

Introduction to ETB Records Retention Schedule

The purpose of this schedule is to provide whoever is responsible for managing records in your ETB with a guide as to how long those records should be kept. This will help in keeping records to manageable proportions, both in terms of physical space, and when it comes to attempting to retrieve a record. The schedule will also help your ETB to comply with its obligation under the Data Protection Act to keep personal data for no longer than is necessary for the purpose or purposes for which it was obtained.

The sections of the schedule (tabs in Excel document) reflect the sectoral divisions of a typical ETB, and may therefore need to be adapted or reordered to suit your own ETB's organisational structure and work practices, file management processes, file naming protocols, etc.. For example, some ETBs may not have formally designated which of their former VEC head offices constitutes the ETB HQ. Some Training Centres may have held on to their Finance and Payroll functions. And your ETB may have its own view on where the definitive version of a record is held, e.g. in head office or in the school/centre.

Certain matters mentioned throughout this schedule that are worth noting that

- a separate section refers to **ESF** retention requirements, and lists those activities to which these apply. These periods 'override' many of the various retention periods set out in this document, i.e. records must be kept for longer
- wherever there is a reasonable expectation that legal action may arise in relation to any particular record, caution should be exercised, and further advice sought before any deletion/destruction is carried out.
- in many cases, the retention period for documents relating to minors only commences where the child reaches the age of 18.
- wherever there are reasonable grounds to expect that a record may be the subject of legal proceedings, the record should be retained and further advice sought.

While the retention and disposal guidelines set out here are a guide to best practice, extending the retention periods should only be done once a **sound and evidence-based business case** exists for doing so, and never for unspecified 'just-in-case' reasons. You should not apply a shorter retention period to any category, but do please send feedback if complying is impractical. Feedback in general is welcomed, especially as this is a first version of what will probably be many future revisions. **FEEDBACK CO-ORDINATOR TO BE DECIDED**

Disclaimer

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this schedule, no responsibility is assumed and no guarantees, undertakings or warranties concerning the accuracy, completeness or up to date nature of the information provided in this schedule are given, nor is any liability whatsoever arising from any errors or omissions accepted.

The information and templates available in this schedule are intended as a brief summary of the principal points and contain general information only. While care has been taken in preparing these materials to ensure their accuracy, they cannot be exhaustive and are no substitute for detailed examination of the relevant statutes, cases and other materials. The materials contained in the schedule do not constitute legal advice on any particular or general matter and are provided for general information purposes only. All reasonable endeavours to ensure that the information contained in this schedule is as accurate as possible at the time of publication, however no representations or warranties of any kind whatsoever, express or implied, in relation to the accuracy, completeness, quality or suitability thereof are made. No responsibility is taken for any errors or omissions. You should always obtain specific legal or other professional advice in relation to Irish law for each specific matter. You should not act or refrain from acting on the basis of any information contained in or within this schedule.

Centres

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Attendance & Registration	PLC Registers	Year of Graduation + 2 years Where learner is under 18 on enrolment, year of reaching 18 + 2 years	No statutory basis identified for indefinite retention of PLC registers. Query historical value. In case of potential litigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed	Secure destruction/deletion in the January following the calendar year in which the retention period expires
Attendance & Registration	Adult Education Day Registers	Year of Graduation + 2 years. ESF-funded programmes should observe 'ESF Guidelines.	No statutory basis identified for indefinite retention of these registers. Query historical value	Secure destruction/deletion in the January following the calendar year which the retention period expires
Attendance & Registration	Adult Education Evening Classes Registers	Completion of Course + 1 year	No statutory basis identified for retention. In case of potential litigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed.	Secure destruction/deletion in the January following the calendar year in which the course completed
Attendance & Registration	Youthreach Registers	Indefinitely	Youthreach is an ESF funded scheme addressing 2nd level educational needs, hence aligning retention period with 2nd Level	Retain in centre until year of class graduation + 2 years; Archive to secure storage.
Attendance & Registration	Sign in Sheets for class attendance (various)	Year of completion of course + 1 year, or longer if an ESF-funded programme.	Benchmarked against best practices for record retention in UK Adult education. In case of potential litigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed	Secure destruction/deletion

Centres

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Applications & Assessment	Application Forms	<u>Successful Applicant</u> : Retain until year of graduation/course completion + 7 yrs, or longer if an ESF-funded programme.	Transfer to learner file, retain as part of that document set. In case of potential litigation, review retention as needed	Secure destruction/deletion
		<u>Unsuccessful Applicant</u> : Retain for year of application + 12 months, or longer if an ESF-funded programme.	No purpose for retention unless rejection is appealed	
Applications & Assessment	BTEI Applications: Refer to ESF Guidelines section of this document.	<u>Successful Applicant</u> Retain in line with ESF Guidelines	Transfer to learner file and retain as part of that record. In case of potential litigation, retain relevant extract in case file.	Secure destruction/deletion
		<u>Unsuccessful Applicant</u> Retain in line with ESF Guidelines	Retained in case of appeal / case review	
Applications & Assessment	Application Forms (Night Classes)	<u>Successful Applicant</u> : Retain until end of calendar year in which course ran + 12 months, or longer if an ESF-funded programme.	No operational purpose for longer retention identified. In case of potential litigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed	Secure destruction/deletion
		<u>Unsuccessful Applicant</u> : Retain for 12 months from year of application, or longer if an ESF-funded programme.	No operational purpose for longer retention identified	

Centres

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Applications & Assessment	External Psychological Assessments included with applications	<u>Successful Applicant</u> : Retain until year of graduation + 7 yrs, or longer if an ESF-funded programme.	Retain separate to core learner file. In case of potential litigation or Child Protection issues, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed	Secure destruction/deletion
		<u>Unsuccessful Applicant</u> Do not retain, except if an ESF-funded programme.	Return to applicant either by hand or by recorded delivery.	
Applications & Assessment	School Reports (from referring school/centre) OR Records of alternative training/qualification (recognition of prior learning)	<u>Successful Applicant</u> Prepare brief summary based on review of reports & retain until year of graduation/course completion + 7 years, or longer if an ESF-funded programme.	Return originals to applicant or referring centre; Retain brief summary as part of learner file. In case of potential litigation, retain in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Do not retain originals. Securely destroy summary.
		<u>Unsuccessful Applicant</u> : Prepare brief summary & retain for 12 months, or longer if an ESF-funded programme.	Retain summary for 12 months in case of appeal	
Applications & Assessment	Applicant Photographs	<u>Successful Applicant</u> Retain until year of graduation/course completion + 7 years, or longer if an ESF-funded programme.	Transfer to learner file and retain as part of that record.	Secure destruction/deletion

Centres

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Applications & Assessment	Data Sharing/Transfer Consent (where this is a stand-alone document, as opposed to being part of the learner's application form).	<u>Unsuccessful Applicant</u> Retain for year of application + 12 months, or longer if an ESF-funded programme.	Retained in case of appeal. Advise applicants of destruction policy.	Secure destruction/deletion
		<u>Successful Applicant</u> Retain until year of graduation/course completion + 7 yrs, or longer if an ESF-funded programme.	Transfer to learner file and retain as part of that record. Note: consent may need be revalidated annually – refer to DES or DPC guidance as required	
Applications & Assessment	Garda Vetting	<u>Unsuccessful Applicant</u> Do not retain	In event of successful appeal, applicant can be asked to recontest to transfers. No purpose for retention of this record exists	Secure destruction/deletion
		<u>Successful Applicant</u> Retain record of outcome and associated reference number for 12 months from date of receipt	Transfer to learner record. In the event of potential litigation, resubmit request with reference number to An Garda Siochana. Do NOT retain.	
		<u>Unsuccessful Applicant</u> Retain for 12 months from date of receipt	Retained in case of appeal by learner.	

Centres

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Applications & Assessment	SOLAS Referral Record	<p><u>Successful Applicant</u> Retain for Year of Graduation/completion of course + 7 years, or longer if an ESF-funded programme.</p> <p><u>Unsuccessful Applicant</u> Retain for year of referral + 12 months, or longer if an ESF-funded programme.</p>	<p>Transfer to learner record, retain as part of this file. In case of potential litigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.</p> <p>Retained in case of appeal / case review</p>	Secure destruction/deletion
Disciplinary	Disciplinary Records	<p>Minor infringements: Never destroy if they relate to a learner who was under 18 at course commencement. For learners aged 18+ at course commencement, review and retain if relevant to pattern of behaviour. Purge at graduation/end of course, except if an ESF-funded programme.</p>	Minor incidents may be indicative of a pattern of behaviour indicating risk to learner or others. Determination of what constitutes a minor/major infringement to be determined in light of ETB/centre disciplinary policy.	Secure destruction/deletion at graduation/ end of course

Centres

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
		<p>Major infringements: Never destroy if they relate to a learner who was under 18 at course commencement. For learners aged 18+ at course commencement, retain for year of graduation/course completion + 7 years, or longer if an ESF-funded programme.</p>		Never destroy
Disciplinary	Bullying Investigations, reports & Intervention plans	Never destroy if they relate to a learner who was under 18 at course commencement. For learners aged 18+ at course commencement, retain for year of graduation/course completion + 7 years, or longer if an ESF-funded programme.	Bullying will constitute a major infringement of disciplinary policy (see 'disciplinary records' above). May have evidentiary value in civil or criminal litigation.	Either never destroy, or secure destruction/deletion, as per 'retention period' -see left.
Examination Results	In-centre Tests / Assessments	Year of graduation/course completion + 7 years, or longer if an ESF-funded programme.	Retain as part of learner file. In case of potential litigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction

Centres

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Examination Results	FETAC/QQI Award evidence of assessment e.g. learner portfolios, artwork	Once results are issued and period for learner appeals has expired, learners should be given a short window in which to collect their work, after which it is destroyed if uncollected. Exception: ESF-funded programmes.	QQI QA policy framework is the master schedule here and QQI may issue mandates or guidance – refer to QQI QA policies for the Centre. Introduction of PLSS may also see revised guidance in this regard (March 2017). In case of potential litigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action	Secure destruction, but retain with the learner file in the event of an unsuccessful appeal.
Learner File	Consolidated learner record for centre	Retain for Year of Graduation/Course Completion + 7 years. Exception: ESF-funded programmes.	Retention period covers potential age of majority + 7 years for civil suit, or for 7 yrs post-course completion for adult education / youth reach in case of litigation risk.	Archive to secure storage Securely destroy after 7 years
Learner Supports (Financial)	HEA Disability fund Applications	Retain for year of request + 6 years. Exception: ESF-funded programmes.	Aligns with financial accounting cycles; Provides ample window for appeals in case of refusal. In case of potential litigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion

Centres

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Learner Supports (Financial)	Training Allowance Records	Year of payment + 6 years. Exception: ESF-funded programmes.	Aligns with financial accounting cycles; Provides ample window for appeals in case of refusal. In case of potential litigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	
Learner Supports (Financial)	BTEI records	Refer to ESF Guidelines section of this document.		Secure destruction/deletion
Learner Supports (Financial)	BTEA records	Year of payment + 6 years, or longer if an ESF-funded programme.	Aligns with financial accounting cycles; Provides ample window for appeals in case of refusal	In case of potential litigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action. Secure destruction thereafter.
Learner Supports (Non-Financial)	Home School Community Liaison Visit Notes /Case Management	Retain until year of graduation/ end of course or learner reaches 18 years, which ever is earlier, + 7 years – Archive with learner File. Exception: ESF-funded programmes.	Relates to case management of learner in domestic/community environment.	In case of potential litigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action. Secure destruction thereafter.

