General Disposal Authority



FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTING RECORDS

ARCHIVES NEW ZEALAND TE RUA MAHARA O TE KĀWANATANGA November 2005











Disposal Authority Number: Agency Coverage: Expiry Date: Scope: Authorised by: DA 101/ GDA 2
All public offices
December 2015
All Financial and Accounting Records
The Chief Archivist, Archives New Zealand

> GENERAL DISPOSAL AUTHORITY: FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTING RECORDS

All Financial and Accounting Records General Disposal Authority (hereafter GDA) has been developed for the use of public offices wishing to dispose of records legally. Information about using the GDA is contained in the *General Disposal Authorities Implementation Guide*, which should be consulted before the GDA is implemented. The Guide outlines the processes for public offices to follow when implementing the disposal recommendations in the GDA, and gives advice on other recordkeeping issues such as access and transfer.

This GDA does not cover records that relate to a public office's primary duties and responsibilities. For some examples, see section 8 of the Implementation Guide. Before applying this GDA, public offices will need to ascertain which of their records reflecting primary duties or responsibilities fall outside its scope. If you have any queries about this, please contact the Appraisal Section at appraisal@archives.govt.nz.

Please note that if a public office has an agency-specific continuing disposal authority relating to the same records covered by this GDA, then the existing disposal authority should be considered the legal authority. If the public office has no agency-specific disposal authorities relating to such records, then this GDA should be considered the legal authority. If the public office signed up to this GDA under the former Archives Act, then this GDA remains the authority. For further information or advice, please contact the Appraisal Section.

The disposal authorisations are:

- > Retain as public archive = transfer to the control of the Chief Archivist at the end of the public office retention period, or any period of agreed deferral of transfer.
- Destroy = destruction to be carried out in a secure manner. It is not mandatory to destroy records at the end of the retention period – the records may be retained for longer.
- Retain for appraisal = arrange for the records to be appraised and refer the Appraisal Report to the Appraisal Section at Archives New Zealand.

These general instructions apply to the entire authority:

- > This authority covers all records, including paper and electronic formats. Under the Public Records Act 2005 a public record is, briefly, a record created or received by a public office in the conduct of its affairs, while a record is information that is compiled, recorded or stored in any format.
- Records examples are only representative of records types, and are not an exhaustive list.
- > The onus is on each agency to establish its legal obligations for records retention. Primary legislation covering Financial and Accounting records is cited in the "Agency Retention Period" column of the authority. However, this GDA does not provide a definitive identification of record retention requirements under statute or statutory regulation.
- If you think that a record marked for destruction ought to be preserved permanently, DO NOT DESTROY IT. Contact the Appraisal section of Archives New Zealand to arrange for the record to be assessed.
- All records created prior to 1946 must be retained for appraisal.

A valid disposal authority is not a defence or excuse for destroying or otherwise disposing of records for a fraudulent or illegal purpose.



Financial and Accounting Records

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NO.	RECORD CLASS DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLES OF RECORDS [Note: The examples are only representative of records types, and are not an exhaustive list]	AGENCY RETENTION PERIOD	DISPOSAL ACTION
1.0	POLICY & PROCEDURES (Note: This section only applies to Financial and Accounting Policy and Proceedures)			
1.1	Corporate Policy & Procedures Records that documented corporate & strategic level policies & procedures, and that provided the framework & authority for management decision-making [Corporate/strategic level policy & procedures in most agencies will be those developed at the central &/or at head office, and applied agency wide.]	Manuals Policy directives & memoranda Standards of practice Corporate financial & accounting circulars/instructions Procedural guidelines Internal audit criteria Policy or financial management information system	Until superseded & administratively no longer required for reference purposes • Companies Act 1993, s.189 Company Records	Retain as public archive
1.2	Administrative Policy & Procedures Administrative policy & procedures developed to facilitate the implementation of corporate & strategic level policies, procedures, directives and instructions [Administrative policy & procedures within agencies will generally have been developed at lower levels of the organisation, e.g. operational head office level, regional/district office, workplace level, etc.]	Documentation of routine administrative processes Low-level internal documented instructions, e.g. data input codes	7 years after date of last action	Destroy
1.3	Major Reviews Major financial reviews, reports & evaluations that significantly impacted on policies & procedures	Risk management analysis/evaluation reports	10 years after date of last action	Retain as public archive





