

Retention periods for records

Children's records	Retention period	Status	Authority
Children's records - including registers, medication record books and accident record books pertaining to the children	A reasonable period of time after children have left the provision (e.g. until after the next Ofsted inspection)	Requirement	Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (given legal force by Childcare Act 2006)
	Until the child reaches the age of 21 - or until the child reaches the age of 24 for child protection records	Recommendation	Limitation Act 1980 Normal limitation rules (which mean that an individual can claim for negligently caused personal injury up to 3 years after, or deliberately caused personal injury up to 6 years after the event) are postponed until a child reaches 18 years of age
Records of any reportable death, injury, disease or dangerous occurrence	3 years after the date the record was made	Requirement	The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR) (as amended)
Personnel records	Retention period	Status	Authority
Personnel files and training records (including disciplinary records and working time records)	6 years after employment ceases	Recommendation	Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development

DBS check	6 months	Recommendation	DBS Code of Practice The following basic information should be retained after the certificate is destroyed: the date of issue; the name of the subject; the type of disclosure; the position for which the disclosure was requested; the unique reference number; and the details of the recruitment decision taken
<i>Pay</i>			
Wage/salary records (including overtime, bonuses and expenses)	6 years	Requirement	Taxes Management Act 1970
Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP) records	3 years after the end of the tax year to which they relate	Requirement	The Statutory Maternity Pay (General) Regulations 1986
Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) records	3 years after the end of the tax year to which they relate	Requirement	The Statutory Sick Pay (General) Regulations 1982
Income tax and National Insurance returns/records	At least 3 years after the end of the tax year to which they relate	Requirement	The Income Tax (Employments) Regulations 1993 (as amended)
Redundancy details, calculations of payments, refunds, notification to the Secretary of State	6 years after employment ends	Recommendation	Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development

<i>Health and safety</i>				
Staff accident records (for organisations with 10 or more employees)	3 years after the date the record was made (there are separate rules for the recording of accidents involving hazardous substances)	Requirement	Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations 1979	
Records of any reportable death, injury, disease or dangerous occurrence	3 years after the date the record was made	Requirement	The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR) (as amended)	
Accident/medical records as specified by the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH)	40 years from the date of the last entry	Requirement	The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH)	
Assessments under Health and Safety Regulations and records of consultations with safety representatives and committees	Permanently	Recommendation	Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development	
Financial records	Retention period	Status	Authority	
Accounting records	3 years from the end of the financial year for private companies, 6 years for public	Requirement	Companies Act 2006	

	limited companies			
	6 years for charities	Requirement		Charities Act 2011
Administration records	Retention period	Status		Authority
Employers' liability insurance records	For as long as possible	Recommendation		Health and Safety Executive
Minutes/minute books	10 years from the date of the meeting for companies	Requirement		Companies Act 2006
	6 years from the date of the meeting for Charitable Incorporated Organisations	Requirement		The Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012
	Permanently	Recommendation		Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development

Useful publications

More detailed information on retention of financial records is provided in *Financial Management* (Ref: A119) Pre-school Learning Alliance, which can be ordered from www.pre-school.org.uk/shop.

The Pre-school Learning Alliance is the largest and most representative early years membership organisation in England. An educational charity, the Alliance represents the interests of over 14,000 member settings who deliver care and learning to over 800,000 families every year. We offer information and advice, produce specialist publications, run acclaimed training and accreditation schemes and campaign to influence early years policy and practice.

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