Centres

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Learner Supports (Non-Financial)	TUSLA Reports	Retain until year of graduation/ end of course or learner reaches 18 years, which ever is earlier, + 7 years – Archive with learner File. Exception: ESF-funded programmes.	Relates to case management of learner in domestic/community environment	In case of potential litigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action. Secure destruction thereafter.
Learner Supports (Non-Financial)	Guidance Records (Therapeutic Counselling)	Closure of File + 7 years or 7 years after learner has turned 18. Exception: ESF-funded programmes.	Aligns with retention period for learner records. Consolidation of records for archive facilitates future retrieval	In case of potential litigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action. Secure destruction thereafter.
Learner Supports (Non-Financial)	Guidance Records (Non Therapeutic e.g. educational guidance)	Retain as separate file until graduation / end of course + 2 yrs. Consolidate with learner record for archiving. Exception: ESF-funded programmes.	Aligns with retention period for learner records. Consolidation of records for archive facilitates future retrieval	In case of potential litigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action. Secure destruction thereafter.

Centres

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Learner Supports (Non-Financial)	Referral Records (for support services)	Closure of file + 7 years or learner's 18th Birthday +7 yrs. Exception: ESF-funded programmes.	Provides continuity of record for duration of study; Retained for 7 years in case of court action (statute of limitations)	In case of potential litigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action. Secure destruction thereafter.
Learner Supports (Non-Financial)	National Behaviour Support Service records	Retain until year of graduation/end of course + 7 years – Archive with learner file. Exception: ESF-funded programmes.	Retained for evidence of supports applied for/provided.	In case of potential litigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action. Secure destruction thereafter.
Learner Supports (Non-Financial)	Individualised Education Plan /Individual Behaviour Plan	Retain until graduation/end course + 7yrs. Exception: ESF-funded programmes.	Forms part of learner file	Retain and review if there is risk. Secure destruction thereafter.
Child Protection	Child Protection Files	Retain indefinitely	In case of litigation/criminal investigation	Retain indefinitely
Child Protection	Allegation of Child Protection nature against member of staff, including where allegation is unfounded	Retain indefinitely	In case of litigation/criminal investigation	Retain indefinitely
Centre Activities & Trips	Permission Slips (re Learners under 18 only)	Never destroy	Never destroy	N/A

Centres

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Centre Activities & Trips	Risk Assessments	Retain locally for 24 months after date of trip or activity. Exception: ESF-funded programmes.	Supports audit/review of activity management. Allows for reference to or reuse of risk assessments between classes/groups. If incident occurs on trip (e.g. health & safety, disciplinary, accident) retain in line with retention period for the type of incident as listed in this schedule).	Secure destruction/deletion
Centre Activities & Trips	Itineraries	Retain locally for 24 months after date of trip or activity. Exception: ESF-funded programmes.	Supports audit/review of activity management. Allows for reference to or reuse of risk assessments between classes/groups. If incident occurs on trip (e.g. health & safety, disciplinary, accident) retain in line with retention period for the type of incident as listed in this schedule).	Secure destruction/deletion
Centre Activities & Trips	Out-of-centre activity signing sheets	Retain locally for 24 months after date of trip or activity. Exception: ESF-funded programmes.	Supports audit/review of activity management. Allows for reference to or reuse of risk assessments between classes/groups.	Secure destruction/deletion

Centres

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Records of Complaints by Parents/Guardians	Notes of verbal complaints or copies of written complaints from parents/guardians (re learners under the age of 18)	<p>Minor Issue: Retain for 12 months. Review and retain if valid operational reason. Exception: ESF-funded programmes.</p>	Minor issues may not require retention; however, nature or pattern of incidents may require monitoring between years.	In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action. Secure destruction/deletion thereafter.
		<p>Major Issue: Retain for year of complaint plus 6 years; Review for further retention in case of contentious disputes. Exception: ESF-funded programmes.</p>	Major issues may affect learner learning/behaviour longer term or may trigger need for referrals. Also may be related to other risk issues to be managed by centre	
		<p>Child Protection Issue: Initiate Child Protection protocols and retain indefinitely as part of CP records.</p>	Any report/allegation of a child protection issue must be treated accordingly. Retain indefinitely.	
		<p>Bullying: Initiate Anti-bullying protocols. Retain records for year of graduation + 7 years. Exception: ESF-funded programmes.</p>	Bullying protocols are clearly defined. Retention period aligns with bullying records above.	

Centres

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Health & Safety Records	Accident Report form (refers to learners in accidents)	Should be submitted from Centre to Head Office to be retained there. Centres to retain copy of accident reports locally for 3 years after date of incident; Review annually thereafter Head office to retain indefinitely.	Head Office Accident report is the master record. Historically, copies held locally in case mislaid/misfiled by head office. 3 year local retention policy aligns with S11(2)(b) Statute of Limitations 1957 Note: Copy submitted to Head Office should be considered "Master Record". Local copies held for administrative purposes only.	Retain indefinitely, in case of litigation/criminal investigation.
Health & Safety Records	Learner Medical Information	Retain until updated by parent/guardian (for minors) or learner. Retain with learner consolidated file thereafter. Exception: ESF-funded programmes.	Medical conditions can change. This data should be refreshed annually. Only retain most recent updated version. Note: Centres should implement policies and procedures to solicit updates from parents/guardians/learners	In case of potential litigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action. Secure destruction thereafter.

Centres

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Health & Safety Records	Record of response to critical incident involving learners and/or staff	Should be submitted from Centre to Head Office to be retained there Centres to retain locally for 3 years after date of incident. Head office to retain for Year of Graduation/end of course + 7 years	This is not a learner file record but should be retained for same period given application of limitation periods on civil liability.	In case of potential litigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action. Secure destruction thereafter.
Staff Support & Operations	Teacher Diary Entries	Review on annual basis. Note: Diary entries relating to disciplinary, learner support, health & safety and other matters made by staff who leave a centre should be copied and provided to the Head of Centre for review and retention as needed.	Diary entries relevant to on-going operational or other matters may have valid retention requirement; Potential historical value.	In case of potential litigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action. Secure destruction/deletion thereafter.
Staff Support & Operations	Staff Meeting Minutes & Agendas	Date of meeting + 7 years. Exception: ESF-funded programmes.	Formal minutes should be kept for this period; review thereafter in case minutes relate to contentious issue / litigation etc.	In case of potential litigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action. Secure destruction/deletion thereafter.

Centres

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Staff Support & Operations	Reports, Briefings, or presentations	Date of report + 7 years. Exception: ESF-funded programmes.	Formal reports should be kept for this period; review thereafter in case they relate to contentious issue / litigation etc.	Secure destruction
Staff Support & Operations	Administrative Records of staff, including Positions Of Responsibility	7 years. Exception: ESF-funded programmes.	Benchmarked against IRMS guidelines to UK education sector	In case of potential litigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action. Secure destruction/deletion thereafter.
Staff Support & Operations	Administrative Correspondence created by staff	7 years. Exception: ESF-funded programmes.	Benchmarked against IRMS guidelines to UK education sector	In case of potential litigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action. Secure destruction/deletion thereafter.
Financial & Administrative Records	Centres retain copies of a large amount of administrative and financial records processed by Head Office functions. Historically, copies have been retained locally, for undefined periods, to mitigate risk of misplaced/misfiled/lost records in Head Office. The retention periods outlined below are for the retention of records locally in the centres and are a supplement to, not a replacement for, retention periods for any equivalent records in Head Office. As Centres are not the Record Owners, these retention periods are shorter than Head Office retention periods, because Head Office files should be regarded as the "System of Record".			

Centres

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Financial Records	Payroll claim forms	Retain local copy for 3 years from year in which claim submitted. Exception: ESF-funded programmes.	Retained for local administrative purposes;	Verify with Head Office that they have retained copy. If yes, destroy, if no, provide copy then secure destruction/deletion.
Financial Records	Learner fee receipts (enrolment, book money, Taxes)	Retain local copy for 3 years from year in which payment received. Exception: ESF-funded programmes.	Retained for local administrative purposes;	Verify with Head Office that they have retained copy. If yes, destroy, if no, provide copy then secure destruction/deletion.
Financial Records	Office records, requisitions, invoices	Retain local copy for 3 years after year in which record was created. Exception: ESF-funded programmes.	Retained for local administrative purposes;	Verify with Head Office that they have retained copy. If yes, destroy, if no, provide copy then secure destruction/deletion.
Financial Records	Budget allocations (hours to centres)	Retain local copy for 3 years after year in which record was created. Exception: ESF-funded programmes.	Retained for local administrative purposes;	Verify with Head Office that they have retained copy. If yes, destroy, if no, provide copy then secure destruction/deletion.
Financial Records	Budget allocations (internal and external)	Retain local copy for 3 years after year in which record was created. Exception: ESF-funded programmes.	Retained for local administrative purposes;	Verify with Head Office that they have retained copy. If yes, destroy, if no, provide copy then secure destruction/deletion.

