

## Dorset History Centre: Guidelines for businesses on retention and disposal of records

This guidance is for businesses that wish to transfer their archives to Dorset History Centre (DHC) for long-term preservation of, and general access to, the documents. It assumes that all records under consideration are no longer required by the business for legal or administrative purposes.

Due to storage space and staff time, any documents in the schedule marked 'destroy' should be disposed of by the business. Material earmarked for deposit at the History Centre should be box-listed prior to being brought in, so that archives staff are aware of the potential quantity and types. Ownership of the records can be retained by the business or can be transferred to DHC. Any items which, following appraisal by DHC staff, are deemed unsuitable for permanent preservation will be offered back to the business or destroyed securely, depending on what was agreed at time of deposit.

Any commercially sensitive records should be brought specifically to the attention of DHC staff. For records not covered by the schedule below, or for any material held in digital form, please ask the archives staff for specific advice.

Type of record	Action	Notes
<b>Company records</b>		
Foundation documents - charters or Memorandum of Association	Transfer to DHC for permanent preservation	
Certificates of Incorporation	Transfer to DHC for permanent preservation	
Share registers and share ledgers	Transfer to DHC for appraisal	
Dividend lists	Destroy	
Correspondence	Transfer to DHC for appraisal	

<b>Minutes and Meetings</b>		
Board/ Directors minutes	Transfer to DHC for permanent preservation	
Other major series of minutes e.g. other committees	Transfer to DHC for permanent preservation	

<b>Accounting and tax</b>		More than 7 years old
Annual accounts and/or annual reports	Transfer to DHC for permanent preservation	
Nominal and personal ledgers	Transfer to DHC for permanent preservation	
Other ledgers, e.g. purchase/ bought, sales	Transfer to DHC for permanent preservation	
Cash books	Transfer to DHC for appraisal	
Petty cash books	Transfer to DHC for appraisal	
Cheques and cheque book stubs	Destroy	
Bank books, paying in books	Transfer to DHC for appraisal	
Bank statements	Destroy	
Journals	Transfer to DHC for permanent preservation	
Insurance policies	Transfer to DHC for appraisal	

<b>Employee and Pension records</b>		
Staff lists/employee registers	Transfer to DHC for permanent preservation	
Wages' ledgers	Transfer to DHC for appraisal	
Apprenticeship indentures	Transfer to DHC for permanent preservation	
Individual employee's records	Destroy	
Other major series of minutes e.g. committees	Transfer to DHC for appraisal	
Job/role descriptions	Transfer to DHC for appraisal	
Pension scheme trust deeds and rules	Transfer to DHC for appraisal	
Pension scheme trustee meeting minute books	Transfer to DHC for appraisal	
Pension fund annual accounts	Transfer to DHC for appraisal	

Pension fund investment records	Destroy	
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<b>Health &amp; Safety records</b>		
Accident books	Transfer to DHC for appraisal	

<b>Property records</b>		
Title deeds & leases	Transfer to DHC for permanent preservation	
Property/ title deed registers	Transfer to DHC for permanent preservation	
Business development records - major building projects/ relocation or reorganisation of premises	Transfer to DHC for appraisal	
Building plans	Transfer to DHC for appraisal	

<b>Publicity/Promotional records</b>		
Advertising records	Transfer to DHC for appraisal	N.B. DHC is unable to accept artefacts which may have formed part of promotional campaigns
Articles/ press-cuttings	Transfer to DHC for appraisal	
Conference proceedings	Destroy	
Circulars or industry specific publications	Destroy	
Company brochures and inhouse publications	Transfer to DHC for appraisal	
Photographs, films and videos	Transfer to DHC for appraisal	
Press releases	Transfer to DHC for appraisal	

<b>Manufacturing/Production records</b>		
Order books	Transfer to DHC for permanent preservation	
Letter books/ business correspondence series	Transfer to DHC for appraisal	
Machinery Registers/ plans & specifications	Transfer to DHC for permanent preservation	
Price lists	Transfer to DHC for appraisal	
Diaries - business or production	Transfer to DHC for appraisal	
Trademarks	Transfer to DHC for permanent preservation	
Licenses and patents	Transfer to DHC for permanent preservation	
Product design and sales literature	Transfer to DHC for appraisal	

<b>Staff Social Events/ Sports &amp; Recreational Clubs' records</b>		
Staff reminiscences	Transfer to DHC for permanent preservation	
Staff outings/ photographs	Transfer to DHC for appraisal	
Minute books	Transfer to DHC for permanent preservation	
Accounts	Transfer to DHC for appraisal	
Photographs, films and videos	Transfer to DHC for appraisal	
Posters, programmes and tickets	Transfer to DHC for appraisal	

<b>Other</b>		
Strike/ industrial action	Transfer to DHC for permanent preservation	
Trade union records	Transfer to DHC for permanent preservation	

Employee welfare records, e.g. subsidised housing or medical schemes	Transfer to DHC for permanent preservation	
Official company histories	Transfer to DHC for permanent preservation	
Records of other businesses acquired by the company	Use same criteria as above for individual business elements, but treat each business as a discrete unit	

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