

THE 20 YEAR RULE: MONITORING AND REPORTING

MOD Record Transfer Report – Spring 2014 – Explanatory Text

The history, scale and complexity of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) mean 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 48,925 records against this category. This predominantly represents files identified in the MOD Main Archive with a last enclosure date of pre 1981 (23,300) and an estimate of Defence Infrastructure Organisation records identified at 8 MOD sites (12,000).

In implementing the 30-20 year rule change, adherence to each transition year will take priority. While MOD records from 1985/86 will take precedence over the review of legacy period records, MOD have plans in place to ensure that selected records are transferred to The National Archives in a timely and consistent manner. The number of legacy records reported may increase following the identification of further record sets.

Transfers of approximately 5,000 records of legacy and in-year (2014) material are currently planned to take place between Jan and Mar 2015. The MOD is working to in future allow for the transfer of some of the in-year records within the calendar year to which it relates. The MOD also continues to transfer records (for example World War Two RAF Casualty Packs) not included in this report since the records are covered by a Lord Chancellors Instrument.