Centres

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Financial Records	Non-pay Financial Records (Invoices etc.)	Retain local copy for 3 years after year in which record was created. Exception: ESF-funded programmes.	Retained for local administrative purposes;	Verify with Head Office that they have retained copy. If yes, destroy, if no, provide copy then secure destruction/deletion.
Supplier Records	External Suppliers/Agencies (ETB funded)-- tax clearance, audited accounts, financial records	Retain local copy for 3 years after year in which record was created. Exception: ESF-funded programmes.	Retain locally for day to day admin purposes.	Verify with Head Office that they have retained copy. If yes, destroy, if no, provide copy then secure destruction/deletion.
Supplier Records	Service Level Agreements	Until superseded or end of contract. Exception: ESF-funded programmes. <i>Note: Centres should ensure they have up-to-date SLAs with suppliers where necessary.</i>	Retain locally for day to day management of supplier issues. Head Office should retain for end of contract + 7 years	Verify with Head Office that they have retained copy. If yes, destroy, if no, provide copy then secure destruction/deletion.
Centre Internal Administration	Records of Administrative decision (e.g. local policies)	7 years Review for decisions relating to contentious matters or on-going EU/ESF funded projects.	Aligns with academic administration.	Verify with Head Office that they have retained copy. If yes, destroy, if no, provide copy then secure destruction/deletion.
Centre Internal Administration	Records of Administrative correspondence	7 years Review for correspondence relating to contentious matters or on-going EU/ESF funded projects.	Aligns with academic administration.	Verify with Head Office that they have retained copy. If yes, destroy, if no, provide copy then secure destruction/deletion.

Centres

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Centre Internal Administration	Annual Leave Records	Retain local copies for 3 years	Aligns with Head Office retention requirement under Organisation of Working Time Act. Shorter retention period locally would increase administrative burden.	Verify with Head Office that they have retained copy. If yes, destroy, if no, provide copy then secure destruction/deletion.
Centre Internal Administration	Staff Attendance forms / Time Sheets	Retain local copies for 3 years	Organisation of Working Time Act mandates 3 year retention requirement for Head Office. This provides current year/previous year retention locally for admin purposes	Verify with Head Office that they have retained copy. If yes, destroy, if no, provide copy then secure destruction/deletion.
Centre Internal Administration	Disciplinary Procedures and Policies	Until superseded by Head Office	Retain local copy of relevant procedures and policies, (e.g. DES circulars) until notified by Head Office that policy/procedure superseded.	Verify with Head Office that they have retained copy. If yes, destroy, if no, provide copy then secure destruction/deletion.
Learner Payment Records	Credit/Debit Card details	Do not retain. Breaches Payment Card Industry/Data Security Standards. Retain record of mode of payment, first and last 4 digits of card only.	It is a breach of PCI-DSS standards for credit card security to retain full card numbers, names, addresses, and other data in hard copy or electronic form.	Redact data. Retain redacted data for period of financial records.

ESF Guidelines

Retention periods for ESF-related records are longer than for most other categories of record, and must be strictly observed for ESF audit purposes. The ESF Managing Authority (via the Structural Funds Unit) at the Department of Education and Skills will issue notification when retention periods have expired.

Title of Operational Programme	Typical areas of VEC/ETB Work concerned*	Expiry of Retention
<p>Employment & Human Resources Development Operational Programme 2000-2006</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BTEI • Adult Literacy • Traveller Training/Youthreach • FÁS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Skills Training for Unemployed & Redundant Workers o Apprenticeship/Traineeship o In Company Training o Social Economy Programme o Social Economy - Local Social Capital 	<p>09/01/2015</p>
<p>Human Capital Investment Operational Programme (HCI-OP) 2007-2013</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BTEI • Adult Literacy • Traveller Training • Youthreach • FÁS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Skills Training (including ESL, LTU) o Apprenticeship/Traineeship o Disability Training o In Company Training o Social Economy Programme o Social Economy - Local Social Capital 	<p>31/12/2022, at a minimum - formal notification of expiry will come from the ESF in due course</p>

ESF Guidelines

Title of Operational Programme	Typical areas of VEC/ETB Work concerned*	Expiry of Retention
<p>Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-20</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BTEI • Adult Literacy (<i>now Adult Learning</i>) • Traveller Training • Youthreach • ETB Training for the Unemployed (includes the following former FÁS programme Groups): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Specific Skills Training o Labour Market Education and Training Fund (Momentum) 	<p>2028 (estimated)</p>

* Visit www.esf.ie/en/Programmes for full details of activities covered, as this will vary from ETB to ETB.

Schools

Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final disposition
Registers/Roll books	Retain day registers indefinitely, and archive when class leaves + 2 years. Return fee-paying registers to ETB Head Office	Year of Graduation + 2 years Where student is under 18 on enrolment, year of reaching 18 + 2 years	N/A
State exam results	N/A	State Examinations Commission's responsibility to retain, not a requirement for school/ETB to retain.	N/A
Enrolment Forms	Student reaching 18 years + 7 years	18 is age of majority plus 7 years (6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB)	Secure destruction/deletion
Student transfer forms (Applies from one second-level school to another)	Student reaching 18 years + 7 years	Student reaching 18 years + 7 years (6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB)	Secure destruction/deletion
Disciplinary notes	Never destroy	Never destroy	N/A
Results of in-school tests/exams (i.e. end of term, end of year exams, assessment results)	Student reaching 18 years + 7 years	18 is age of majority plus 7 years (6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB).	Secure destruction/deletion
End of term/year reports	Student reaching 18 years + 7 years	18 is age of majority plus 7 years (6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB)	Secure destruction/deletion

Schools

Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final disposition
Records of school tours/trips, including permission slips, itinerary reports	Never destroy	Never destroy	N/A
Scholarship applications e.g. Gaeltacht, book rental scheme	Student reaching 18 years + 7 years	18 is age of majority plus 7 years (6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB)	Secure destruction/deletion
Garda vetting form & outcome on students (N.B. vetting not relevant to CNS students)	Record of outcome retained for 12 months.	Record of outcome retained for 12 months. School to retain the reference number and date of disclosure on file, which can be checked with An Garda Síochána in the future.	Secure destruction/deletion
SENSITIVE PERSONAL DATA STUDENTS			
Psychological assessments	Indefinitely	Never destroy	N/A - Never destroy
Special Education Needs' files, reviews, correspondence and Individual Education Plans	Indefinitely	Never destroy	N/A
Accident reports	Indefinitely	Never destroy	N/A
Child protection records	Indefinitely	Never destroy	N/A

Schools

Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final disposition
Section 29 Appeals	Student reaching 18 years + 7 years	Student reaching 18 years + 7 years (6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB)	Secure destruction/deletion
Enrolment/transfer forms where child is not enrolled or refused enrolment	Student reaching 18 years + 7 years	Student reaching 18 years + 7 years (6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB)	Secure destruction/deletion
Records of complaints made by parents/guardians	Depends entirely on the nature of the complaint.	Depends entirely on the nature of the complaint. If it is child-safeguarding, a complaint relating to teacher-handling, or an accident, then retain indefinitely. Never destroy. If it is a complaint of a more mundane nature (e.g. misspelling of child's name, parent not being contacted to be informed of parent-teacher meeting) or other minor matter, then student reaching 18 years + 7 years (6 years in which to take a claim, and 1 year for proceedings to be served on school)	Secure destruction/deletion or N/A, depending on the nature of the records.
Accident reports	Indefinitely	Never destroy	N/A

Schools

Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final disposition
GOVERNMENT RETURNS			
Any returns which identify individual staff/students	Submitted online to DES. Printout retained by ETB HO	Depends upon the nature of the return. If it relates to pay/pension/benefits of staff, keep indefinitely as per DES guidelines. If it relates to information on students, e.g. October Returns, Annual Census etc., keep in line with "Student Records" guidelines above.	N/A
BOARD OF MANAGEMENT RECORDS			
School Closure	On school closure, records should be transferred as per guidance provided by Records Retention in the event of school closure/amalgamation on the DataProtectionSchools website.	A decommissioning exercise should take place with respect to archiving and recording data.	
Board agenda and minutes	Send copy to ETB for approval	Indefinitely. Originals should be stored securely on school property	N/A

Schools

Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final disposition
OTHER SCHOOL BASED REPORTS/MINUTES			
CCTV recordings	28 days in the normal course, but longer on a case-by-case basis e.g. where recordings/images are requested by An Garda Síochána as part of an investigation or where the records /images capture issues such as damage/vandalism to school property and where the images/recordings are retained to investigate those issues.		Secure destruction/deletion
Principal's monthly report including staff absences	Submit copies to ETB Head Office	Retain originals indefinitely. Administrative log and does not relate to any one employee in particular: the monthly reports are not structured, either by reference to individuals or by reference to criteria relating to individuals, in such a way that specific information relating to a particular individual is readily accessible. Not a "relevant filing system".	N/A
FINANCIAL RECORDS			
Invoices/back-up records/receipts	Retain for 7 years		Secure destruction/deletion

Schools

Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final disposition
PAYROLL (CNS only)			
Any documents relating to the recording and administration of payroll.	Retain local copy for 3 years from year in which claim submitted.	Retained for local administrative purposes. Payroll function for Community National Schools is carried out by the Department of Education and Skills Payroll Division in Athlone.	Verify with Department of Education and Skills Payroll Division that they have retained copy, and there is no further business case for retention. If yes, destroy, if no, provide copy then secure destruction/deletion.
HEALTH AND SAFETY			
Accident reports	Indefinitely	Never destroy	N/A
Incident Report Forms	10 years. For incidents relating to students under age of 18, retain scanned copy until reaching age 18, and add 10 years	Aligns with Insurance retention periods in case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain and review retention regularly as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion.
Hazard Report Forms	Retain for 10 years	Aligns with Insurance retention periods in case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain and review retention regularly as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion.
Critical Incident Management Plan (CIMP) Framework & Aide Memoir	Superseded + 10 years	Good Practice. Supports lessons learned and evaluation of plan. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion.

