annually reaffirm formally their continuation of the Voluntary Board Members Liability Policy (automatically provided via NHF membership). NCVO (National Council for Voluntary Organisations) recommends 3 years after lapse.	Legal compliance and best practice							
6.2	Insurance	Certificate of Employers' Liability Insurance	End of policy term	N/A	40 years	2008 regulations removed requirement to retain for 40 years but need to be mindful of 'long tail' industrial disease claims, etc.	Best practice							

6.3	Insurance	Annual Insurance schedule	End of year	N/A	Life of company	As current and former policies are kept permanently (above), schedules should be too. Best practice	Best practice							
6.4	Insurance	Claims and related correspondence	End of settlement	N/A	2 years	Zurich Municipal recommendation. NCVO recommends 3 years after settlement	Best practice							
6.5	Insurance	Indemnities and guarantees	End of policy term	N/A	6 years after expiry	Limitations Act 1980, Limitation for legal proceedings. 12 years if related to land.	Legal compliance							
6.6	Insurance	Group health policies	End of benefits	N/A	12 years after cessation of benefit		Best practice							
7. Finance														
7.1	Finance	Accounting records for Limited Company		6 years	6 years	Companies Act Section 388 recommends 3 years. Taxes Management Act 1970 (TMA) Sec20 (Taxes Management Act 1970) may require any documents relating to tax over 6 (plus) years	Legal compliance							
7.2	Finance	Accounting records for Communities & Benefit Society/ Society or Charity		N/A	6 years		Best practice							
7.3	Finance - Cheques and associated records	Cash books/sheets	End of Financial Year	6 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice							
7.4	Finance - Cheques and associated records	Petty cash records/books/sheets Postage/courier account/cash records Register of postage expenditure	End of Financial Year	2 years	2 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice							

		Postage paid record Postage books sheets													
7.5	Finance - Cheques and associated records	Creditors' history records	End of Financial Year	6 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice								
7.6	Finance - Cheques and associated records	Statements of accounts outstanding orders	End of Financial Year	2 years	2 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice								
7.7	Finance - Cheques and associated records	Vouchers – claims for payment, purchase orders, requisition for goods and services, accounts payable, invoices and so on	End of Financial Year	6 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice								
7.8	Finance - Cheques and associated records	Wages/salaries vouchers	End of Financial Year	6 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice								
7.9	Finance - Cheques and associated records	General and subsidiary ledgers produced for the purposes of preparing certified financial statements or published information	End of Financial Year	6 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice								

7.1 0	Finance - Expenditur e records	Cash books/sheets	End of Financial Year	6 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compli ance and best practice							
7.1 1	Finance - Expenditur e records	Other ledgers (such as contracts, costs, purchases)	End of Financial Year	2 years	2 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compli ance and best practice							
7.1 2	Finance - Expenditur e records	Journals – prime records for the raising of charges	End of Financial Year	6 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compli ance and best practice							
7.1 3	Finance - Expenditur e records	Journals – routine adjustments	End of Financial Year	2 years	2 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compli ance and best practice							
7.1 4	Finance - Expenditur e records	Trial balances - Year-end balances, reconciliations and variations to support ledger balances and published accounts	End of Financial Year	6 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compli ance and best practice							
7.1 5	Finance - Receipts and revenue records	Receipt books/butts Office copies of receipts – cashiers', cash register, fines and costs, sale of publications, general receipt books/butts/ records	End of Financial Year	6 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compli ance and best practice							
7.1 6	Finance - Receipts and	Postal remittance books/records	End of Financial Year	6 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compli ance and							

	revenue records						best practice							
7.1 7	Finance - Receipts and revenue records	Receipt books/records for imposts (such as stamp duty, VAT receipt books)	End of Financial Year	6 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice							
7.1 8	Finance - Receipts and revenue records	Cash registers - Copies of forms, Reconciliation sheets	End of Financial Year	6 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice							
7.1 9	Finance - Receipts and revenue records	Audit rolls, Summaries/analysis records	End of Financial Year	2 years	2 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice							
7.2 0	Finance - Receipts and revenue records	Debtors' records and invoices - debit notes rendered on debtors (such as invoices paid/unpaid, registers of invoices, debtors ledgers)	End of Financial Year	6 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice							
7.2 1	Finance - Receipts and revenue records	Debits and refunds - Records relating to unrecoverable revenue, debts and overpayments (such as register of debts written off, register of refunds)	End of Financial Year	6 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice							

