

The 20 Year Rule: Monitoring and Reporting

MOD Record Transfer Report – November 2013 – Explanatory Text

Legacy Records

The history, scale and complexity of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) means that records may continue to be identified from the legacy period.

In this and subsequent Record Transfer Reports, the MOD will report records held from the legacy period once such records have been identified for review action. The MOD Record Transfer Report currently shows 46,294 records against this category. This represents files identified in the MOD Main Archive with a last enclosure date of pre 1981 (25,363), outstanding records from the previous reporting year (3,831), an estimate of Defence Infrastructure Organisation records identified at 7 MOD sites (11850) and other pre 1982 records (5250).

In implementing the 30-20 year rule change, adherence to each transition year will take priority. Thus MOD records from 1983/84 will take precedence over legacy period records in the review and transfer to The National Archives programme. The number of legacy records reported may therefore increase following the identification of further record sets.

Digital Readiness

The first transfer of MOD Digital material is likely to occur in 2023 and the Department therefore plans to develop the process for selection and subsequent transfer from 2018.