Schools

Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final disposition
Business Continuity Plan (BCP)	Superseded + 10 years	Good Practice. Supports lessons learned and evaluation of plan.	Secure destruction/deletion.
ETB Fire & Evacuation Procedures	Superseded + 10 years	Legal Requirement. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion.
Safety Statements	Indefinitely	Legal Requirement Safety, Health, & Welfare at Work Act 2005 requires creation of a safety statement and its updating where required. No retention period is defined for superseded statements. Retention is for good practice, in case of litigation/criminal investigation.	n/a
Risk Assessments & Risk Registers	Indefinitely	Retention is for good practice, in case of litigation/criminal investigation.	n/a
Statement of Health & Safety Policy	Superseded + 10 years	Legal Requirement. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed.	Secure destruction/deletion
DSE Display Screen Assessments	Date of Assessment + 10 years.	Legal Requirement. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed.	Secure destruction/deletion
Pregnant Employee Assessment Forms	Date of Assessment + 10 years.	Legal Requirement. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed.	Secure destruction/deletion

Schools

Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final disposition
Manual Handling Risk Assessment	Date of assessment + 10 years.	Legal Requirement. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed.	Secure destruction/deletion
Disclaimers signed by students undergoing Beauty Treatments	Retain indefinitely	In the event of claim or litigation in respect of accident or injury during or arising from treatment	Retain indefinitely
Inspection Checklists	Superseded + 10 years	Legal Requirement. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed.	Secure destruction/deletion
Internal Audits and Reviews	Date of Inspection + 10 years.	Legal Requirement. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed.	Secure destruction/deletion
Safety Inspections (HSA)	Date of Report+ 10 years	Legal Requirement. Evidence of actions on report findings/weaknesses. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion

Schools

Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final disposition
Fire Registers	Date of last update + 10 years	As per State Claims Agency Fire Register & Guidance Template v1.0. (http://stateclaims.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Fire-Register-guidance-and-templates-Version-1-2014.pdf) In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion
Fire Drills Log	Date of last drill + 10 years	Maintained as part of Fire Register. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion
Copies of Safety Training Materials + record of who received training	Indefinitely	Retention is for good practice, in case of litigation/criminal investigation.	n/a
HSA Correspondence	Date of Correspondence + 10 years	Legal Requirement. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion
Administrative correspondence	Date of correspondence + 7 years	In line with general administrative retention period. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion

HQ Corporate Services

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
		Insurance		
Insurance Policy	Policy documents	Indefinitely	Especially relevant for claims for health issues that are identified many years after the cause.	Secure destruction/deletion, archive policy schedule document.
Insurance	Insurance Property Claims, including any legal correspondence.	10 years following settlement or withdrawal of claim	Audit Requirement. Property losses are usually discovered and claims initiated shortly after they	Secure destruction/deletion
Insurance	Insurance Accident Claim Forms, including any legal correspondence.	10 years following settlement or withdrawal of claim.	Legal Requirement	Secure destruction/deletion
Insurance	Insurance Correspondence	Date of Correspondence + 10 years. Review correspondence before destruction to verify if it relates to a claim or potential claim by a minor which may warrant longer retention – usually 2 years after they reach 18 years.	Legal Requirement; period covers statute of limitations for any potential claim by an adult. Reviewing of correspondence to identify claims relating to minors is a prudent risk management control. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed.	Secure destruction/deletion

HQ Corporate Services

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
HEALTH AND SAFETY				
Health & Safety	Accident reports	Indefinitely	Never destroy	N/A
Health & Safety	Incident Report Forms	10 years. For incidents relating to students under age of 18, retain scanned copy until reaching age 18, and add 10 years	Aligns with Insurance retention periods in case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain and review retention regularly as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion.
Health & Safety	Hazard Report Forms	Retain for 10 years	Aligns with Insurance retention periods in case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain and review retention regularly as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion.
Incident Management Plans	Critical Incident Management Plan (CIMP) Framework & Aide Memoir	Superseded + 10 years	Good Practice. Supports lessons learned and evaluation of plan. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion.
Incident Management Plans	Business Continuity Plan (BCP)	Superseded + 10 years	Good Practice. Supports lessons learned and evaluation of plan.	Secure destruction/deletion.

HQ Corporate Services

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Incident Management Plans	ETB Fire & Evacuation Procedures	Superseded + 10 years	Legal Requirement. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion.
Policies & Procedures	Safety Statements	Indefinitely	Legal Requirement Safety, Health, & Welfare at Work Act 2005 requires creation of a safety statement and its updating where required. No retention period is defined for superseded statements. Retention is for good practice, in case of litigation/criminal investigation.	n/a
Policies & Procedures	Risk Assessments & Risk Registers	Indefinitely	Retention is for good practice, in case of litigation/criminal investigation.	n/a
Policies & Procedures	Statement of Health & Safety Policy	Superseded + 10 years	Legal Requirement. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed.	Secure destruction/deletion

HQ Corporate Services

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Assessments	DSE Display Screen Assessments	Date of Assessment + 10 years.	Legal Requirement. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed.	Secure destruction/deletion
Assessments	Pregnant Employee Assessment Forms	Date of Assessment + 10 years.	Legal Requirement. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed.	Secure destruction/deletion
Assessments	Manual Handling Risk Assessment	Date of assessment + 10 years.	Legal Requirement. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed.	Secure destruction/deletion
Assessments - Disclaimer	Disclaimers signed by students undergoing Beauty Treatments	Retain indefinitely	In the event of claim or litigation in respect of accident or injury during or arising from treatment	Retain indefinitely
Audits & Inspections	Inspection Checklists H&S Head Office & Safety Rep Inspection Checklist	Superseded + 10 years	Legal Requirement. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed.	Secure destruction/deletion

HQ Corporate Services

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Audits & Inspections	Internal Audits and Reviews (ETB staff)	Date of Inspection + 10 years.	Legal Requirement. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed.	Secure destruction/deletion
Audits & Inspections	Safety Inspections (HSA)	Date of Report+ 10 years	Legal Requirement. Evidence of actions on report findings/weaknesses. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion
Audits & Inspections	Fire Registers	Date of last update + 10 years	As per State Claims Agency Fire Register & Guidance Template v1.0. (http://stateclaims.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Fire-Register-guidance-and-templates-Version-1-2014.pdf) In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion

HQ Corporate Services

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Audits & Inspections	Fire Drills Log	Date of last drill + 10 years	Maintained as part of Fire Register. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion
Audits & Inspections	Accident Statistics	Date of last reported accident +20 years. Retain original records for 10 years. Retain aggregated data for further 10 years.	Legal Requirement	Secure destruction of original records after 10 years. Scan/Save Aggregated data and store for further 10 years. Secure destruction/deletion of statistical data after 20th year.
Safety Training	Copies of Safety Training Materials + record of who received training	Indefinitely	Retention is for good practice, in case of litigation/criminal investigation.	n/a
Correspondence	HSA Correspondence	Date of Correspondence + 10 years	Legal Requirement. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion

HQ Corporate Services

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Correspondence	Administrative correspondence	Date of correspondence + 7 years	In line with general administrative retention period. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion
ADMINISTRATION				
Board Meetings	Minutes	Retain indefinitely	Retain indefinitely	Retain indefinitely
Board Meetings (both the Board of the ETB and the Committee of the VEC)	Agendas & Minutes	Indefinitely		n/a
Board Meetings (both the Board of the ETB and the Committee of the VEC)	Correspondence and Reports considered at Board Meetings	Date of meeting + 7 years Unless need for further retention identified	Review after 7 years in case minutes relate to contentious issue / litigation or historical value, in which case retain with relevant case file.	Secure destruction/deletion / Archive
Board Meetings (both the Board of the ETB and the Committee of the VEC)	Attendance Sheets	Date of meeting + 7 years. Unless need for further retention identified	Attendance recorded in the minutes in any event	Secure destruction/deletion / Archive
Committee Meetings (Audit, Finance, Boards of Schools, etc.)	Agendas & Minutes	Indefinitely		n/a

HQ Corporate Services

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Committee Meetings (Audit, Finance, Boards of Schools, etc.)	Correspondence and Reports considered at Board Meetings	Date of meeting + 7 years, unless need for further retention identified	Review after 7 years in case minutes relate to contentious issue / litigation or historical value, in which case retain with relevant case file.	Secure destruction/deletion. Archive
Committee Meetings (Audit, Finance, Boards of Schools, etc.)	Attendance Sheets	Date of meeting + 7 years. Unless need for further retention identified	Attendance recorded in the minutes in any event	Secure destruction/deletion/ Archive
Appointment of Committee Members	Records relating to the successful appointment of Committee members	Term of office plus 7 years	Equivalent to HR processes for staff members. In the event that matters under discussion relate to an identified risk of or instance of litigation, retain with relevant case file.	Secure destruction/deletion.
Appointment of Committee Members	Records relating to unsuccessful committee applicants	Year of Appointments + 1 year	Equivalent to HR processes for staff members. In the event that matters under discussion relate to an identified risk of or instance of litigation, retain with relevant case file.	Secure destruction/deletion
Appointment of Committee Members	Register of Appointment as a Committee member	Indefinitely; Historic record	Historical value. In the event that matters under discussion relate to an identified risk of or instance of litigation, retain with relevant case file.	Archive

HQ Corporate Services

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Ethics in Public Office Declaration	Records of declarations from committee members, spouses, children etc.	15 years	Section 34 Ethics in Public Office Act 1995 (as amended). In the event that matters under discussion relate to an identified risk of or instance of litigation, retain with relevant case file.	Secure destruction/deletion
Ethics in Public Office Declaration	Register of Members Interests	15 years	Section 34 Ethics in Public Office Act 1995 (as amended). In the event that matters under discussion relate to an identified risk of or instance of litigation, retain with relevant case file.	Secure destruction/deletion
Committee Member Training & Development	Records documenting training & development of Committee members	7 years	Required to demonstrate continued relevant CPD of committee members. In the event that matters under discussion relate to an identified risk of or instance of litigation, retain with relevant case file.	Secure destruction/deletion

HQ Corporate Services

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Elections to Committee Correspondence	General correspondence in relation to elections	7 years	Sufficient to allow for queries or FOI requests to be addressed; Review before destruction for correspondence of historical or other value. In the event that matters under discussion relate to an identified risk of or instance of litigation, retain with relevant case file.	Secure destruction/deletion
Section 29 Appeals	Disciplinary Appeal Forms, Board's deliberations, other relevant material	7 years	Review before destruction in the event that matters under discussion relate to an identified risk of or instance of litigation.	Secure destruction/deletion
Garda Vetting	Garda Vetting Response	Keep the actual response for 1 year from date of response. Thereafter, retain the response reference number with the date vetting response received Review for any exceptional circumstance before destruction	Data Protection Commissioner Guidance Secure destruction/deletion (i.e. the original response). In case of legal need, resubmit reference to AGS for copy of what was originally provided.	Secure destruction/deletion (i.e. the original response). In case of legal need, resubmit reference to AGS for copy of what was originally provided.

