



Cloch Housing Association

Data Retention (& Schedule)

Policy Name	Data Retention
Policy Category	Corporate & Governance
Policy Number	129
Approved by	Board or the F&CS Sub-Committee
Responsibility of	Corporate Services
Date Adopted	26 November 2024
Last Review	n/a
This Review	26 November 2024
Next Review	November 2027
Equalities Impact Assessment Required	No
Link to other policies	Privacy Notices: Customers/Staff/Board Appropriate Policy Document Data Protection
Consultation	No
Need for Procedure	Yes – refer to Record of Processing

Introduction

The UK General Data Protection Regulation ('UK 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 policy details the approach of Cloch Housing Association to the retention, deletion and destruction of personal data. All members of staff are obliged to familiarise themselves with this policy and refer to it on an ongoing basis to ensure that its terms are implemented and complied with.

Storage of Personal Data

Cloch 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 our servers and in our 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 in relation to certain categories of data.

In determining the appropriate retention period consideration should be given to the following factors:

- a) the purposes for which the personal data is processed;
- b) the legal basis for processing that personal data;
- c) legal requirements for retention (particularly employment and health and safety law);
- d) best practice; and
- e) 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 Cloch Housing Association shall be retained in accordance with the periods set out in the retention schedule below.

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

Review and Deletion of Personal Data

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

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

Responsibilities

The following roles are responsible for compliance with the Retention Policy and Schedule:

Area	Role Responsible
1. Governance	Chief Executive Officer
2. Data Governance	Chief Executive Officer
3. Meetings	Chief Executive Officer
4. Regulations and Statutory Returns	Chief Executive Officer
5. Strategic Management	Chief Executive Officer
6. Insurance	Finance Director
7. Finance	Finance Director
8. Other Banking Records	Finance Director
9. Contracts and Agreements	CEO/Directors
10. Property Records	Director of Property & Assets
11. Capital Assets	Finance Director
12. Employees – Tax and Security	Finance Director
13. HR – Pension Scheme	Finance Director
14. HR – Personnel Records	Chief Executive Officer
15. HR – Health & Safety	Chief Executive Officer
16. Technical Research & Records	Director of Property & Assets

17. ASB Case Files	Director of Customer Services & Communities
18. Resident Meetings	Director of Customer Services & Communities
19. Property Sales	Finance Director and Director of Property & Assets
20. Charitable Donations	Chief Executive Officer and Finance Director

No.	Function	Record type	Retention trigger	Minimum statutory retention period	Recommended retention period	Retention source	Reason for retention
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	Internal Audit correspondence, terms of reference, meeting minutes, related papers and reports	After audit	N/A	6 years		Best practice
1.12	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 membership ceases e.g. bank details etc.	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

No.	Function	Record type	Retention trigger	Minimum statutory retention period	Recommended retention period	Retention source	Reason for retention
3. Meetings							
3.1	Meetings	Notice of meetings		N/A	6 years		In case of challenge to validity of meeting or resolutions
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	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	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

No.	Function	Record type	Retention trigger	Minimum statutory retention period	Recommended retention period	Retention source	Reason for retention
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	Companies Act 2006	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 members		Life of company	Life of company	Companies Act 2006 section 113	Legal compliance
4.6	Regulations and Statutory Returns	Declarations of interest		Life of company	Life of company	Company Act 2006 section 177 (implied)	Legal compliance
5. Strategic Management							
5.1	Strategic	Business Plans and supporting documentation	End of Business Plan Period	N/A	6 years		Best practice

No.	Function	Record type	Retention trigger	Minimum statutory retention period	Recommended retention period	Retention source	Reason for retention
6. Insurance							
6.1	Insurance	Current/former policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	5 years from end of term (advice from Rradar)	5 years from end of term	Limitation can commence from knowledge of potential claim and not necessarily the cause of the claim.	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	5 years from end of term	Best practice	Best practice
6.4	Insurance	Claims and related correspondence	End of settlement	N/A	5 years	Rradar recommendation.	Best practice
6.5	Insurance	Indemnities and guarantees	End of policy term	N/A	6 12 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	5 years after cessation of benefit		Best practice

No.	Function	Record type	Retention trigger	Minimum statutory retention period	Recommended retention period	Retention source	Reason for retention
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 Postage paid record Postage books sheets	End of Financial Year	2 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice
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	6 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, remittance advices, BACS payment records etc	End of Financial Year	6 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice

No.	Function	Record type	Retention trigger	Minimum statutory retention period	Recommended retention period	Retention source	Reason for retention
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
7.10	Finance - Expenditure records	Cash books/sheets	End of Financial Year	6 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice
7.11	Finance - Expenditure records	Other ledgers (such as contracts, costs, purchases)	End of Financial Year	2 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice
7.12	Finance - Expenditure 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 compliance and best practice
7.13	Finance - Expenditure records	Journals – routine adjustments	End of Financial Year	2 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice
7.14	Finance - Expenditure 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 compliance and best practice
7.15	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
7.16	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
7.17	Finance - Receipts and revenue records	Audit rolls, Summaries/analysis records	End of Financial Year	2 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice

No.	Function	Record type	Retention trigger	Minimum statutory retention period	Recommended retention period	Retention source	Reason for retention
7.18	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
7.19	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
7.20	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
7.21	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
7.22	Finance- Salaries and related records	Copies of salaries/wages payroll sheets	End of Financial Year	2 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice
7.23	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
7.24	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
7.25	Finance - Financial Statements	Periodic financial statements prepared for management on a regular basis	End of Financial Year	1 year	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice
7.26	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

No.	Function	Record type	Retention trigger	Minimum statutory retention period	Recommended retention period	Retention source	Reason for retention
7.27	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

No.	Function	Record type	Retention trigger	Minimum statutory retention period	Recommended retention period	Retention source	Reason for retention
8. Other Banking Records							
8.1	Other Banking Records	Cancelled / Dishonoured Cheque	End of Financial Year	2 years	6 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	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice
8.3	Other Banking Records	Record of cheques drawn for payment and BACS payments made	End of Financial Year	6 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice
8.4	Other Banking Records	Bank deposit summary sheets - Summaries of daily banking	End of Financial Year	2 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice
8.5	Other Banking Records	Bank reconciliations files/sheets	End of Financial Year	2 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice
8.6	Other Banking Records	Bank statements, periodic reconciliations	End of Financial Year	2 years	6 years	HM treasury guidelines, National Audit Office advice	Legal compliance and best practice
8.7	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

No.	Function	Record type	Retention trigger	Minimum statutory retention period	Recommended retention period	Retention source	Reason for retention
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)	Prescription and Limitation Act 1973.	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)	Prescription and Limitation Act 1973 (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	6 years.		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	Prescription and Limitation Act 1973	Legal compliance
9.6	Contracts and Agreements	Rental and hire purchase agreements	Expiry of agreement	6 years after expiry	6 years	Prescription and Limitation Act 1973	Legal compliance
9.7	Contracts and Agreements	Indemnities and guarantees	Expiry of agreement	6 years after expiry	6 years	Prescription and Limitation Act 1973	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

No.	Function	Record type	Retention trigger	Minimum statutory retention period	Recommended retention period	Retention source	Reason for retention
9.11	Contracts and Agreements	Documentation relating to purchases of medical devices and medical equipment		N/A	11 years		Best practice

No.	Function	Record type	Retention trigger	Minimum statutory retention period	Recommended retention period	Retention source	Reason for retention
10. Property Records							
10.1	Application and Tenancy Records	Applications for accommodation	Offer accepted	N/A	6 years after offer accepted	Prescription and Limitation Act 1973	Best practice
10.2	Application and Tenancy Records	Continuous Recording of lettings and sales (CORE) data record form	Date of completion	N/A	As long as it is deemed necessary to support social housing policy.	CORE Data Sharing Agreement 12.1	Best practice
10.3	Application and Tenancy Records	Housing Benefit / Universal Credit notifications	End of tenancy	N/A	Until the end of tenancy (2 years minimum)	Recommendation from Chartered Institute of Housing. Good practice as per DWP guidance	Best practice
10.4	Application and Tenancy Records	Rent statements	End of tenancy	N/A	2 years	Recommendation from Chartered Institute of Housing. Good practice as per DWP guidance	Best practice
10.5	Application and Tenancy Records	Tenants' tenancy files, including rent payment records, and details of any complaints and harassment cases	End of tenancy	5 years	5 years' records plus current year	Prescription and Limitation Act 1973	Legal compliance
10.6	Application and Tenancy Records	Former tenants' Tenancy Agreements, and details of their leaving	End of tenancy	5 years	6 years	Prescription and Limitation Act 1973	Legal compliance
10.7	Application and Tenancy Records	Documentation, correspondence and information provided by other agencies relating to special needs of current tenants	End of tenancy	While tenancy continues	While tenancy continues	Recommendation from Chartered Institute of Housing.	Best practice
10.8	Application and Tenancy Records	Records relating to offenders, ex-offenders and persons subject to cautions	End of tenancy	While tenancy continues	While tenancy continues	NACRO	Best practice

No.	Function	Record type	Retention trigger	Minimum statutory retention period	Recommended retention period	Retention source	Reason for retention
10.9	Application and Tenancy Records	Safeguarding Referral	Date of last action	10 years	10 years	Statutory requirement under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and Care Act 2014	Legal compliance
10.10	Application and Tenancy Records	Safeguarding Records - Serious Case Review	Date of last action	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