NO.	RECORD CLASS DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLES OF RECORDS [Note: The examples are only representative of records types, and are not an exhaustive list]	AGENCY RETENTION PERIOD	DISPOSAL ACTION
2.0	PLANNING & REPORTING (Note: This section only applies to Financial and Accounting Planning Reporting)			
2.1	Corporate Planning & Reporting Consolidated principal corporate & strategic financial plans & accountability reporting records	Purchase Agreement Chief Executive Performance Agreement Output Plan Annual corporate financial plan Reports of performance measurement against output targets Annual financial performance reports against purchase agreement with Minister Consolidated annual financial statements & reports Consolidated major capital expenditure Consolidated major capital asset register (e.g. land, buildings, major plant & equipment) Lead Schedules, e.g. working papers of annual reports Financial analysis & monitoring of major capital expenditure projects	Ompanies Act 1993, s.189 Company records, s.194 Accounting records to be kept Tax Administration Act 1994, s.22 Keeping of business records Texal Records Texal Records Texal Records	Retain as public archive
2.2	Administrative Planning & Reporting Low-level administrative planning & reporting records, which will generally have been developed at lower levels of the organisation, e.g. operational head office level, regional/district office, workplace level, etc.	Information covered by summarised strategic corporate records District/regional office financial plans Budget/cost centre monthly/quarterly reports Records relating to minor capital expenditure, projects & programmes Business unit reporting Internal variance reports Other occasional & ad hoc reporting	7 years after date of last action	Destroy





NO.	RECORD CLASS DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLES OF RECORDS [Note: The examples are only representative of records types, and are not an exhaustive list]	AGENCY RETENTION PERIOD	DISPOSAL ACTION
2.3	Ministerial Reporting Financial reporting & submissions to Ministers	Capital Funding submissions Regular status summaries to minister Exceptional reporting to minister	10 years after date of last action	Retain as public archive
2.4	Ministerial Approvals Ministerial financial approvals	Ministerial approval of capital &/or operational expenditure by agency	10 years after date of last action	Retain as public archive
2.5	Attendance at Cabinet & Select Committees Briefing papers & reports prepared by agency for attendance at Cabinet & Select Committees that do not appear in Cabinet or Parliamentary records	Management briefing notes/papers for agency staff attendance at Cabinet & Select Committees	10 years after date of last action	Retain as public archive
2.6	Delegations Financial delegations & authorities	Written authority given to managers allowing financial expenditure and/or the incurring of debt	7 years after date of last action	Destroy
2.7	Management Meetings Internal minutes & agenda of key financial management meetings	Minutes of meetings that record significant decision- making & rationale on which decisions were based	10 years after date of last action • Companies Act 1993, s.189 Company records	Retain as public archive
2.8	Published Accounts Agency financial and accounting statements that are issued in published form and readily available from other sources (See also 11.2)	Published Annual Report & Consolidated Accounts	Administratively no longer required for reference purposes	Destroy
2.9	Reporting to Treasury Copies of agency financial reports and returns to Treasury	Monthly & other progress reporting to Treasury	7 years after date of last action	Destroy





NO.	RECORD CLASS DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLES OF RECORDS [Note: The examples are only representative of records types, and are not an exhaustive list]	AGENCY RETENTION PERIOD	DISPOSAL ACTION
3.0	FUNDING & BUDGETING			
3.1	Funding Applications Agency case for major funding from government &/or other external sources	Minutes, reports, submissions & correspondence dealing with key interactions with external organisation on significant funding & budget issues, e.g. Treasury, State Services Commission, Government Estimate/budget briefings & notes for Minister	10 years after date of last action	Retain as public archive
3.2	Estimate/Budget Formulation Internal records relating to development of agency's funding estimates and budgets	Internal budget planning meetings Budget working papers Setting of draft & initial budgets Business cases for budget funding Allocations & commitments Resource allocation modelling	7 years after date of last action	Destroy
4.0	LOANS Records relating to the raising of major loans & use of loan funds	Loan agreements/contracts Risk analysis Record of loan negotiation decisions Corporate summary records of loan use	When all conditions have been met & administratively no longer required for reference purposes	Retain as public archive
<u>5.0</u>	TRUSTS & DONATIONS Strategic records relating to trust funds, bequests & donations managed by the agency, & how the agency utilised/allocated the funds	Trust deeds Conditions of bequests Records of decisions on money utilisation	10 years after date of last action	Retain as public archive