7.2 2	Finance-Salaries and related records	Employee pay histories Note that the last three years' records must be kept for leavers, in either the personnel or finance records system, for the calculation of pension entitlement	End of Financial Year	6 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice							
7.2 3	Finance-Salaries and related records	Salary ledger card/records	End of Financial Year	6 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice							
7.2 4	Finance-Salaries and related records	Copies of salaries/wages payroll sheets	End of Financial Year	2 years	2 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice							
7.2 5	Finance-Purchase order records	Purchase order books/records	End of Financial Year	6 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice							
7.2 6	Finance-Purchase order records	Railway/courier consignment books/records/Travel warrants	End of Financial Year	2 years	2 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice							
7.2 7	Finance-Purchase order records	Goods inwards books/records	End of Financial Year	6 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice							
7.2 8	Finance-Purchase order records	Delivery dockets, Stock/stores control cards/sheets/records	End of Financial Year	2 years	2 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice							

7.29	Finance - Financial Statements	Statements/summaries prepared for inclusion in quarterly/annual reports	End of Financial Year	6 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice							
7.30	Finance - Financial Statements	Periodic financial statements prepared for management on a regular basis	End of Financial Year	1 year	1 year	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice							
7.31	Finance - Asset register financial records	Assets/equipment registers/records	End of Financial Year	6 years after asset or last one in the register is disposed of	6 years after asset or last one in the register is disposed of	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice							
7.32	Finance - Asset register financial records	Depreciation registers - Records relating to the calculation of annual depreciation	End of Financial Year	6 years after asset or last one in the register is disposed of	6 years after asset or last one in the register is disposed of	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice							
8. Other Banking Records														
8.1	Other Banking Records	Cancelled / Dishonoured Cheque	End of Financial Year	2 years	2 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice							
8.2	Other Banking Records	Paid/presented cheques	End of Financial Year	6 years	7 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice							
8.3	Other Banking Records	Record of cheques drawn for payment	End of Financial Year	6 years	7 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice							

8.4	Other Banking Records	Bank deposit books/slips/butts	End of Financial Year	2 years	2 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice							
8.5	Other Banking Records	Bank deposit summary sheets - Summaries of daily banking	End of Financial Year	2 years	2 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice							
8.6	Other Banking Records	Bank reconciliations files/sheets	End of Financial Year	2 years	2 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice							
8.7	Other Banking Records	Bank statements, periodic reconciliations	End of Financial Year	2 years	2 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice							
8.8	Other Banking Records	Electronic banking and electronic funds transfer	End of Financial Year	6 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice							
9. Contracts and Agreements														
9.1	Contracts and Agreements	Contracts under seal and/or executed as deeds	Completion	12 years after completion (including any defects liability period)	12 years after completion (including any defects liability period)	Limitation Act 1980.	Legal compliance							
9.2	Contracts and Agreements	Contracts for the supply of goods or services, including professional services	Completion	6 years after completion (including any defects liability period)	6 years after completion (including any defects liability period)	Limitation Act 1980 (12 years if related to land).	Legal compliance							

9.3	Contracts and Agreements	Documentation relating to small one-off purchases of goods and services, where there is no continuing maintenance or similar requirement	After purchase	N/A	3 years. Suggested limit: goods or services up to £10,000		Best practice.							
9.4	Contracts and Agreements	Loan agreements	Last payment	N/A	12 years after last payment		Best practice							
9.5	Contracts and Agreements	Licensing agreements	Expiry of agreement	6 years after expiry	6 years	Limitation Act 1980.	Legal compliance							
9.6	Contracts and Agreements	Rental and hire purchase agreements	Expiry of agreement	6 years after expiry	6 years	Limitation Act 1980.	Legal compliance							
9.7	Contracts and Agreements	Indemnities and guarantees	Expiry of agreement	6 years after expiry	6 years	Limitation Act 1980.	Legal compliance							
9.8	Contracts and Agreements	Documents relating to successful tender	End of contract	N/A	6 years		Best practice							
9.9	Contracts and Agreements	Documents relating to unsuccessful tenders	After notification	N/A	2 years after notification		Best practice							
9.10	Contracts and Agreements	Forms of tender		N/A	6 years		Best practice							
9.11	Contracts and Agreements	Documentation relating to purchases of medical devices		N/A	11 years		Best practice							

		and medical equipment												
10. Charitable Donations														
10.1	Charitable Donations	Deeds of covenant		N/A	12 years after last payment	TMA recommends 12 years after last payment. Limitation for legal proceedings if related to land.	Best practice							
10.2	Charitable Donations	Index of donations granted		N/A	6 years	N/A	Best practice							
10.3	Charitable Donations	Account documentation		3 Years	6 years	Companies Act recommends 3 years. Best practice	Best practice							
11. Applications and Tenancy Records														
11.1	Application and Tenancy Records	Applications for accommodation	Offer accepted	N/A	6 years after offer accepted	Limitation Act 1980, section 2	Best practice							
11.2	Application and Tenancy Records	Continuous Recording of lettings and sales (CORE) data record form		N/A	As long as it is deemed necessary to support social housing policy.	CORE Data Sharing Agreement 12.1	Best practice							
11.3	Application and Tenancy Records	Housing Benefit notifications		N/A	2 Years	Recommendation from Chartered Institute of Housing. Good practice as per DWP guidance	Best practice							
11.4	Application and Tenancy Records	Rent statements		N/A	2 years		Best practice							
11.5	Application and Tenancy Records	Tenants' tenancy Files, including rent payment records, and details of any complaints and harassment cases		6 years	2 years' records plus current year	Limitations Act 1980	Legal compliance							