No.	Function	Record type	Retention trigger	Minimum statutory retention period	Recommended retention period	Retention source	Reason for retention
11. Capital Assets							
11.1	Property Records	Leases and deeds of ownership		N/A	15 years after expiry.	NCVO	Best practice
11.2	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
11.3	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
11.4	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
11.5	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
11.6	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
11.7	Property Records	Property maintenance records		6 years	Duration of property ownership	Limitation for legal action relating to land or contracts under seal. Limitations Act 1980	Legal compliance
11.8	Property Records	Reports and professional opinions		6 years	Duration of property ownership	Limitation for legal action relating to land or contracts under seal. Limitations Act 1980	Legal compliance
11.9	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
11.10	Property Records	Invoices		12 years	12 years	Limitation for legal action relating to land or contracts under seal. Limitations Act 1980	Legal compliance

No.	Function	Record type	Retention trigger	Minimum statutory retention period	Recommended retention period	Retention source	Reason for retention
11.11	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
11.12	Capital Assets	Fixed Asset Register	NA	Permanently	Permanently	Charities Act	Legal compliance

No.	Function	Record type	Retention trigger	Minimum statutory retention period	Recommended retention period	Retention source	Reason for retention
12. Employees - Tax and Security							
12.1	Tax and Social Security	Record of taxable payments; record of tax deducted or refunded; record of earnings on which standard NI Contributions payable; record of employer's and employee NI contributions	End of Financial Year	Not less than 3 years after the end of the financial year to which they relate	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
12.2	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
12.3	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
12.4	Tax and Social Security	HMRC notice of code changes, pay & tax details		6 years	6 years	Taxes Management Act 1970	Legal compliance
12.5	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
12.6	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
12.7	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	Legal compliance

No.	Function	Record type	Retention trigger	Minimum statutory retention period	Recommended retention period	Retention source	Reason for retention
						Statutory Shared Parental Pay (Admin) regulations 2014 (SI 2014/2929)	
12.8	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
12.9	Tax and Social Security	Redundancy details and record of payments & refunds	Date of redundancy	N/A	6 years	IPD recommended	Best practice
12.10	Tax and Social Security	Annual earnings summary	End of Financial Year	N/A	12 years		Best practice
12.11	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 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
12.12	Tax and Social Security	Actuarial valuation reports		N/A	Permanently	CIPD recommended	Best practice
12.13	Tax and Social Security	Detailed returns of pension fund contributions; annual reconciliations of fund contributions		N/A	Permanently		Best practice
12.14	Tax and Social Security	Money purchase details	After transfer or value taken	N/A	6 years	CIPD recommended	Best practice
12.15	Tax and Social Security	Qualifying service details	After transfer or value taken	N/A	6 years	CIPD recommended	Best practice
12.16	Tax and Social Security	Investment policies	From end of benefits payable under policy	N/A	12 years	CIPD recommended	Best practice
12.17	Tax and Social Security	HMRC approvals		N/A	Life of company	CIPD recommended	Best practice

No.	Function	Record type	Retention trigger	Minimum statutory retention period	Recommended retention period	Retention source	Reason for retention
12.18	Tax and Social Security	Annual earnings summary	End of tax year	N/A	6 years from the end of the tax year they relate to	HMRC	Best practice

No.	Function	Record type	Retention trigger	Minimum statutory retention period	Recommended retention period	Retention source	Reason for retention
13. Human Resources - Pension Schemes							
13.1	Pension Schemes	Actuarial valuation reports		N/A	Permanently	CIPD recommended	Best practice
13.2	Pension Schemes	Detailed returns of pension fund contributions		N/A	6 years	Pensions Regulator	Best practice
13.3	Pension Schemes	Annual reconciliations of fund contributions		N/A	6 years	Pensions Regulator	Best practice
13.4	Pension Schemes	Money purchase details	After transfer	N/A	6 years after transfer or value taken	CIPD recommended	Best practice
13.5	Pension Schemes	Qualifying service details	After transfer	N/A	6 years after transfer or value taken	CIPD recommended	Best practice
13.6	Pension Schemes	Investment policies	End of benefits payable under policy	N/A	12 years	CIPD recommended	Best practice
13.7	Pension Schemes	Pensioner records	After benefits cease	N/A	12 years after benefits cease	CIPD recommended	Best practice
13.8	Pension Schemes	Records relating to retirement benefits	After transfer or value taken	N/A	6 years	RBS(IP)R recommended	Best practice

