

Part 2. Explanation of Retention Guidelines Headings

These Retention Guidelines are divided into sections of administrative functions that are commonly undertaken by local government.

2.1.0 Reference number

2.1.1 The function or entry reference number provides citation and ease of reference.

2.2.0 Function

2.2.1 The name of each function is specified in this entry. This relates to a group of records that perform the same activity.

2.3.0 Function Description

2.3.1 The Schedule provides notes that define each function in terms of related activities.

2.3.2 The Schedule may also include instructions or guidelines relating to weeding, sampling disposition provisions, information on duplication of record content in other classes and cross-references to other entries within the Schedule.

2.4.0 Retention Action

2.4.1 This entry provides the archival status of each process being either permanent or temporary. In relation to the temporary status of records the entry also provides a retention period or sentence specifying how long the records should be kept prior to destruction and the activity, transaction or event to which the retention period or sentence should be tied.

2.5.0 Examples of Records

2.5.1 This section provides common examples of the type of records included within the particular function. This list is not exhaustive and Local Authorities should feel free to annotate their copy of the Schedule with local names of the examples listed if required.

2.6.0 Notes

2.6.1 This indicates if the retention action is common practice or statutory.

2.7.0 Glossary of terms

Administrative Use. When business use has been ended or the file has been closed.

Closure. ' Destroy 'x' years from closure '. A record/file is closed when it ceases to be active. After closure, no new papers/information should be added to the record. Triggers for closure of

a file include: reaching an unmanageable size; covering a period of 'x' years or more; no records added for 'x' period of time; no action taken after 'x' period of time.

Closure period. Specified period of time during which the record is subject to restrictions on provision of access to staff and/or the public may be dictated by statutory requirements or by the authority's policy. Any closure period should comply with current legislation on access to local government information - including the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Acts.

Common practice. Standard practice followed by those local authority records managers who are members of the Records Management Society.

Last action. ' Destroy 'x' years after last action '. Date of most recent amendment / addition / deletion of information.

Permanent. Records which must be kept indefinitely [or for approximately 100 years] for legal and/or administrative purposes, and/or are of enduring value for historical research purposes and so suitable for transfer to the authority's archive or place of deposit.

Place of deposit. Usually the local authority's Record Office.