11.6	Application and Tenancy Records	Former tenants' Tenancy Agreements, and details of their leaving	End of tenancy	6 years	6 years	Limitations Act 1980	Legal compliance							
11.7	Application and Tenancy Records	Care plans for children and related documents		Until 75th year of child's birth or 15 years after death if child dies before 18. (Case records including care plans)	Until 75th year of child's birth or 15 years after death if child dies before 18. (Case records including care plans)	Arrangements for Placements of Children (General) Regulations 1999 and Children's Act 1989. Some documents may be transferred to subsequent caring agency.	Legal compliance							
11.8	Application and Tenancy Records	Care plans/ case files for adults and related documents	End of support	8 years from end of care. (Adult Social Care)	8 years from end of care. (Adult Social Care)	Records Management Code of Practice for Health and Social Care 2016 Some documents may be transferred to subsequent caring agency.	Legal compliance							
11.9	Application and Tenancy Records	Documentation, correspondence and information provided by other agencies relating to special needs of current tenants		While tenancy continues	While tenancy continues		Best practice							
11.10	Application and Tenancy Records	Records relating to offenders, ex-offenders and persons subject to cautions		While tenancy continues	While tenancy continues	NACRO	Best practice							
11.11	Application and Tenancy Records	Safeguarding Referral		10 years	10 years	Statutory requirement under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and Care Act 2014	Legal compliance							

11. 12	Application and Tenancy Records	Safeguarding Records - Serious Case Review		Minimum of 364 days or when notified Home Office has closed DHR	Minimum of 364 days or when notified Home Office has closed DHR	Records relating to child protection should be kept for 7 years after your organisation's last contact with the child and their family – NSPCC guidance	Legal compliance							
12. Tenancy Records														
12. 1	Property Records	Rent registrations (superseded)	Superseded document	N/A	6 years	Rent Officer Handbook recommendation	Best practice							
12. 2	Property Records	Rent Registration (not superseded)		N/A	Life of company	Rent Officer Handbook recommendation	Best practice							
12. 3	Property Records	Fair rent documentation		N/A	6 years	Rent Officer Handbook recommendation	Best practice							
12. 4	Property Records	Leases and deeds of ownership		N/A	15 years after expiry.	NCVO	Best practice							
12. 5	Property Records	Copy of former leases	Settlement of all issues	12 years	12 years	Limitation for legal action relating to land or contracts under seal. Limitations Act 1980	Legal compliance							
12. 6	Property Records	Wayleaves, licences and easements	Rights given or received cease	12 years	12 years	Limitation for legal action relating to land or contracts under seal. Limitations Act 1980	Legal compliance							
12. 7	Property Records	Abstracts of title	Interest ceases	12 years after interest ceases	12 years	Limitation for legal action relating to land or contracts under seal. Limitations Act 1980	Legal compliance							
12. 8	Property Records	Planning and building control permissions	Interest ceases	12 years after interest ceases	12 years	Limitation for legal action relating to land or contracts under seal. Limitations Act 1980	Legal compliance							

12.9	Property Records	Searches	Interest ceases	12 years after interest ceases	12 years	Limitation for legal action relating to land or contracts under seal. Limitations Act 1980	Legal compliance							
12.10	Property Records	Property maintenance records		6 years	6 years	Limitation for legal action relating to land or contracts under seal. Limitations Act 1980	Legal compliance							
12.11	Property Records	Reports and professional opinions		6 years	6 years	Limitation for legal action relating to land or contracts under seal. Limitations Act 1980	Legal compliance							
12.12	Property Records	Development documentation	Settlement of all issues	12 years	12 years	Limitation for legal action relating to land or contracts under seal. Limitations Act 1980	Legal compliance							
12.13	Property Records	Invoices		12 years	12 years	Limitation for legal action relating to land or contracts under seal. Limitations Act 1980	Legal compliance							
13. Vehicles														
13.1	Transport & Vehicles	Mileage records & defect sheets	Vehicle disposal	N/A	2 years		Best practice							
13.2	Transport & Vehicles	Maintenance records & MOT tests	Vehicle disposal	N/A	2 years		Best practice							
13.3	Transport & Vehicles	Copy Registrations	Vehicle disposal	N/A	2 years		Best practice							
13.4	Transport & Vehicles	Vehicle disposal log	Vehicle disposal	N/A	1 year		Best practice							
13.5	Transport & Vehicles - Operators Licence Only	Operators Licence certificates and documents of title	N/A	Permanently	Permanently	Driver & Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) Operators Licence requirement	Legal compliance							
13.6	Transport & Vehicles - Operators Licence Only	Mileage records & defect sheets	Vehicle disposal	15 months	2 years	2 years is best practice. DVSA requirement to keep for 15 months under Operators Licence	Best practice							