No.	Function	Record type	Retention trigger	Minimum statutory retention period	Recommended retention period	Retention source	Reason for retention
14. Human Resources - Personnel Records							
14.1	Personnel Records	Records relating to retirement benefits	After a year of retirement	N/A	6 years	RBS(IP)R recommended	Best practice
14.2	Personnel Records	Terms and conditions of service, both general terms and conditions applicable to all staff, and specific terms and conditions applying to individuals	Leaving date	N/A	6 years	Limitations Act 1980 Limitation for legal proceedings	Legal compliance
14.3	Personnel Records	Benefits and Deductions (Service contracts for directors (companies))	Date of cessation of directorship	3 years	6 years	ICSA	Best practice
14.4	Personnel Records	Remuneration package	Leaving date	N/A	6 years	Limitations Act 1980 Limitation for legal proceedings	Legal compliance
14.5	Personnel Records	Former employees' Human Resources files	Leaving date	N/A	6 years	CIPD recommended	Best practice
14.6	Personnel Records	References to be provided for former employees	Leaving date	N/A	6 years	CIPD recommended	Best practice
14.7	Personnel Records	Training Programmes	Leaving date	N/A	6 years	CIPD recommended	Best practice
14.8	Personnel Records	Individual training records	Leaving date	N/A	6 years	CIPD recommended	Best practice
14.9	Personnel Records	Short lists, interview notes and related application forms	Last Action	N/A	1 year	CIPD recommended	Best practice
14.10	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
14.11	Personnel Records	Basic Disclosure certificate	Date of clearance	Date of clearance + up to a maximum of 6 months	3 years	Basic Disclosure certificate	Legal compliance

No.	Function	Record type	Retention trigger	Minimum statutory retention period	Recommended retention period	Retention source	Reason for retention
14.12	Personnel Records	Timecards/ sheets	After audit	N/A	2 years	CIPD recommended	Best practice
14.13	Personnel Records	Employer/Employee committee minutes (Staff Forum)		N/A	Permanently	CIPD recommended	Best practice
14.14	Personnel Records	Parental leave records	Birth of child	N/A	18 years from birth of child	CIPD recommended	Best practice

No.	Function	Record type	Retention trigger	Minimum statutory retention period	Recommended retention period	Retention source	Reason for retention
15. Human Resources - Health & Safety							
15.1	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
15.2	Health & Safety	Health and safety assessments; records of consultations with safety reps		Permanently	Permanently	Health and Safety at Work Act 1979	Legal compliance
15.3	Health & Safety	Health and safety policy statements		Permanently	Permanently	Health and Safety at Work Act 1979	Legal compliance
15.4	Health & Safety	Accident records, reports, accident books	Date of occurrence	3 years	3 years after date of occurrence	RIDDOR Limitation for legal proceedings RIDDOR 1995 and Prescription and Limitation Act 1973 Special rules apply concerning incidents involving hazardous substances.	Legal compliance
15.5	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
15.6	Health & Safety	Health and safety statutory notices	Once compliant	6 years after compliance	6 years after compliance	Limitations Act 1980 Limitation for legal proceedings	Legal compliance

No.	Function	Record type	Retention trigger	Minimum statutory retention period	Recommended retention period	Retention source	Reason for retention
16. Technical and Research Records							
16.1	Technical and Research	Technical and research records (in particular new build)	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
17. ASB case files and associated documents							
17.1	ASB case files and associated documents	ASB (Anti-social behaviour) case files and associated documents	Date of last action	N/A	5 years or until end of legal action	Recommendation from Chartered Institute of Housing.	Best practice
18. Resident Meetings							
18.1	Resident Meetings	Resident Meeting Minutes	From date of meeting	N/A	1 year	ICSA recommended	Best practice

No.	Function	Record type	Retention trigger	Minimum statutory retention period	Recommended retention period	Retention source	Reason for retention
19. Property Sales							
19.1	Property Sales	Registrations of interest	Sale of property	N/A	2 years		Best practice
19.2	Property Sales	Offer Details	Offer accepted	current year plus 6 years	6 years	Estate Agency Act 1979	Legal compliance
19.3	Property Sales	Completion documentation	Completion of Sale	12 years	12 years	Housing Act 1985	Best practice
19.4	Property Sales	Post purchase questionnaire/ customer feedback	Date of creation	N/A	3 years	National Archives guidance	Best practice
19.5	Property Sales	Staircasing process documents	Completion of Sale	12 years	12 years	Housing Act 1985	Best practice
1. Charitable Donations							
20.1	Charitable Donations	Index of donations granted			6 years		
20.2	Charitable Donations	Deeds of covenant			12 years after last payment	TMA recommends 12 years after payment. Limitation for legal proceedings if related to land.	
20.3	Charitable Donations	Account documentation			6 years	Companies Act 2006 Section 388	Legal compliance

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).

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.

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.

Rules

Recommended retention period: permanently.

Minutes of meetings

Recommended retention period: permanently.

Works council minutes

Recommended retention period: permanently.