

The Use of Cookies on this Website - What are Cookies and how do they work?

A Cookie is a text file containing information that can be remembered by a web browser between pages. When an individual uses a web browser to access the internet their browser can create Cookies which are stored on their computer. Cookies are not programs and therefore cannot contain viruses or other malicious software, they are simply a string of text and numbers.

There are two main types of Cookies - *Session Cookies* and *Persistent Cookies*.

*Session Cookies* only last during a single visit. Once a user closes their web browser the session cookie information is automatically removed from their computer. This website uses session Cookies to allow you to navigate back and forward through pages

*Persistent Cookies* are stored by the user's web browser even when the web browser has been closed, so that the next time a user goes back to the website that originally set the cookie, the web site can read some limited information back from the cookie.

*Persistent Cookies* have an expiry date which controls when they are automatically deleted. This can be anything from a few minutes to several years.

This website uses a *Persistent Cookie* for Google Analytics - Google Analytics is a system used by many website to record information about who visits a website. Google set five different Cookies with expiry dates ranging from 1 day to 2 years. These Cookies are used mainly to differentiate between first time visitors to a website and repeat visitors. They do not contain any personally identifiable information. You can find out how Google use Cookies at the following website <http://www.google.com/intl/en/analytics/privacyoverview.html>

Controlling or deleting Cookies

Depending on which web browser you use it is possible to control how Cookies are used, or to delete existing Cookies from your computer, there are many types of browsers with different versions of them but you can find instructions on how to control the use of Cookies or delete Cookies from your computer at the following website <http://www.aboutcookies.org>

Please remember that if you delete or restrict Cookies from this website you may not be able to experience the full benefit of some of the features and services the website has to offer.