

How we use cookies

Most of our web pages use "cookies". A cookie is a small file of letters and numbers that we place on your computer or mobile device if you agree. These cookies allow us to distinguish you from other users of our website, which helps us to provide you with a good experience when you browse our websites and also allow us to improve our websites.

Types of cookies we use

We use the following types of cookies:

- **strictly necessary cookies** – these are essential in order to enable you to move around the website and use its features, such as accessing secure areas of the website. Without these cookies the services you have asked for, like online application forms, cannot be provided;
- **performance cookies** – these cookies collect information about how visitors use a website, for instance which pages visitors go to most often, and if they get error messages from web pages. These cookies do not collect information that identifies a visitor. All information these cookies collect is aggregated and therefore anonymous. It is only used to improve how the website works; and
- **functionality cookies** – these cookies allow the website to remember choices you make and provide enhanced, more personal features. For instance, these cookies can be used to remember changes you have made to text size, fonts and other parts of the web pages that you can customise. They may also be used to provide services you have asked for, such as watching a video or commenting on a blog. The information these cookies collect may be anonymised and they cannot track your browsing activity on other websites.

Specific cookies we use

Cookies may be set either by the Department's website ("first party cookies"), or by a third party website ("third party cookies"). The tables below identify the cookies we use and explain the purposes for which they are used.

However, we continue to collect information about first and third-party cookies and the tables below are based on the work completed to date. Accordingly, we may update the information contained in this section from time to time.

First Party Cookies

Cookie 1

Joomla CMS

Name

Session Cookie

Purpose

These cookies are used to maintain session state (that is, they remember whether you have logged in or not).

Cookie 2

Google Analytics

Name

_utma, _utmb, _utmc, _utmz

Purpose

These cookies are used to collect information about how visitors use our site. We use the information to compile reports and to help us improve the website. The cookies collect information in an anonymous form, including the number of visitors to the website, where visitors have come to the site from and the pages they visited.

Further information

Most web browsers allow some control of most cookies through the browser settings. To find out more about cookies, including how to see what cookies have been set and how to manage and delete them, please visit www.allaboutcookies.org .

To opt out of being tracked by Google Analytics across all websites visit <http://tools.google.com/dlpage/gaoptout>

Please consult the following webpages for an [overview of Google Analytics privacy](#).