NO.	RECORD CLASS DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLES OF RECORDS [Note: The examples are only representative of records types, and are not an exhaustive list]	AGENCY RETENTION PERIOD	DISPOSAL ACTION
<u>6.0</u>	SERVICE AGREEMENTS & CONTRACTS			
6.1	Provision of Core Public Services Records that cover major agreements the agency has with external organisations that have been contracted &/or funded to provide &/or deliver economic & social services to government, industry & community core public services (e.g. health, transport, research, economic development & other key public services)	Agreements & contracts that outline the services to be provided, performance standard &/or funding level [This section applies only to major public sector funding agencies that provide large funding to external service providers, e.g. Ministry of Health, Transfund, Foundation for Research, Science and Technology, etc]	When all conditions have been met & administratively no longer required for reference purposes	Retain as public archive
6.2	Service Delivery Evaluations Significant strategic level records that document the performance & quality of service of the organisation contracted &/or funded to provide &/or deliver economic & social services to government, industry & community core public services (e.g. health, transport, research, economic development & other key public services)	Evaluation of service delivery against output requirements Audits of service funding & delivery [This section applies only to major public sector funding agencies that provide large funding to external service providers, e.g. Ministry of Health, Transfund, Foundation for Research, Science and Technology, etc.]	10 years after date of last action	Retain as public archive
6.3	Cost Recovery Agreements Significant financial and funding arrangements & agreements with public offices & external organisations on cost recovery for services	Agreements for the contracting out of services Agreements for cost recovery for services provided by agency	10 years after date of last action	Retain as public archive





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7.0	FINANCIAL & ACCOUNTING RELATED LEGISLATION SUBMISSIONS & LEGAL OPINIONS			
7.1	Significant Submissions on Legislation Significant agency submissions and input on financial & accounting legislation	Written submission by agency on legislation Management briefing notes/papers for agency staff attendance at Cabinet & Select Committees	10 years after date of last action	Retain as public archive
7.2	Significant Legal Opinions Significant precedent-setting legal opinions relating to financial & accounting policies & practices within the agency	Legal opinions that set important precedent	10 years after date of last action	Retain as public archive
7.3	Minor Legislative Submissions & Legal Opinions Minor financial/accounting legal opinions, & low-level & routine submissions on financial/accounting legislation	 Agency submissions on legislation that do not contain any major points Legal opinions that set no significant precedent 	7 years after date of last action	Destroy
8.0	FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS			
8.1	General Ledger & Subsidiary Ledgers General ledgers & subsidiary ledgers (including journals & cash book)	General Ledger Cash book & equivalents Creditors ledger Debtors ledger Contract ledger Purchase ledger Sales ledger Asset Register (excluding consolidated major capital asset register — See Section 2.1) Stock records	7 years after date of last action • Companies Act 1993, s.194 Accounting records to be kept • Tax Administration Act 1994, s.22 Keeping of business records	Destroy



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8.2	Receipts & Expenditure Routine & low-level financial transactional records relating to receipts & expenditure	Invoices & vouchers Payment vouchers Remittance advice Time & cost recording Receipt books Expenditure authorisations Petty cash Imprest accounts Expense forms Credit notes Processing of payments Foreign currency & exchange investment Routine write-offs Statement of accounts Input forms Batch registers Routine computer printouts	7 years after date of last action • Tax Administration Act 1994, s.22 Keeping of business records • Goods and Services Tax Act 1985, s.75 Keeping of records • Companies Act 1993, s.194 Accounting records to be kept	Destroy
8.3	Banking Records Routine banking administration records	Cheques, bills of exchange & other regotiable instruments Bank statements & reconciliations Instructions to banks Automatic payments/direct debit authorities Cheques & associated documents Cheque orders Deposit & supporting documents Credit card records, voucher receipts & reconciliations Term investments Deskbank printouts	7 years after date of last action • Tax Administration Act 1994, s.22 Keeping of business records	Destroy
8.4	Taxation Records Routine taxation administration records	GST returns Routine correspondence on taxation Fringe benefit tax returns	7 years after date of last action • Goods and Services Tax Act 1985, s.75 Keeping of records	Destroy





