

# Cookie Policy

Version 1.0 - 20 Feb 2025

## Information about our use of cookies

Our website uses cookies to distinguish you from other users of our website. This helps us to provide you with a good experience when you browse our website and also allows us to improve our site. By continuing to browse the site, you are agreeing to our use of cookies.

Cookies are also set when you click on social networking buttons in our pages; watch videos; register for services and events; and take part in surveys and other activities.

A cookie is a small file of letters and numbers that we store on your browser or the hard drive of your computer if you agree. Cookies contain information that is transferred to your computer's hard drive.

We use the following cookies:

- **Strictly necessary cookies.** These are cookies that are required for the operation of our website. They include, for example, cookies that enable you to log into secure areas of our website, use a shopping cart or make use of e-billing services.
- **Analytical/performance cookies.** They allow us to recognise and count the number of visitors and to see how visitors move around our website when they are using it. This helps us to improve the way our website works, for example, by ensuring that users are finding what they are looking for easily.
- **Functionality cookies.** These are used to recognise you when you return to our website. This enables us to personalise our content for you and remember your preferences (for example, your choice of language or region).
- **Targeting cookies.** These cookies record your visit to our website, the pages you have visited and the links you have followed. We will use this information to make our website and the advertising displayed on it more relevant to your interests. We may also share this information with third parties for this purpose.

You can find more information about the individual cookies we use and the purposes for which we use them in the table below:

- **\_gat** – Google Analytics (performance, functionality - used to throttle requests and has an expiration of 10 minutes.)
- **\_ga** – Google Analytics (targeting or advertising - used to distinguish users and has an expiration of 2 years)
- **NID** – Google Analytics (functionality, targeting or advertising - this cookie expires in 182 days)
- **\_gid** – Google Analytics (performance, functionality - used to distinguish users and has an expiration of 24 hours.)

These cookies are used to collect information about how visitors use our website. 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 and blog, where visitors have come to the website from and the pages they visited.

Read Google's overview of privacy and safeguarding data.

## How to manage cookies

You block cookies by activating the setting on your browser that allows you to refuse the setting of all or some cookies. However, if you use your browser settings to block all cookies (including essential cookies) you may not be able to access all or parts of our site.

Please note that where third parties use cookies we have no control over how those third parties use those cookies.

For further information on cookies, please consult the <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-pecr/cookies-and-similar-technologies/> and [www.allaboutcookies.org](http://www.allaboutcookies.org).