13.7	Transport & Vehicles - Operators Licence Only	Maintenance records & MOT tests (up to 3.5T)	Vehicle disposal	15 months	2 years	2 years is best practice. DVSA requirement to keep for 15 months under Operators Licence	Best practice							
13.8	Transport & Vehicles - Operators Licence Only	Maintenance records & MOT tests (HGV over 3.5T)	Vehicle disposal	15 months	2 years	2 years is best practice. DVSA requirement to keep for 15 months under Operators Licence	Best practice							
13.9	Transport & Vehicles - Operators Licence Only	Copy Registrations (up to 3.5T)	Vehicle disposal	15 months	2 years	2 years is best practice. DVSA requirement to keep for 15 months under Operators Licence	Best practice							
13.10	Transport & Vehicles - Operators Licence Only	Copy Registrations (HGV over 3.5T)	Vehicle disposal	15 months	2 years	2 years is best practice. DVSA requirement to keep for 15 months under Operators Licence	Best practice							
14. Capital Assets														
14.1	Capital Assets	Capital Assets including all land, property, housing stock, corporate buildings, play areas, vehicles, equipment, fixtures & fittings >£400	Asset sold, transferred or disposed of	N/A	6 years		Best practice							
14.2	Capital Assets	Fixed Asset Register	NA	Permanently	Permanently	Charities Act	Legal compliance							
15. Employees - Tax and Security														
15.1	Tax and Social Security	Record of taxable payments; record of tax deducted or refunded; record of earnings on which standard	End of Financial Year	Not less than 3 years after the end of the financial year to	6 years	HM Revenue and Customs requires retention of each payment for 3 years. Income Tax (PAYE) Regulations 2003 (SI 2003/2682 Reg 97). The Income Tax (employments) Regulations 1993 (SI 1993/744) and amended 1996	Legal compliance							

		NI Contributions payable; record of employer's and employee NI contributions		which they relate										
15.2	Tax and Social Security	NIC contracted out arrangements; Inland Revenue notice of code changes, pay and tax details.	End of Financial Year	Not less than 3 years after the end of the financial year to which they relate	6 years	Income Tax (PAYE) Regulations 2003 (SI 2003/2682 Reg 97). The Income Tax (employments) Regulations 1993 (SI 1993/744) and amended 1996. Taxes Management Act 1970	Legal compliance							
15.3	Tax and Social Security	Copies of notices to employees (e.g. P45, P60);	End of Financial Year	Not less than 3 years after the end of the financial year to which they relate	6 years plus current year	Income Tax (PAYE) Regulations 2003 (SI 2003/2682 Reg 97). The Income Tax (employments) Regulations 1993 (SI 1993/744) and amended 1996. Taxes Management Act 1970	Legal compliance							
15.4	Tax and Social Security	HMRC notice of code changes, pay & tax details		6 years	6 years	Taxes Management Act 1970	Legal compliance							
15.5	Tax and Social Security	Expense Claims	After audit	3 years from the end of the tax year they relate to	6 years	HMRC	Best practice							

15.6	Tax and Social Security	Record of sickness payments	On payment	6 years	6 years	Taxes Management Act 1970 Inland Revenue require retention of each payment for 3 years. SSPR recommends 3 years following year to which they relate	Legal compliance									
15.7	Tax and Social Security	Record of maternity payments, statutory paternity pay, statutory shared parental pay and statutory adoption pay	On payment	6 years	6 years	The Statutory Maternity Pay (General) Regulations 1986 (SI 1986/1960) as amended. The Statutory Paternity Pay and Statutory Adoption Pay (admin) Regulations 2002 (SI 2002/2820) and Statutory Shared Parental Pay (Admin) regulations 2014 (SI 2014/2929)	Legal compliance									
15.8	Tax and Social Security	Income Tax and NI returns	End of Financial Year	Not less than 3 years after the end of the financial year to which they relate	6 years	Income Tax (PAYE) Regulations 2003 (SI 2003/2682 Reg 97). The Income Tax (employments) Regulations 1993 (SI 1993/744) and amended 1996	Legal compliance									
15.9	Tax and Social Security	Redundancy details and record of payments & refunds	Date of redundancy	N/A	6 years	IPD recommended	Best practice									
15.10	Tax and Social Security	Revenue and Customs approvals		N/A	Permanently	CIPD recommended	Best practice									
15.11	Tax and Social Security	Annual earnings summary	End of Financial Year	N/A	12 years		Best practice									
15.12	Tax and Social Security	Payroll/ salary records, overtime, bonuses expenses etc.	End of Financial Year	Not less than 3 years after the end of the financial	3 years	Income Tax (PAYE) Regulations 2003 (SI 2003/2682 Reg 97). The Income Tax (employments) Regulations 1993 (SI 1993/744) and amended 1996	Legal compliance									

