

NCTJ Data Retention Policy

Introduction

In the course of carrying out our awarding body activities, the NCTJ collects information from a range of sources and generates data that is retained as physical paper and/or electronic records.

The NCTJ takes the privacy of our customers seriously and we do not collect personally identifying information from candidates or centres except when it is specifically provided, for example for the delivery of examinations and assessments and the issuing of certificates.

Appropriate retention of data when it is specifically provided is necessary for our operational performance and in some cases is required to fulfil statutory or other regulatory requirements. This policy is aimed for use by NCTJ staff and details the systems and processes the NCTJ has in place for the preservation and timely disposal of data, in line with our awarding body requirements and relevant legislation.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the most up-to-date version of the NCTJ's privacy policy, which can be found on the NCTJ website.

Policy overview

The NCTJ will retain information relating to examinations and qualifications, such as a candidate's exam record, results and certification history, unless an individual specifically asks us to delete it. Other personal information and exam data will be deleted or archived from our systems and records once there is no longer a requirement or useful purpose for keeping it.

The NCTJ takes all reasonable steps to protect the information provided to us from theft, alteration or unauthorised inspection and has agreements with our data processors that they comply with all GDPR security principles.

The NCTJ may disclose personal information that an individual has provided to us to other parties where this information is required to fulfil a task or activity in relation to the progression of a qualification or programme of study that is being undertaken. This may include colleges, universities, private learning providers, their employees and other agencies.

The NCTJ may disclose personal information, achievement data and statistical information to the Learning Records Service.

Data storage

Electronic Records Storage

All electronic documents, emails, online assessment records and multimedia records must be stored within the appropriate repository (shown below) to ensure that applicable security, backup, retention and disposal controls can be applied. The archive and disposal policy for each record type is also shown below. The individual who creates a document/online record is responsible for ensuring that it is stored in the appropriate location.

Record type	Repository	Archive and disposal policy
Candidate registrations and exam bookings	KIM database	Retained indefinitely, unless candidate invokes the right to be forgotten
Exam scripts for online exams	Cirrus, exams team account	Disposed of six years after the exam takes place (retained for longer to be used for statistical analysis)
E-portfolio and e-logbook submissions	Tomango, NCTJ account	Automatically archived following issue of results; disposed of for students who are archived and started their course over three years ago
Proctorio results for remote exams proctored in Cirrus	Cirrus, exams team account	Disposed of one year after the exam takes place
Video recordings for remote exams delivered via Zoom	Dropbox, NCTJ private account	Disposed of one year after the exam takes place
Multimedia for exams delivery (exam footage, exam scripts for VJ and BJ and EPA submissions)	Dropbox, NCTJ private account	Disposed of one year after the exam/assessment takes place
Electronic documents related to accreditation and exams delivery, including, centre documented data, EQA reports, spot check feedback and candidate submissions for PMJ	NCTJ local server and synchronized cloud data drive	Archived if centre no longer active; disposed of three years from the end of the year in which the centre ceased to be active
Electronic documents related to reasonable adjustment and special consideration requests/approvals	NCTJ local server and synchronized cloud data drive	Disposed of one year following qualification/EPA certification
Emails	Held and retained on Google servers	It is the responsibility of individuals to review, at least annually, the emails stored in their accounts and delete any that no longer have a relevant business need, purpose or regulatory requirement

Physical Records Storage

Physical records that are required for the day-to-day running of the NCTJ's operations must be stored when not in use in the designated cupboards, filing cabinets and pedestals (desk drawers) that have been provided by the NCTJ. All storage units that contain personal and confidential data records must be locked at the end of the working day.

Physical exam scripts for production journalism and shorthand exams must be stored securely in the second floor storage area of the NCTJ office and automatically disposed of

by the NCTJ team (overseen by the head of quality and assessment) **one year** after the exam takes place.

Review arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure its contents remain in line with our awarding body requirements and relevant legislation. It will be revised as and when necessary in response to customer and candidate feedback, changes in our practices, actions from the regulatory authorities or external agencies or changes in legislation.