

DATA RETENTION GUIDELINES FOR CLIENTS

IMPORTANT NOTE

The tables below set out anticipated retention periods for both physical files and electronically held data. Please note that the retention periods are presented as guidelines only and different time frames may apply.

1. CENTRAL BUSINESS RECORDS

Record type	Retention period
Client due diligence identity documents/information and verification checks	Please see the relevant retention period in the "Client files" section below
Claims/complaints records	7 years after the conclusion of the claim/complaint (or after the client's 18th birthday/gaining of capacity)
Accident books, reports and records	4 years after the date of the last entry (if an accident relates to a child, 4 years after their 18th birthday)
CCTV footage and images	2 years after the footage or images were first captured
Online identifiers	2 years after the collection of the data

2. CLIENT FILES

Matter type	Retention period
Conveyancing (acting for purchaser)	16 years after all aspects of the retainer have concluded
Conveyancing (acting for vendor on sale of whole title)	7 years after all aspects of the retainer have concluded
Conveyancing (acting for vendor who retains part of the title)	16 years after all aspects of the retainer have concluded (or 7 years from the sale of the whole title)
Litigation (non-matrimonial)	12 years after all aspects of the retainer have concluded
Probate and administration	7 years after whole estate is wound up and distributed
Matrimonial and family (where no continuing obligation exists)	7 years after all aspects of the retainer have concluded

Matrimonial and family (where a continuing obligation exists)	7 years after all aspects of the retainer have concluded or after the continuing obligation expires, whichever is the later
Pre and Post-Nuptial Agreements	18 months after the death of the first spouse
Corporate matters	12 years after all aspects of the retainer have concluded
Trusts (completed)	7 years after all aspects of the retainer have concluded
Trusts (continuing)	7 years after the life of the Trust
Wills (files only)	7 years after the date of death of the testator (or of the spouse if later)
Tax	12 years after the end of the period or assessment
Immigration	7 years after all aspects of the retainer have concluded
Matters on behalf of clients aged under 18 (or lacking capacity)	7 years after the client's 18th birthday (or the gaining of capacity) or standard retention period if longer
Client enquiries and aborted matters	Please see the retention period for the relevant matter type
All other client matters	16 years after all aspects of the retainer have concluded