				year to which they relate											
15.13	Tax and Social Security	Actuarial valuation reports		N/A	Permanently	CIPD recommended	Best practice								
15.14	Tax and Social Security	Detailed returns of pension fund contributions; annual reconciliations of fund contributions		N/A	Permanently		Best practice								
15.15	Tax and Social Security	Money purchase details	After transfer or value taken	N/A	6 years	CIPD recommended	Best practice								
15.16	Tax and Social Security	Qualifying service details	After transfer or value taken	N/A	6 years	CIPD recommended	Best practice								
15.17	Tax and Social Security	Investment policies	From end of benefits payable under policy	N/A	12 years	CIPD recommended	Best practice								
15.18	Tax and Social Security	Trade Union agreements	Date of cessation	N/A	10 years after ceasing to be effective	CIPD recommended	Best practice								
15.19	Tax and Social Security	Inland Revenue approvals		N/A	Life of company	CIPD recommended	Best practice								
15.20	Tax and Social Security	Annual earnings summary	End of tax year	N/A	3 years from the end of the tax year they relate to	HMRC	Best practice								
16. Human Resources - Pension Schemes															

16.1	Pension Schemes	Actuarial valuation reports		N/A	Permanently	CIPD recommended	Best practice							
16.2	Pension Schemes	Detailed returns of pension fund contributions		N/A	6 years	Pensions Regulator	Best practice							
16.3	Pension Schemes	Annual reconciliations of fund contributions		N/A	6 years	Pensions Regulator	Best practice							
16.4	Pension Schemes	Money purchase details	After transfer	N/A	6 years after transfer or value taken	CIPD recommended	Best practice							
16.5	Pension Schemes	Qualifying service details	After transfer	N/A	6 years after transfer or value taken	CIPD recommended	Best practice							
16.6	Pension Schemes	Investment policies	End of benefits payable under policy	N/A	12 years	CIPD recommended	Best practice							
16.7	Pension Schemes	Pensioner records	After benefits cease	N/A	12 years after benefits cease	CIPD recommended	Best practice							
16.8	Pension Schemes	Records relating to retirement benefits	After transfer or value taken	N/A	6 years	RBS(IP)R recommended	Best practice							
17. Human Resources - Personnel Records														
17.1	Personnel Records	Records relating to retirement benefits	After a year of retirement	N/A	6 years	RBS(IP)R recommended	Best practice							
17.2	Personnel Records	Terms and conditions of service, both general terms and conditions applicable to all staff, and specific terms and conditions	Leaving date	N/A	6 years	Limitations Act 1980 Limitation for legal proceedings	Legal compliance							

		applying to individuals												
17.3	Personnel Records	Benefits and Deductions (Service contracts for directors (companies))	Date of cessation of directorship	3 years	6 years	ICSA	Best practice							
17.4	Personnel Records	Remuneration package	Leaving date	N/A	6 years	Limitations Act 1980 Limitation for legal proceedings	Legal compliance							
17.5	Personnel Records	Former employees' Human Resources files	Leaving date	N/A	6 years	CIPD recommended	Best practice							
17.6	Personnel Records	References to be provided for former employees	Leaving date	N/A	6 years	CIPD recommended	Best practice							
17.7	Personnel Records	Training Programmes	Leaving date	N/A	6 years	CIPD recommended	Best practice							
17.8	Personnel Records	Individual training records	Leaving date	N/A	6 years	CIPD recommended	Best practice							
17.9	Personnel Records	Short lists, interview notes and related application forms	Last Action	N/A	1 year	CIPD recommended	Best practice							
17.10	Personnel Records	Application forms of non-short listed candidates	After notification	1 year	1 year	Limitations Act 1980 SDA & RRA recommend 3 months Commission for Racial Equality and Equal Opportunities recommends 6 months.	Legal compliance							
17.11	Personnel Records	DBS certificate number	Date of clearance	Date of clearance + up to a maximum of 6 months	3 years	DBS check code of practice (Home office)	Legal compliance Teign Housing hold only the							