NO.	RECORD CLASS DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLES OF RECORDS [Note: The examples are only representative of records types, and are not an exhaustive list]	AGENCY RETENTION PERIOD	DISPOSAL ACTION
9.0	AUDIT & FRAUD			
9.1	Audit Reports Records detailing major external audits & internal audits, including reports & responses to reviews/audits	Audit reportsResponses to reviews/audits	10 years after date of last action	Retain as public archive
9.2	Audit Administration Records relating to routine & low-level audits & audit administration	Audit trail reports Audit working papers Routine internal control reviews Internal control registers Routine office inspections Administration of audit travel Audit programme Routine correspondence	7 years after date of last action	Destroy
9.3	Serious Fraud & Theft Serious internal instances of fraud, theft, misappropriations or negligence within the organisation	Theft of significant amounts of money, goods or property Persistent ongoing misappropriations Negligence incurring significant financial cost &/or other major consequences, e.g. change to policies &/or procedures	10 years after date of last action	Retain as public archive
9.4	Minor Fraud & Theft Minor internal fraud, misappropriations, theft & negligence	Petty theft One-off, opportunistic and insignificant misappropriations Small over-claims on expenses	7 years after date of last action	Destroy
10.0	PROPERTY & CONTRACT DOCUMENTS			
10.1	Ownership Documentation Deeds of title & ownership	Certificates & other documents of title	10 years after date of last action or administratively no longer required for reference purposes	Retain as public archive
10.2	Patents & Trade Marks Records of patents & trade marks owned by agency	Certificates of ownership	10 years after date of last action	Retain as public archive



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10.3	Major Contracts & Agreements Major contracts & agreements incurring significant expenditure of operational &/or capital funding	Original purchase contract for major capital assets Agreements that commit the expenditure of a significant proportion of the agency's funding	When all conditions have been met & administratively no longer required for reference purposes	Retain as public archive
10.4	Routine Contracts Routine contracts for supply, purchase, services, rentals etc.	Purchase of stationery & supplies Maintenance agreements Telephone & equipment rentals Cleaning contracts	7 years after date of last action	Destroy
10.5	Tender Documentation Records of tenders made by the agency, & by suppliers to the agency	Tender records of successful & unsuccessful bidders	7 years after date of last action	Destroy
10.6	Lease Agreements Leasing agreements & contracts on expensive capital items, e.g. buildings, land, major plant, etc.	Lease agreements	15 years after termination of lease	Destroy
10.7	Disposal of Major Capital Assets Records detailing sale, transfer, disposal &/or write-offs of major capital assets	Sale agreements & contracts Asset transfer agreements	10 years after date of last action	Retain as public archive
11.0	FINANCIAL & ACCOUNTING RELATED ADMINISTRATION			
11.1	Mundane Administration Records covering routine & low-level financial & accounting transactions & administration	Routine administration Administrative report Administration associated with service & funding Records relating to minor capital expenditure, projects & programmes Financial information requests General correspondence Duplicates and copies of documents Copies of printouts Design & printing of forms	7 years after date of last action • Companies Act 1993, s.194 Accounting records to be kept, s.216 Inspection of company records by shareholders	Destroy







NO.	RECORD CLASS DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLES OF RECORDS [Note: The examples are only representative of records types, and are not an exhaustive list]	AGENCY RETENTION PERIOD	DISPOSAL ACTION
11.2	Published, Reference & Information-Only Records Copies of externally published, reference & information-only records (See also 2.8)	Treasury instructions Audit Office directives Interdepartmental reference & information-only records Reference-only material from external sources (e.g. brochures, circulars)	Administratively no longer required for reference purposes	Destroy
11.3	Records & Management Information Systems Records dealing with the purchase, installation, testing and maintenance of financial & accounting records & management information systems, including both manual & electronic systems	Purchase & maintenance agreements/contracts Installation planning Upgrade & modification documentation	Keep current while system is active	Destroy when system is defunct
12.0	INSURANCE Insurance policies & claim documentation	Copies of policies Documentation of claims made	When all conditions have been met & administratively no longer required for reference purposes	Destroy
13.0	STORES, SUPPLIES, FIXTURES, FITTINGS & PLANT/EQUIPMENT Records documenting the procurement, installation, maintenance, storage, issue & disposal of stores, supplies and equipment. Also, records relating to procurement, issue, maintenance & repairs of fixtures & fittings, e.g. office furniture, furnishings, floor coverings, etc.	Freight consignments & delivery dockets Equipment maintenance Equipment/plant history records Stock records & inventories Tender documentations Sales brochures & information Order/purchase documentation Fixture & fittings registers/lists Service contracts & requisition orders Financial authority forms	7 years after date of last action • Goods and Services Tax Act 1985, s.75 Keeping of records	Destroy
14.0	VEHICLES Records/information relating to the purchase, hire, maintenance, service, operation & disposal of agency vehicles [Excludes operational military vehicles]	Acquisition documentation Damage reports Fleet/vehicle maintenance Fleetcard records Vehicle running sheets	7 years after date of last action	Destroy
15.0	ALL RECORDS OPENED PRIOR TO 1946	All records opened prior to 1946	10 years after date of last action	Retain for appraisal





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