HQ Corporate Services

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Scheme Operations	Allocations [record of Main Scheme & Hours in Co-operation allocation]	7 years	Retain for comparisons, statistical analysis /trend analysis. Extract relevant records from electronic copies (copy to case file) or retain hard copy as required	Secure destruction/deletion
Scheme Operations	Utilisation [record of Main Scheme & Hours in Co-operation allocation]	Date of last entry + 40 years.	Retain for comparisons, statistical analysis /trend analysis. Extract relevant records from electronic copies (copy to case file) or retain hard copy as required	Secure destruction/deletion
Student Grant Applications	Application Forms and Supporting Documentation	Hold original for 3 years after final grant payment and then destroy.	In case of potential litigation, e.g. where a student appealed, retain for 7 years after final grant payment. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action. SUSI launched on 12/6/12, from which point VECS ceased accepting new grant applications.	Secure destruction/deletion
Correspondence	Correspondence with Centres	7 years	Allows reasonable duration for FOI requests etc. In case of potential litigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion

HQ Corporate Services

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Correspondence	Correspondence re FETAC/QQI QA process for each Centre.	7 years	Allows reasonable duration for FOI requests etc. In case of potential litigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion
Claims	FETAC/QQI Module Assessment Claim	Indefinitely Hard copy: Year of claim + 7 years Electronically from then on	Forms part of Salary - implications for pension. In case of potential litigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Scan or electronically archive, then securely destroy original
Policies and Procedures	Disciplinary Procedures and Policies	7 years	For comparison of changes and review of implications. In case of potential litigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion
Policies and Procedures	Other Policies and Procedures	7 years	For comparison of changes and review of implications. In case of potential litigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion

HQ Corporate Services

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Policies and Procedures	Drafts of policies and associated working papers	7 years	To support bedding in of process, development/ updating of staff briefings etc. In case of potential litigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion
PROPERTIES & FACILITIES				
Property Title	Record documenting acquisition and ownership by ETB of real estate	Retain indefinitely		N/A
Lease Agreement	Record documenting acquisition and use of real estate by ETB through lease or licence	Retain indefinitely		N/A
Third Party Rental Agreement/Licence Agreement	Record documenting access to or use of ETB's real estate by third party through lease or licence	7 years after agreement expiry	Of no foreseeable value after this period	Secure destruction/deletion
Service Contract Agreement	Records documenting Service Contract supply, charges, investments, and covenants	7 years after agreement expiry	Of no foreseeable value after this period	Secure destruction/deletion
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY				
ICT strategy	Development and implementation of ICT strategy	10 years	Of no foreseeable value after this period	Secure destruction/deletion

HQ Corporate Services

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Audit reports [records documenting participation in inspections by authorized bodies or their representatives re: legal, contractual, or technical implementation provisions]	Internal IT Audit / IT Security Audit Reports	7 years	Retain for evidence of audit actions, lessons learned, and compliance. Retain relevant extract or record if related to a potential risk of litigation or prosecution.	Secure destruction/deletion
Audit reports [records documenting participation in inspections by authorized bodies or their representatives re: legal, contractual, or technical implementation provisions]	External IT Audit / IT Security Audit Reports	7 years	Retain for evidence of audit actions, lessons learned, and compliance	Secure destruction/deletion
Audit reports [records documenting participation in inspections by authorized bodies or their representatives re: legal, contractual, or technical implementation provisions]	ICT Systems Change Log	3 years	Retain for evidence of changes to technology or technology related processes	Secure destruction/deletion

HQ Corporate Services

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Project management	Records documenting the management of ICT systems development projects (i.e. project management records, project status meeting minutes etc.).	7 years	Retain until statute of limitations on breach of contract has expired in case of litigation and in case of audit requirement. Retain relevant extract or record if related to a potential risk of litigation or prosecution.	Secure destruction/deletion
Usage regulations	Records governing the policies for availability and conditions of use of ICT resources	7 years after expiry	Retain for version comparisons to demonstrate compliance with audit actions	Secure destruction/deletion. Electronic data deleted from computer storage. Retain relevant extract or entire record if related to a potential risk of litigation.
IT Governance activities	Administrative Meeting Agenda, minutes	7 years	Aligns with standard administrative minutes practice in Centres	Secure destruction/deletion. Electronic data deleted from computer storage. Retain relevant extract or entire record if related to a potential risk of litigation.
IT Governance activities	Project Submissions (incl. go/no go decisions)	7 years	Aligns with standard administrative records practice in Centres Supports "lessons learned" in project planning, also evidence reasons why projects not initiated.	Secure destruction/deletion. Electronic data deleted from computer storage. Retain relevant extract or entire record if related to a potential risk of litigation.

HQ Corporate Services

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Major ICT incidents	Details of high priority IT incidents, the measures taken to address them and future recommendations	3 years	To support change management and/or incident response/training To identify common causes and special causes of security incident and mitigate	Secure destruction/deletion Electronic data deleted from computer storage. Retain relevant extract or entire record if related to a potential risk of litigation, especially if related to a data breach.
Change management	Records documenting the initial development and post-implementation modification and maintenance of ICT systems.	7 years	Historical value	Secure destruction/deletion Electronic data deleted from computer storage. Retain relevant extract or entire record if related to a potential risk of litigation.
Security management	Records documenting the security arrangements for ICT systems.	7 years	ISO27001 and related standard recommend review of security management systems in response to changes to systems or changes to processes or controls.	Secure destruction/deletion Electronic data deleted from computer storage. Retain relevant extract or entire record if related to a potential risk of litigation.
Data backup operations	Records documenting the management of system data storage, including the operation of routine data backup, archiving and deletion routines.	3 years	Provides sufficient time for audit/review/remediation	Secure destruction/deletion. Electronic data deleted from computer storage. Retain relevant extract or entire record if related to a potential risk of litigation.

HQ Corporate Services

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Monitoring logs (System Log Files)	Records documenting routine monitoring of the use of ICT systems to ensure compliance with legal requirements and institutional policies.	3 years	Retain for internal /external audit and control testing. GDPR requires retention of evidence of effective operation of controls relating to information security	Secure destruction/deletion. Electronic data deleted from computer storage. Retain relevant extract or entire record if related to a potential risk of litigation.
Disposal of ICT equipment	ICT Equipment disposal policy and associated procedures	7 years	Retain for version comparisons to demonstrate compliance with audit actions	Secure destruction/deletion. Electronic data deleted from computer storage. Retain relevant extract or entire record if related to a potential risk of litigation.
Disposal of ICT equipment	Records documenting arrangements for the sanitisation of institutional ICT equipment prior to disposal.	3 years	Retain for internal /external audit and control testing. GDPR requires retention of evidence of effective operation of controls relating to information security	Secure destruction/deletion Electronic data deleted from computer storage. Retain relevant extract or entire record if related to a potential risk of litigation.
Software license management	Records documenting the maintenance of appropriate software licences for live ICT systems.	3 years after licence expires	Retain for internal /external audit and control testing.	Secure destruction/deletion Electronic data deleted from computer storage. Retain relevant extract or entire record if related to a potential risk of litigation.

HQ Corporate Services

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Identity and access management	Records documenting the request, creation, maintenance and closure of user accounts for ICT systems.	Closure of account plus 3 years	Retain for internal /external audit and control testing. GDPR requires retention of evidence of effective operation of controls relating to information security	Secure destruction/deletion Electronic data deleted from computer storage. Retain relevant extract or entire record if related to a potential risk of litigation.
Customer feedback	Details of user feedback on service made in confidence	Current year plus 1 year	Supports continuous improvement and incident/case management.	Anonymise and retain statistical data re satisfaction; Destroy identifiable data.
Security breaches	Records documenting attempted or actual security breaches of the institution's ICT systems, and action taken by IT Services.	7 years	Retain for internal /external audit and control testing. GDPR requires retention of evidence of effective operation of controls relating to information security.	Secure destruction/deletion Electronic data deleted from computer storage. Retain relevant extract or entire record if related to a potential risk of litigation.
Data recovery	Records documenting user requests to recover data from backup or archive stores, and action taken.	7 years	Retain for internal /external audit and control testing. GDPR requires retention of evidence of effective operation of controls relating to information security.	Secure destruction/deletion Electronic data deleted from computer storage. Retain relevant extract or entire record if related to a potential risk of litigation.

HQ Corporate Services

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Support request	Records documenting user requests for technical and application support, and action taken to investigate and resolve the problem.	7 years	Of no foreseeable value after this period	Secure destruction/deletion Electronic data deleted from computer storage. Retain relevant extract or entire record if related to a potential risk of litigation.
User training	Records documenting the development of technical and application training for ICT system users.	7 years	GDPR requires retention of evidence of effective operation of controls relating to information security.	Secure destruction/deletion Electronic data deleted from computer storage. Retain relevant extract or entire record if related to a potential risk of litigation.
User training	Records relating to attendance at training re: IT systems & security	7 years	Training is explicitly referenced as a control in GDPR. Must have evidence of effectiveness.	Secure destruction/deletion Electronic data deleted from computer storage. Retain relevant extract or entire record if related to a potential risk of litigation.

HQ Corporate Services

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Network access requests	Requests for, and authorisation of, connections of third party equipment to the institution's networks, either on institutional premises or via dial-up communications links.	Termination of connection plus 2 years Note: 3rd party access must be undertaken under a formal data sharing agreement or data processor contract	Retain for internal /external audit and control testing. GDPR requires retention of evidence of effective operation of controls relating to information security Retention longer than 2 years post last action not necessary or proportionate	Secure destruction/deletion Electronic data deleted from computer storage. Retain relevant extract or entire record if related to a potential risk of litigation.
STATISTICS				
Statistics	Reporting to external bodies such as DES, SOLAS, CSO, DSP, ETBI, etc.	7 years	Of no foreseeable value after period	Secure destruction/deletion

HQ Finance

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
GENERAL				
Annual Accounts Records	Records documenting the preparation of annual accounts.	7 years. Retain for longer if requested through CE	As required under Taxes Acts	Secure destruction/deletion
Audited Accounts	Audited Accounts	Indefinitely		n/a
Analyses of deployment of Financial resources	Records documenting analyses of the internal deployment of financial resources	7 years. Retain for longer if requested through CE	For year on year comparisons against plans	Secure destruction/deletion
Statutory Accounts	Records documenting the preparation of the statutory accounts	7 years. Retain for longer if requested through CE	As required under Taxes Acts	Secure destruction/deletion
Internal Accounting Transactions	Records/Journals documenting the processing on internal accounting transactions between operating units (i.e. cross-charges)	7 years. Retain for longer if requested through CE	For year on year comparisons against plans	Secure destruction/deletion
Tax Returns	Records documenting the preparation and filing of tax returns	7 years. Revenue Commissioners require that records be kept for at least six years after the end of the tax year. Records must be made available for inspection by authorised officers of the Revenue Commissioners or of the Dept. of Social Protection.	As required under Taxes Acts	Secure destruction/deletion
Stock control	Stocktaking Reports	7 years		Secure destruction/deletion
Stock control	Stock Books/Asset Registers	Retain indefinitely in original form.		