							certifica te number but the system reminds HR to check again in 3 years.							
17. 12	Personnel Records	Time cards/ sheets	After audit	N/A	2 years	CIPD recommended	Best practice							
17. 13	Personnel Records	Trust deeds, rules and minutes (for joint employee/empl oyer sports/social clubs, etc. set up under trust)		N/A	Permanently	CIPD recommended	Best practice							
17. 14	Personnel Records	Employer/Empl oyee committee minutes (Staff Forum)		N/A	Permanently	CIPD recommended	Best practice							
17. 15	Personnel Records	Parental leave records	Birth of child	N/A	18 years from birth of child	CIPD recommended	Best practice							
18. Human Resources - Health & Safety														
18. 1	Health & Safety	Medical records relating to control of asbestos		40 years	40 years	The Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2002 (SI 2002/ 2675). Also see the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/2739) and the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 (SI 2012/632	Legal compliance							
18. 2	Health & Safety	Health and safety assessments; records of consultations with safety reps		Permanently	Permanently	Health and Safety at Work Act 1979	Legal compliance							

18.3	Health & Safety	Health and safety policy statements		Permanently	Permanently	Health and Safety at Work Act 1979	Legal compliance							
18.4	Health & Safety	Accident records, reports, accident books	Date of occurrence	3 years	6 years after date of occurrence/entry	RIDDOR Limitation for legal proceedings RIDDOR 1995 and Limitation Act 1980 Special rules apply concerning incidents involving hazardous substances.	Legal compliance							
18.5	Health & Safety	Sickness records	Date of occurrence	3 years	6 years from date of sickness	The Statutory Sick Pay (General) Regulations 1982 (SI 1982/894) as amended Professional Standards Agency	Legal compliance							
18.6	Health & Safety	Health and safety statutory notices	Once compliance	6 years after compliance	6 years after compliance	Limitations Act 1980 Limitation for legal proceedings	Legal compliance							
19. Technical and Research Records														
19.1	Technical and Research	Technical and research records	After requirements have ended	N/A	12-15 years after requirements have ended for both records and reports and drawings and other data.	NCVO	Best practice							
20. ASB case files and associated documents														
20.1	ASB case files and associated documents	ASB (Anti-social behaviour) case files and associated documents		N/A	5 years or until end of legal action		Best practice							
21. Supporting people – subsidy claims / support plans / single assessments including supporting information														
21.1	Supporting People	Supporting people – subsidy claims / support plans / single		N/A	Duration of tenancy		Best practice							

		assessments including supporting information												
22. Resident Meetings														
22.1	Resident Meetings	Resident Meeting Minutes	From date of meeting	N/A	1 year	ICSA recommended	Best practice							
23. Property Sales														
23.1	Home Ownership	New Sales applications	Offer accepted	6 years after offer accepted	6 years	Limitation Act 1980, section 2	Best practice							
23.2	Property Sales	Registrations of interest	Sale of property	N/A	2 years		Best practice							
23.3	Property Sales	Offer Details	Offer accepted	current year plus 6 years	6 years	Estate Agency Act 1979	Legal compliance							
23.4	Property Sales	Completion documentation	Completion of Sale	12 years	12 years	Housing Act 1985	Best practice							
23.6	Property Sales	Post purchase questionnaire/ customer feedback	Date of creation	N/A	3 years	National Archives guidance	Best practice							
23.6	Property Sales	Help to Buy applications	Offer accepted	6 years after offer accepted	6 years	Limitation Act 1980, section 2	Best practice							

23.7	Property Sales	Resales (Shared Ownership)	Offer accepted	6 years after offer accepted	6 years	Limitation Act 1980, section 2	Best practice							
23.8	Property Sales	Staircasing process documents	Completion of Sale	12 years	12 years	Housing Act 1985	Best practice							
23.9	Property Sales	Right to Buy/ Acquire files	Completion of Sale	12 years	12 years	Housing Act 1985	Best practice							
24. Legal Client Records														
24.1	Simple Debt Collection	Debt Collection	Aged Debt	10 years after final completion, i.e. after the time for appeal has elapsed	10 years after final completion	Law Society Scotland	Best practice / Sector Guidance							
24.2	Divorce and Consistorial Matters			10 years after final completion, i.e. after maintenance, residence and contact	10 years after final completion	Law Society Scotland	Best practice / Sector Guidance							

				order have ceased to have effect, or children have reached maturity										
24.3	Civil Court Cases			10 years after final completion	10 years after final completion	Law Society Scotland	Best practice / Sector Guidance							
24.4	Criminal Cases :- Summary Cases			Files in respect of summary cases should be retained for three 3 years following the date of conclusion of proceedings	3 years following date of conclusion	Law Society Scotland	Best practice / Sector Guidance							
24.5	Criminal Cases :- Solemn Cases	In solemn cases resulting in conviction		files should be retained for the duration of the custodial sentence if it is more than three years in length	Duration of custodial Sentence	Law Society Scotland	Best practice / Sector Guidance							

