
Records management policy for Audit Scotland, Auditor General, Accounts Commission

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Introduction

1. The Public Records (Scotland) Act 2011 (the Act) places a duty on us to prepare and implement a records management plan which sets out proper arrangements for the management of our public records.
2. We recognise that the efficient management of our knowledge, information and records is essential to support our work, to facilitate our governance and management, to manage risk and to comply with our legal obligations under the Act and other legislation as enacted from time to time.
3. Records, like any other company asset, are vital to our past, present and future work. They show decisions made and the steps taken towards those decisions. Records and the information they contain form part of our corporate memory and therefore must be managed systematically from creation to disposal.
4. Records help with our professional standards and best practices.

Scope

5. This records management policy applies to Audit Scotland, the Accounts Commission and the Auditor General.

Definition

6. A record is information in any medium, created, received and maintained as evidence and information by an organisation or person, in pursuance of legal obligations or in the transaction of business.

Roles and responsibilities

7. The Chief Operating Officer is responsible for ensuring there are appropriate arrangements for managing information and records.
8. In support of the Chief Operating Officer the Corporate Governance Manager is responsible for the day-to-day records management arrangements for Audit Scotland, the Accounts Commission and the Auditor General. The security of our electronic information systems is the responsibility of Audit Scotland's IT manager.

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9. It is the Knowledge, Information & Technology Governance Group's (KITGG) role to ensure this policy remains relevant, represents good practice and is implemented effectively.
 10. However, records management is the responsibility of everyone and this principle is embedded in our Code of Conduct. We are all expected to ensure the effective management of our records and the information we collect, create, store, share and dispose of, and to under go training as required.

The principles of good records management

11. It is our policy to fully comply with the Public Records (Scotland) Act 2011 and to apply the guiding principles of records management to ensure that information is available when and where it is needed, in an organised and efficient manner, and in a well maintained environment.
12. We must therefore ensure that our records are:

1. Authentic

It must be possible to prove that records are what they purport to be and who created them is known, by keeping a record of their management through time. Where information is later added to an existing document within a record, the added information must be signed and dated. With electronic records, changes and additions must be identifiable through audit trails.

2. Accurate

Records must accurately reflect the transactions and other business activities that they describe.

3. Accessible

Records must be readily available when needed.

4. Complete

Records must be sufficient in content, context and structure to reconstruct the relevant activities and transactions that they describe.

5. Comprehensive

Records must document the complete range of an organisation's business.

6. Compliant

Records must comply with any record keeping requirements resulting from legislation, audit rules, professional standards and other relevant regulations.

7. Effective

Records must be maintained for specific purposes and the information contained in them must meet those purposes. Records will be identified and linked to the business process to which they are related.

8. Secure

Records must be securely maintained to prevent unauthorised access, alteration, damage or removal. They must be stored in a secure environment, the degree of security reflecting the sensitivity and importance of the contents. Where records are migrated across changes in technology, the evidence preserved must remain authentic and accurate.

13. Guidance in support of this policy has been prepared and is available to all staff in ishare.

Training and awareness

14. It is vital that everyone understands their information and record management responsibilities as set out in this policy. Therefore, directors and managers will ensure that staff are appropriately trained/briefed on how to manage records in accordance with this policy and our records management guidance.
15. In addition, training has been established to ensure that all staff are aware of their information obligations regarding Data Protection, Data Security and Freedom of Information.

Supplementary documentation

16. The following Acts, policies, standards, procedures and guides should be used to support and supplement this policy:
- Public Records (Scotland) Act 2011
 - Data Protection Act 1998
 - Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA)
 - Audit Scotland's Data Protection Policy
 - Audit Scotland's Freedom of Information Policy
 - Audit Scotland's Clear Desk and Screen Policy
 - Audit Scotland's Information Security Policy
 - FOSIA section 61 Code of Practice on records management
 - Managing records - a staff guide
 - Procedure for transferring information to the National Archive of Scotland
 - Audit Scotland's records retention schedule
 - Audit requirements:
 - Audit standards eg ISA's
 - Audit Services audit and MKI guidance
 - Performance Management Framework.