HQ Finance

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
CREDITORS				
Purchase Invoices	Records documenting the receipt and payment of purchase invoices	7 years. Retain for extended period on request of CE in event of legal issue. Review ongoing retention thereafter.	Legislative requirement (Companies Acts, Taxes Acts)	Secure destruction/deletion
Purchase Invoices	Records documenting the receipt and payment of purchase invoices relating to ESF funded program/project	Refer to ESF Guidelines section of this document. Retain for extended period on request of CE in event of legal issue. Review ongoing retention thereafter.	If project is ESF funded, refer to ESF Guidelines section of this document.	Secure destruction/deletion
Employees' Expenses	Records documenting the payment and/or Reimbursement of employees' expenses	7 years. Retain for extended period on request of CE in event of legal issue. Review ongoing retention thereafter.	Legislative requirement (Companies Acts, Taxes Acts)	Secure destruction/deletion
Employees' Expenses	Records documenting the payment and/or Reimbursement of employees' expenses relating to ESF funded program/project	Refer to ESF Guidelines section of this document. Retain for extended period on request of CE in event of legal issue. Review ongoing retention thereafter.	Benchmarked against DES Circular 0020/2013. Refer to ESF Guidelines section of this document.	Secure destruction/deletion
Payment of Honoraria to third parties	Records documenting the payment of honoraria to third parties (non-payroll)	7 years. Retain for extended period on request of CE in event of legal issue. Review ongoing retention thereafter.	Legislative requirement (Companies Acts, Taxes Acts)	Secure destruction/deletion

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Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Payment of Honoraria to third parties	Records documenting the payment of honoraria to third parties (non-payroll) in respect of an ESF funded program/project	Refer to ESF Guidelines section of this document. Retain for extended period on request of CE in event of legal issue; Review ongoing retention.	Benchmarked against DES Circular 0020/2013.	Secure destruction/deletion
Payment of expenses to third parties	Record documenting the payment of expenses to third parties (e.g. honorary appointees)	7 years. Retain for extended period on request of CE in event of legal issue. Review ongoing retention thereafter.	Legislative requirement (Companies Acts, Taxes Acts)	Secure destruction/deletion
Payment of expenses to third parties	Record documenting the payment of expenses to third parties (e.g. honorary appointees) in respect of an ESF funded program or project	Refer to ESF Guidelines section of this document. Retain for extended period on request of CE in event of legal issue. Review ongoing retention thereafter.	Benchmarked against DES Circular 0020/2013.	Secure destruction/deletion
BANKING				
Petty Cash Payments	Records documenting the handling of Petty Cash	7 years	Taxes Acts, statute of limitations on contractual debt	Secure destruction/deletion
Students' Fees	Records documenting the receipt and processing of students' fees	7 years	Taxes Acts, statute of limitations on contractual debt	Secure destruction/deletion
Petty Cash Payments for EU funded programmes	Records documenting the handling of Petty Cash on ESF-funded projects	Refer to ESF Guidelines section of this document.	Benchmarked against DoE Circular 0020/2013	Refer to ESF Guidelines section of this document before destroying. Secure destruction/deletion when this has been checked.

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Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
PROJECTS				
Capital Projects ESF funded projects	Financial Records relating to project * budget * purchase orders/invoices * other expenses charged to project	Refer to ESF Guidelines section of this document. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Benchmarked against DES Circular 0020/2013 and National Retention Policy for Local Authorities (2002) Refer to ESF Guidelines section of this document.	Refer to ESF Guidelines section of this document before destroying. Secure destruction/deletion when this has been checked.
Capital Projects ESF funded projects	Project Charter, Project Plan, Correspondence, and Reports	Refer to ESF Guidelines section of this document. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Benchmarked against DES Circular 0020/2013 and National Retention Policy for Local Authorities (2002) Refer to ESF Guidelines section of this document.	Refer to ESF Guidelines section of this document before destroying. Secure destruction/deletion when this has been checked.
Capital Projects Non-ESF Funded projects	Financial Records relating to project * budget * purchase orders/invoices * other expenses charged to project	Calendar Year of End of Project Maintenance + 7 years. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Benchmarked National Retention Policy for Local Authorities (2002)	Secure destruction/deletion

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Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Capital Projects Non-ESF Funded projects	Project Charter, Project Plan, Correspondence, and Reports	Calendar Year of End of Project Maintenance + 7 years. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Benchmarked National Retention Policy for Local Authorities (2002)	Secure destruction/deletion
PROCUREMENT				
Procurement Procedures	Records documenting the development of the institution's procurement procedures	7 years. Where risk of litigation, retain copy of relevant document. Review retention as needed.	Good practice. Supports comparison and review of lessons learned etc.	Secure destruction/deletion
Supplier Evaluation criteria	Records documenting supplier evaluation criteria	7 years. Where risk of litigation, retain copy of relevant document. Review retention as needed.	Good practice. Supports comparison and review of lessons learned etc.	Secure destruction/deletion
Invitations to suppliers to apply for approval	Records documenting invitations to prospective suppliers to apply for approval	Expiry of invitation OR rejection of application + 6 months OR completion of approval. Where risk of litigation, retain copy of relevant document. Review retention as needed.	Retain for QA/Audit purposes and in case of appeals	Secure destruction/deletion

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Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Records on evaluation and notification to approved suppliers	Records documenting the evaluation of applications for approval from prospective suppliers, and notification of the outcome: approved suppliers	Termination of approval + 1 year. Where risk of litigation, retain copy of relevant document. Review retention as needed.	Retain for duration of supplier approval for reference. Retention post-termination is to align with retention of rejected suppliers	Secure destruction/deletion
Records on evaluation and notification to rejected suppliers	Records documenting the evaluation of applications for approval from prospective suppliers, and notification of the outcome: rejected suppliers	Rejection + 1 year. Where risk of litigation, retain copy of relevant document. Review retention as needed.	Retain for 1 year for QA/Audit and review purposes or in case of appeal Applies to terminated approvals also	Secure destruction/deletion
Process of inviting and evaluating pre-qualification submissions	Records documenting the process of inviting and evaluating pre-qualification submissions from prospective suppliers	Award of supply contract + 1 year. Where risk of litigation, retain copy of relevant document. Review retention as needed.	Retain for 1 year post award for QA/Audit and review purposes or in case of appeal	Secure destruction/deletion
Invitations to Tender and evaluation criteria	Records documenting Invitations to Tender and tender evaluation criteria	7 years from contract award. If project is ESF funded, refer to ESF Guidelines section of this document. Where risk of litigation, retain copy of relevant document. Review retention as needed.	Retain as evidence of process followed in awarding of contract. Retain to ensure contract executed as per tender requirements and selection criteria	Secure destruction/deletion
Issue of Invitations to Tender and incoming Tenders	Records documenting the issue of Invitations to Tender	Award of contract + 1 year	Retain for 1 year for QA/Audit and review purposes or in case of appeal	Secure destruction/deletion

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Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Rejected Tenders	Records documenting the evaluation of tenders, the conduct of negotiations with tenderers and the notification of the results of the tender evaluation process: rejected tenders	Award of supply contract + 1 year. Where risk of litigation, retain copy of relevant document. Review retention as needed.	Retain for 1 year for QA/Audit and review purposes or in case of appeal If project is ESF funded, refer to ESF Guidelines section of this document.	Secure destruction/deletion
Accepted Tenders	Records documenting the evaluation of tenders, the conduct of negotiations with tenderers and the notification of the results of the tender evaluation process: accepted tenders	Award of supply contract + 1 year. Where risk of litigation, retain copy of relevant document. Review retention as needed.	Retain for 1 year for QA/Audit and review purposes or in case of appeal If project is ESF funded, refer to ESF Guidelines section of this document.	Secure destruction/deletion
Contract Award	Contract Award report	Termination of supply contract awarded + 7 years If project is ESF funded, refer to ESF Guidelines section of this document. Where risk of litigation, retain copy of relevant document. Review retention as needed.	Historical value	Secure destruction/deletion

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Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Variations to Contracts	Records documenting variations to contracts (e.g. revisions, extensions)	Termination of contract + 7 years. Where risk of litigation, retain copy of relevant document. Review retention as needed.	Retain as evidence of project governance and amendments to contract If project is ESF funded, refer to ESF Guidelines section of this document.	Secure destruction/deletion
Supplier Performance	Records documenting the monitoring of supplier performance and action taken regarding under-performance	Termination of contract + 7 years. Where risk of litigation, retain copy of relevant document. Review retention as needed.	Retain as evidence of project governance and supplier management. If project is ESF funded, refer to ESF Guidelines section of this document.	Secure destruction/deletion
Purchasing authorisation limits	Records documenting purchasing authorisation limits	7 years. Where risk of litigation, retain copy of relevant document. Review retention as needed.	Retain for audit and comparison purposes	Secure destruction/deletion
Internal authorisation for procurement	Records documenting internal authorisation for procurement	7 years. Where risk of litigation, retain copy of relevant document. Review retention as needed.	Retain for QA/Audit and review purposes. If project is ESF funded, refer to ESF Guidelines section of this document.	Secure destruction/deletion
Purchase Orders	Purchase Orders	7 years. Where risk of litigation, retain copy of relevant document. Review retention as needed.	Retain for accounting and audit purposes. If project is ESF funded, refer to ESF Guidelines section of this document.	Secure destruction/deletion