24.6	Criminal Cases :- Solemn Cases	If the client is acquitted or the sentence is one of less than 3 years		the files should be retained for three years from the date of conclusion of proceedings	3 years following date of conclusion	Law Society Scotland	Best practice / Sector Guidance						
24.7	Criminal Cases :- Solemn Cases	If the case is neither indicted nor reduced to summary		complaint the file should be kept for a three year period beginning one year after the date of first appearance on petition (or three years from the date that written confirmation is received from the Crown that there are to be 'no further proceedings'	4 years from date of first appearance on petition	Law Society Scotland	Best practice / Sector Guidance						

24.8	Criminal Cases :- Solemn Cases	In murder cases and other cases involving disposal by way of life imprisonment (such as the imposition of an Order for Lifelong Restriction)		all papers should be retained indefinitely	Indefinitely	Law Society Scotland	Best practice / Sector Guidance						
24.9	Executries	The retention period may be of particular importance in cases where no clear decision has been taken to discharge legal rights.		Files should be retained for the period which is the later of:	(i) 20 years after the date of the approval of the "final" accounts of the executry; or (ii) 2 years from the death of the deceased's spouse or civil partner (if applicable)	Law Society Scotland	Best practice / Sector Guidance						
24.10	Continuing Trusts			Ten years after the termination of the Trust	10 years	Law Society Scotland	Best practice / Sector Guidance						

24.13	Endowment and Investment Business			Given the nature of this work endowment and investment business files should be retained in line with the guidance provided by the	Financial Conduct Authority	Law Society Scotland / Financial Conduct Authority	Best practice / Sector Guidance						
24.14	Other correspondence Files			Five years after completion of the business	5 years	Law Society Scotland	Best practice / Sector Guidance						
24.15	Money Laundering	Customer Due Diligence Records	Various	5 years	between 5 and 10 years	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/692/pdfs/uk_si_20170692_en.pdf	Regulation 40 of the Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Transfer of Funds Regulations 2017						

24.16	Closing of Files	This is clearly sound common sense in the situation where the solicitor is sitting waiting for further instructions.	In cases where the matter in which a solicitor was instructed has not come to an obvious and natural conclusion there is a professional duty upon a solicitor to advise a client in writing that the file will be closed in the absence of their instructions within a specific, reasonable period of time.	This allows for dormant files to be closed, accounts to be rendered either to the client or SLAB and both solicitor and client know the matter has come to an end.		Law Society Scotland / Financial Conduct Authority	Best practice / Sector Guidance						
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24. 17	Records of Destruction	Various	When files, papers and/or documents are destroyed a separate record should be retained of the date of destruction which should include a general description of what was destroyed	Anonymised / Personal Data Removed	25 years	Law Society Scotland / Financial Conduct Authority	Best practice / Sector Guidance						
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STATUTORY RETENTION PERIODS

The following represents an ever-changing list of retention periods. The list is not exhaustive. The list may need to be modified to suit your particular organisation. The main UK legislation regulating statutory retention periods is summarised below. If employers are in doubt, it's a good idea to keep records for at least 6 years (5 in Scotland), to cover the time limit for bringing any civil legal action.

Accident books, accident records/reports

Statutory retention period: 3 years from the date of the last entry (or, if the accident involves a child/ young adult, then until that person reaches the age of 21). (See below for accidents involving chemicals or asbestos).

Statutory authority: The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR) (SI 1995/3163) as amended, and Limitation Act 1980. Special rules apply concerning incidents involving hazardous substances (see below).

Accounting records

Statutory retention period: 3 years for private companies, 6 years for public limited companies.

Statutory authority: Section 221 of the Companies Act 1985 as modified by the Companies Acts 1989 and 2006.

Income tax and NI returns, income tax records and correspondence with HMRC

Statutory retention period: not less than 3 years after the end of the financial year to which they relate.

Statutory authority: The Income Tax (Employments) Regulations 1993 (SI 1993/744) as amended, for example by The Income Tax (Employments) (Amendment No. 6) Regulations 1996 (SI 1996/2631).

Medical records and details of biological tests under the Control of Lead at Work Regulations

Statutory retention period: 40 years from the date of the last entry.

Statutory authority: The Control of Lead at Work Regulations 1998 (SI 1998/543) as amended by the Control of Lead at Work Regulations 2002 (SI 2002/2676).

Medical records as specified by the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH)

Statutory retention period: 40 years from the date of the last entry.

Statutory authority: The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1999 and 2002 (COSHH) (SIs 1999/437 and 2002/2677).