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Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
GENERAL				
Industrial Relations	Correspondence re Issues	7 years	Benchmarked against UK Local authority retention schedules. Retention period can be extended if required on advice of CE in event of legal issue, so review on case by case basis.	Secure destruction/deletion
Industrial Relations	Agreements	7 years	Benchmarked against UK Local authority retention schedules. Retention period can be extended if required on advice of CE in event of legal issue, so review on case by case basis.	Secure destruction/deletion
Industrial Relations	Minutes of meetings	7 years	Benchmarked against UK Local authority retention schedules. Retention period can be extended if required on advice of CE in event of legal issue, so review on case by case basis.	Secure destruction/deletion
Industrial Relations	Industrial Relations Reports	7 years	Benchmarked against UK Local authority retention schedules. Retention period can be extended if required on advice of CE in event of legal issue, so review on case by case basis.	Secure destruction/deletion
Case Management	Dignity at work Case files	Retain until Staff member is 90 years of age	Historic Reference. Transfer to Personnel file on retirement. Retain for extended period on request of CE in event of legal issue. Review ongoing retention.	Secure destruction/deletion
Case Management	Labour Court Recommendations	Retain until staff member is 90 years of age	Historic Reference. Transfer to Personnel file on retirement. Retain for extended period on request of CE in event of legal issue. Review ongoing retention.	Secure destruction/deletion
Case Management	Disciplinary Records	Retained as per Personnel Disciplinary Procedures	Staff monitoring and performance management. Transfer to Personnel file on retirement. Retain for extended period on request of CE in event of legal issue. Review ongoing retention.	Secure destruction/deletion
HR Policies	HR Policies	7 years		Secure destruction/deletion

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Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
HR Policies	HR Policy drafts and notes of development	7 years	For reference and support in implementing change. For QA and reference purposes. Retain for extended period on request of CE in event of legal issue; Review ongoing retention.	Secure destruction/deletion
Staff Training & Development (Including PMDS and CPD)	Staff Training	Retain for Duration of employment + 7 years	Statute of Limitations. Retain for extended period on request of CE in event of legal issue; Review ongoing retention.	Secure destruction/deletion
Staff Training & Development (Including PMDS and CPD)	Health & Safety Training	Retain for Duration of employment + 7 years	Statute of Limitations. Retain for extended period on request of CE in event of legal issue; Review ongoing retention.	Secure destruction/deletion
Staff Training & Development (Including PMDS and CPD)	Minutes of meetings	7 years	Aligns with administrative record retention in other areas. Retain for extended period on request of CE in event of legal issue; Review ongoing retention.	Secure destruction/deletion
Staff Training & Development (Including PMDS and CPD)	Finance Records (Including Fee Support/ Fee Waivers)	7 years	Historical value. Retain for extended period on request of CE in event of legal issue; Review ongoing retention.	Secure destruction/deletion
Staff Training & Development (Including PMDS and CPD)	Annual programme of courses / workshops	7 years	For QA and reference purposes. Retain for extended period on request of CE in event of legal issue; Review ongoing retention.	Secure destruction/deletion
Staff Training & Development (Including PMDS and CPD)	PMDS - Personal Development forms	Until superseded/updated at PMDS meeting	PMDS National Agreement. Retain for extended period on request of CE in event of legal issue; Review ongoing retention.	Secure destruction/deletion
Staff Training & Development (Including PMDS and CPD)	PMDS - Development Plans	Until superseded + 3 years	Provides sufficient period for review and tracking of progress against plan.	Secure destruction/deletion

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Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Employee Assistance Programme (Case Files)	Interview Notes	Current year + 6 years	Statute of Limitations – maximum period in which to take a claim. Retain for extended period on request of CE in event of legal issue; Review ongoing retention.	Secure destruction/deletion
Employee Assistance Programme (Case Files)	Correspondence	Year of correspondence + 6 years	Statute of Limitations – maximum period in which to take a claim. Retain for extended period on request of CE in event of legal issue; Review ongoing retention.	Secure destruction/deletion
Employee Assistance Programme (Case Files)	File cards	7 years	Statute of Limitations – maximum period in which to take a claim. Retain for extended period on request of CE in event of legal issue; Review ongoing retention.	Secure destruction/deletion
RECRUITMENT				
Recruitment Process	Unsolicited applications for jobs	18 months from close of competition	12 months from close of competition + 6 months in case of Equality Tribunal claim	Secure destruction/deletion
Recruitment Process	Vacancy Notification	Date of closure of competition + 18 Months	12 months from close of competition + 6 months in case of Equality Tribunal claim. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion
Recruitment Process	Advertisement Copies	Date of closure of competition + 18 Months	12 months from close of competition + 6 months in case of Equality Tribunal claim. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion

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Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Recruitment Process	Job Description (as advertised)	Date of closure of competition + 18 Months	12 months from close of competition + 6 months in case of Equality Tribunal claim. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion
Recruitment Process	Job Description (standard)	Superseded + 3 years	Retain job description until superseded by updated version. Retain legacy descriptions for audit purposes. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion
Recruitment Process	Selection Criteria	18 months from close of competition	12 months from close of competition plus 6 months for the Equality Tribunal to inform the ETB that a claim is being taken. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion
Recruitment Process	Applications of Candidates not Shortlisted/Qualified/ called for interview	18 months from close of competition	12 months from close of competition plus 6 months for the Equality Tribunal to inform the ETB that a claim is being taken. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion
Interview Process	Selection Criteria	Date of closure of competition + 18 months	12 months from close of competition + 6 months in case of Equality Tribunal claim. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion

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Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Interview Process	Interview Board Marking Scheme	Date of closure of competition + 18 months	12 months from close of competition + 6 months in case of Equality Tribunal claim. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion
Interview Process	Interview Board marking sheets	Date of closure of competition + 18 months	12 months from close of competition + 6 months in case of Equality Tribunal claim. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion
Interview Process	Interview Board Formal Notes	Date of closure of competition + 18 months	12 months from close of competition + 6 months in case of Equality Tribunal claim	Secure destruction/deletion
Interview Process	Database of applications of candidates unsuccessful at interview	Date of closure of competition + 18 months	12 months from close of competition + 6 months in case of Equality Tribunal claim	Secure destruction/deletion
Interview Process	Panel Recommendations by Interview Board	18 months from close of competition	12 months from close of competition plus 6 months for the Equality Tribunal to inform the ETB that a claim is being taken.	Secure destruction/deletion
Interview Process	Assessment Board Report	Move to Employee File in Staff Records. Retain for Duration of employment + 7 years	Benchmarked against UCD and DIT retention policies	Secure destruction/deletion
Candidates Successful at Interview	Application & CV	Move to Employee File in Staff Records. Retain for Duration of employment + 7 years	Retained as part of staff personnel file in case of litigation or queries during period of employment. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion

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Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Candidates Successful at Interview	Qualifications	Retain on personal file for duration of employment + 7 years	Retained as part of staff personnel file in case of litigation or queries during period of employment. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion
Candidates Successful at Interview	References	Retain on personal file for duration of employment + 7 years	Retained as part of staff personnel file in case of litigation or queries during period of employment. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion
Candidates Successful at Interview	Recruitment Medical / Pre employment Medical Reports	Retain on personal file for duration of employment + 7 years	Necessary for the purpose of identifying pre-existing conditions in event of work related injury and potential litigation. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion
Candidates Successful at Interview	Candidates shortlisted and are successful but do not accept offer	Date of closure of competition + 18 months	12 months from close of competition + 6 months in case of Equality Tribunal claim	Secure destruction/deletion

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Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
STAFF				
Generic Files	Staff Personnel Files	Resignation Retain until staff member is at least 90 years of age for pension purposes on resignation.	Resignation Staff members may opt for preservation of benefits or a transfer of service at any point after resignation up to date of retirement. As there is no maximum retirement age for new entrants these files are retained until staff member reaches 90 years of age as this is a reasonable estimate of life expectancy. Files of staff members who resign from non pensionable post should also be retained in case the rules of the scheme are amended and this service is retrospectively deemed pensionable. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action.	Secure destruction/deletion
Generic Files	Staff Personnel Files	Retirement Retain until 6 years after beneficiary and/or qualifying dependent death for retired staff.	Retirement Time limit for complaints to the Pensions Ombudsman – where act giving rise to the complaint took place after 28.04.2003 – 6 years since the date of the act or 3 years since complainant should have been aware of the act. (The Ombudsman may also investigate complaints between 13.04.1996 –28.04.2003)	Secure destruction/deletion
Generic Files	General Job Description File	Superseded + 7 years	History of how job descriptions change has archival value. In case of litigation/criminal investigation, retain relevant extract in case file. Review retention as needed against probability of legal action	Secure destruction/deletion

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Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Selection criteria	Selection criteria	Retain for duration of employment plus 7 years	(6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB)	Secure destruction/deletion
Staff Personnel Files (whilst in employment)	Section (extract) from database of applications which relates to the employee only.	Retain for duration of employment plus 7 years	(6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB)	Secure destruction/deletion
Staff Personnel Files (whilst in employment)	Interview board marking scheme & board notes	Retain for duration of employment plus 7 years	(6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB)	Secure destruction/deletion
Staff Personnel Files (whilst in employment)	Application/CV	Retain for duration of employment plus 7 years	6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB	Secure destruction/deletion
Staff Personnel Files (whilst in employment)	Qualifications (ETB)	Retain for duration of employment plus 7 years	6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB	Secure destruction/deletion
Staff Personnel Files (whilst in employment)	References	Retain for duration of employment plus 7 years	6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB	Secure destruction/deletion
Staff Personnel Files (whilst in employment)	Job specification/description	Retain for duration of employment plus 7 years (6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB). There is a statutory requirement to retain for 3 years	6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB	Secure destruction/deletion

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Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Staff Personnel Files (<i>whilst in employment</i>)	Contract/Conditions of employment (ETB)	Retain for duration of employment plus 7 years	6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB	Secure destruction/deletion
Staff Personnel Files (<i>whilst in employment</i>)	Probation letters/forms	Retain for duration of employment plus 7 years	6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB	Secure destruction/deletion
Staff Personnel Files - Posts or Responsibility (POR)	POR applications and correspondence (whether successful or not) (ETB)	Retain for duration of employment plus 7 years	6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB	Secure destruction/deletion
Staff Personnel Files - Posts or Responsibility (POR)	Calculation of service	Retain indefinitely on master file	Relates to pay/pension etc. (See DES guidelines)	n/a
Staff Personnel Files - Posts or Responsibility (POR)	Promotions/POR Board master files	Retain indefinitely on master file		n/a
Staff Personnel Files - Posts or Responsibility (POR)	Promotions/POR Boards assessment report files.	Retain original on personnel file, and copy on master & appeal file. Retain for duration of employment + 7 years (6 years in which to take a claim, plus 1 year to serve proceedings). Copy on master and appeal file.		Secure destruction/deletion

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Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Staff Personnel Files - Posts or Responsibility (POR)	POR appeal documents	Retain original on personnel file, and copy on master & appeal file. Retain for duration of employment + 7 years (6 years in which to take a claim, plus 1 year to serve proceedings). Copy on master and appeal file.		Secure destruction/deletion
Staff Personnel Files - Posts or Responsibility (POR)	Correspondence from candidates re feedback	Depends upon nature of feedback. If feedback is from unsuccessful candidate who is not an employee of the ETB, keep in line with retention periods above. If feedback is from successful candidate or from unsuccessful candidate who is already an employee, keep in line with "Staff personnel whilst in employment" above.		Secure destruction/deletion
Leave /Absence	Annual Leave Records	Retain for 3 years	Organisation of Working Time Act 1997 stipulates keeping these records for 3 years	Secure destruction/deletion
Leave /Absence	Leave of absence applications (ETB)	Retain for duration of employment plus 7 years (6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB)	Records & personnel files retained at ETB head office level	Secure destruction/deletion
Leave /Absence	Job share (ETB)	Retain for duration of employment plus 7 years (6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB)		Secure destruction/deletion

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Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Leave /Absence	Career Break (ETB)	Retain for duration of employment plus 7 years (6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB)		Secure destruction/deletion
Leave /Absence	Maternity leave (ETB)	Retain for duration of employment plus 7 years (6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB)		Secure destruction/deletion
Leave /Absence	Paternity leave	Retain for 2 years following retirement/resignation or the duration of employment plus 7 years (6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB) (whichever is the greater).		Secure destruction/deletion

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Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Leave /Absence	Parental Leave	<p>Must be kept for 8 years - Parental Leave Act 1998</p> <p>Retain for 8 years or the duration of employment plus 7 years (6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB) (whichever is the greater). There is a statutory requirement to retain for 8 years. (ETB)</p>	Parental Leave Act, 1998.	Secure destruction/deletion
Leave /Absence	Force Majeure Leave	<p>Retain for 8 years or the duration of employment plus 7 years (6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB) (whichever is the greater). There is a statutory requirement to retain for 8 years.</p>		Secure destruction/deletion

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Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Leave /Absence	Carer's Leave Records	<p>Must be kept for 8 years - Carer's Leave Act 2001</p> <p>Retain for 8 years or the duration of employment plus 7 years (6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB) (whichever is the greater). There is a statutory requirement to retain for 8 years</p>	Carer's Leave Act, 2001.	Secure destruction/deletion
Leave /Absence	Working Time Act (attendance hours, holidays, breaks) (ETB)	Retain for duration of employment plus 7 years (6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB). There is a statutory requirement to retain for 3 years		Secure destruction/deletion
Allegations/complaints (ETB)	Allegations/complaints (ETB)	Retain for duration of employment plus 7 years (6 years to take a claim, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served). Please note the relevant DES Circular re Disciplinary Procedures in relation to the period of time for which a warning remains "active" on an employee's record.		Secure destruction/deletion

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Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Grievance and disciplinary records	Grievance and disciplinary records	Retain for duration of employment plus 7 years (6 years to take a claim, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served). Please note the relevant DES Circular re Disciplinary Procedures in relation to the period of time for which a warning remains "active" on an employee's record.		Secure destruction/deletion
Occupational Health	Sickness absence records/certificates	Re sick leave scheme (1 in 4 rule) ref DES C/L 0060/2010 Retain for 7 years (6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB), unless sickness absence relates to an accident/ injury/ incident sustained in relation to or in connection with the individual's duties, in which case, do not destroy.		Secure destruction/deletion Or Do not destroy.

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Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Occupational Health	Pre-employment medical assessment	Retain for 7 years (6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB), unless sickness absence relates to an accident/ injury/ incident sustained in relation to or in connection with the individual's duties, in which case, do not destroy.		Secure destruction/deletion
Occupational Health	Occupational health referral	Retain for 7 years (6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB), unless sickness absence relates to an accident/ injury/ incident sustained in relation to or in connection with the individual's duties, in which case, do not destroy.		Confidential destruction/deletion Or Do not destroy.
Occupational Health	Correspondence re retirement on ill-health grounds	Retain for 7 years (6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB), unless sickness absence relates to an accident/ injury/ incident sustained in relation to or in connection with the individual's duties, in which case, do not destroy.		Secure destruction/deletion Or Do not destroy.

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Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Occupational Health	Accident/injury at work reports	Retain for 10 years, or the duration of the employment plus 7 years (6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB), whichever is the greater (unless sickness absence relates to an accident/ injury/ incident sustained in relation to or in connection with the individual's duties, in which case, do not destroy).		Secure destruction/deletion Or Do not destroy.
Occupational Health	Medical assessments or referrals	Retain for 7 years (6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB), unless Medmark assessment relates to an accident/ injury/ incident sustained in relation to or in connection with the individual's duties, in which case, do not destroy.		Secure destruction/deletion Or Do not destroy.
Occupational Health	Sick leave records (sick benefit forms)	In case of audit/refunds, Current year plus 7 years (6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB)		Secure destruction/deletion
Miscellaneous	Contracts for Service	Retain for the duration of the contract plus 6 years by relevant manager	Contracts may need to be held until C&AG audit	Secure destruction/deletion

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Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Miscellaneous	Papers from formal HR meetings * Agendas * Minutes * Associated papers circulated	Retain indefinitely	For historical purposes	Archive
PAYROLL				
Authorisation for non-statutory payroll deductions	Records documenting employee's authorisation for non-statutory payroll deductions	Current Tax Year + 6 years	Retain for compliance with Taxes Acts, Companies Acts etc., and for extended period on request of CE in event of legal issue; Review ongoing retention.	Secure archive for duration of retention period, then secure destruction/deletion
Salary claim forms	Salary claim forms	Duration of employment + 7 years	6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB) or for the life of employee/former employee plus 7 years (6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB, whichever is the longer).	Secure archive for duration of retention period, then secure destruction/deletion
Overtime payroll payments to employees	Records documenting calculation and payment of payroll payments for overtime to employees	Duration of employment + 7 years	In case the rules of the scheme are amended and overtime service is retrospectively deemed pensionable. Retain for extended period on request of CE in event of legal issue coming to light, & keep ongoing retention under review.	Secure archive for duration of retention period, then secure destruction/deletion

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Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Payroll payments to Part-time teaching staff (Part-time Returns)	Records documenting calculation and payment of payroll payments to Part-time teaching staff	Duration of employment + 7 years	In case the rules of the scheme are amended and overtime service is retrospectively deemed pensionable. Retain for extended period on request of CE in event of legal issue coming to light, & keep ongoing retention under review.	Secure archive for duration of retention period, then secure destruction/deletion
Payroll payments to employees	Records documenting calculation and payment of payroll payments to employees	Current Tax Year + 6 years	Retain for extended period on request of CE in event of legal issue; Review ongoing retention.	Secure destruction/deletion
Payroll payments to employees (pre-computerised payroll)	Records documenting calculation and payment of payroll payments to employees before the advent of payroll software	Indefinitely	In case the rules of the scheme are amended and overtime service is retrospectively deemed pensionable. Retain for extended period on request of CE in event of legal issue coming to light, & keep ongoing retention under review.	Scan (if practical) and destroy originals
Promotion of employee	Records documenting adjustment on promotion of employee	Current Tax Year + 6 years	Retain as part of PAYE payment record keeping. Retain for extended period on request of CE. In event of legal issue; Review ongoing retention.	Secure destruction/deletion
Statutory Sick Pay Scheme	Records documenting the operation of the Statutory Sick Pay Scheme	Current Tax Year + 6 years	Retain as part of PAYE payment record keeping. Retain for extended period on request of CE. In event of legal issue; Review ongoing retention.	Secure destruction/deletion

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Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Statutory Maternity Pay Scheme	Records documenting the operation of the Statutory Maternity Pay Scheme.	Current Tax Year + 6 years	Retain as part of PAYE payment record keeping. Retain for extended period on request of CE. In event of legal issue; Review ongoing retention.	Secure destruction/deletion
Pensions	Superannuation (Pension) Calculations	Retain for 7 years after pensioner and any subsequent dependent spouse are deceased and dependent children are finished in full time education.	6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB.	Secure destruction/deletion
Pensions	Superannuation Files	Retain for 7 years after pensioner and any subsequent dependent spouse are deceased and dependent children are finished in full time education.	6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB.	Secure destruction/deletion
Contributions to Pension Schemes	Records documenting payment of employer and employee contributions to pension schemes	Retain for 7 years after pensioner and any subsequent dependent spouse are deceased and dependent children are finished in full time education.	Required for verification of pension payments and entitlements. Retain for extended period on request of CE in event of legal issue; Review ongoing retention.	Secure destruction/deletion
Previous service	Records of previous service (incl. correspondence with previous employers)	Indefinitely	DES advise that these should be kept indefinitely.	Archive securely

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Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
Listings/Payslips	Payroll Listings	7 years	Benchmarked against National Minimum Wage Act 2000 (as amended). Retain for extended period on request of CE in event of legal issue; Review ongoing retention.	Secure destruction/deletion
Payroll set-up form	For capturing the banking details of new employees	7 years		Secure destruction/deletion
Other Payroll	Approval for Incremental Credit	Retain for duration of employment plus 7 years	6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB	Secure destruction/deletion
Other Payroll	Incremental Approvals	Retain for duration of employment plus 7 years	6 years in which to take a claim against the ETB, plus 1 year for proceedings to be served on the ETB	Secure destruction/deletion

Youth Services

Record Group	Record Description	Retention Period	Remarks	Final Disposition
YOUTH SERVICES				
Youth Services	Youth Work Committee meeting minutes & agendas	Indefinitely		Archive
Grants	Youth Club Grant applications (successful)	7 years from date of payment		Secure destruction/deletion
Grants	Youth Club Grant applications (unsuccessful)	18 months		Secure destruction/deletion
Other funding	Records relating to Funding from Government Departments, e.g. DCYA, Dept. of Health, for disbursement to local projects, including SLAs, Grant Agreements, correspondence from Departments, etc.	7 years		Secure destruction/deletion