Medical records under the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations:

medical records containing details of employees exposed to asbestos and medical examination certificates

Statutory retention period: (medical records) 40 years from the date of the last entry; (medical examination certificates) 4 years from the date of issue.

Statutory authority: The Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2002 (SI 2002/ 2675). Also see the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/2739) and the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 (SI 2012/632)

Medical records under the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999

Statutory retention period: until the person reaches 75 years of age, but in any event for at least 50 years.

Statutory authority: The Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 (SI 1999/3232).

Records of tests and examinations of control systems and protective equipment under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH)

Statutory retention period: 5 years from the date on which the tests were carried out.

Statutory authority: The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1999 and 2002 (COSHH) (SIs 1999/437 and 2002/2677).

Records relating to children and young adults

Statutory retention period: until the child/young adult reaches the age of 21.

Statutory authority: Limitation Act 1980.

Retirement Benefits Schemes – records of notifiable events, for example, relating to incapacity

Statutory retention period: 6 years from the end of the scheme year in which the event took place.

Statutory authority: The Retirement Benefits Schemes (Information Powers) Regulations 1995 (SI 1995/3103)

Statutory Maternity Pay records, calculations, certificates (Mat B1s) or other medical evidence

Statutory retention period: 3 years after the end of the tax year in which the maternity period ends.

Statutory authority: The Statutory Maternity Pay (General) Regulations 1986 (SI 1986/1960) as amended.

Wage/salary records (also overtime, bonuses, expenses)

Statutory retention period: 6 years.

Statutory authority: Taxes Management Act 1970.

National minimum wage records

Statutory retention period: 3 years after the end of the pay reference period following the one that the records cover.

Statutory authority: National Minimum Wage Act 1998.

Records relating to working time

Statutory retention period: 2 years from date on which they were made.

Statutory authority: The Working Time Regulations 1998 (SI 1998/1833).

Recommended (non-statutory) Retention Periods

For many types of HR records, there is no definitive retention period: it is up to the employer to decide how long to keep them. Different organisations make widely differing decisions about the retention periods to adopt. Employers must consider what a necessary retention period is for them, depending on the type of record.

The advice in this factsheet is based on the time limits for potential UK tribunal or civil claims. The period is often a question of judgement rather than there being any definitive right answer. For example, some records managers in public sector organisations recommend keeping an employee's records until they reach the age of 100, especially for pension purposes

The UK Limitation Act 1980 contains a 6-year time limit for starting many legal proceedings. So, where documents may be relevant to a contractual claim, it's recommended that these are kept for at least a corresponding 6-year period.

Actuarial valuation reports

Recommended retention period: permanently.

Application forms and interview notes (for unsuccessful candidates)

Recommended retention period: 6 months to a year. (Because of the time limits in the various discrimination Acts, minimum retention periods for records relating to advertising of vacancies and job applications should be at least 6 months. A year may be more advisable as the time limits for bringing claims can be extended. Successful job applicants documents will be transferred to the personnel file in any event.

Assessments under health and safety regulations and records of consultations with safety representatives and committees

Recommended retention period: permanently.

Inland Revenue/HMRC approvals

Recommended retention period: permanently.

Money purchase details

Recommended retention period: 6 years after transfer or value taken.

Parental leave

Recommended retention period: 5 years from birth/adoption of the child or 18 years if the child receives a disability allowance.

Pension scheme investment policies

Recommended retention period: 12 years from the ending of any benefit payable under the policy.

Pensioners' records

Recommended retention period: 12 years after benefit ceases.

Personnel files and training records (including disciplinary records and working time records)

Recommended retention period: 6 years after employment ceases.

Redundancy details, calculations of payments, refunds, notification to the Secretary of State

Recommended retention period: 6 years from the date of redundancy

Senior executives' records (that is, those on a senior management team or their equivalents)

Recommended retention period: permanently for historical purposes.

Statutory Sick Pay records, calculations, certificates, self-certificates

Recommended retention period: The Statutory Sick Pay (Maintenance of Records) (Revocation) Regulations 2014 (SI 2014/55) abolished the former obligation on employers to keep these records. Although there is no longer a specific statutory retention period, employers still have to keep sickness records to best suit their business needs. It is advisable to keep records for at least 3 months after the end of the period of sick leave in case of a disability discrimination claim. However, if there were to be a contractual claim for breach of an employment contract it may be safer to keep records for 6 years after the employment ceases.

Timecards

Recommended retention period: 2 years after audit.

Trade union agreements

Recommended retention period: 10 years after ceasing to be effective.

Trust deeds and rules

Recommended retention period: permanently.

Trustees' minute books

Recommended retention period: permanently.

Works council minutes

Recommended retention period: permanently.