

## What are cookies?

Cookies are tiny files that your web browser stores on your computer at the request of a website. Cookies have been used on the web since 1994 so they're nothing new and generally nothing to worry about. They store little bits of information to help the website you're visiting to remember something about your visit or a preference you might have made. Cookies can also be used to track which pages you've visited on a website so the site owners can analyse usage of their site. Some websites use cookies to provide personalised adverts, but we don't do that.

## There are two types of cookies:

Session cookies and persistent cookies. The above describes persistent cookies which remain on your computer after you have left the website for a period of time determined by the site owners. Session cookies are temporary and exist for only as long as you are visiting the site. As soon as you close your browser the session cookies are deleted. To learn more about cookies read the Wikipedia entry.

## Why are we telling you this?

Legislation requires all websites hosted in the UK or intended for a UK audience to be open and transparent with visitors to make it clear how cookies are used on the site.

## Cookie Policy

The BDLA does not itself set any cookies but articles on this site may include embedded content (e.g. videos, images, articles, etc.). Embedded content from other websites behaves in the exact same way as if the visitor has visited the other website.

These websites may collect data about you, use cookies, embed additional third-party tracking, and monitor your interaction with that embedded content, including tracking your interaction with the embedded content if you have an account and are logged in to that website

Thus, cookies are used only for the reasons given above. The website may not function as expected without cookies and therefore you should only use this website if you agree to allow cookies to be used. This page provides guidance on how to disable cookies if you so wish.

## What if you don't want cookies stored on your computer?

There are a few options available to you in order of practicality:

- Disable persistent cookies in your browser
- Delete the cookies yourself now or when you have finished using the website
- Don't visit websites that require cookies and/or don't log in

## How to disable cookies

Please note it is not recommended to completely disable cookies and we cannot provide you with any support if you choose to do so. The information we provide here is done on a voluntary basis so you can make an informed choice.

If you completely disable cookies, then many websites won't function as you expect them to. For example, shopping baskets might forget what you put in them, or you might get thrown out of a site after logging in. If you really want to disable cookies, then consider disabling persistent cookies only and allow session (temporary) cookies to remain enabled. This will increase the likelihood of websites working correctly while still preventing cookies being stored on your hard drive after you've closed your browser.

You can also visit <https://allaboutcookies.org/> for comprehensive information on how to block or restrict cookies on a wide variety of browsers. You'll also find details on how to delete cookies from your computer, as well as more general information about cookies. For information on how to do this on the browser of your mobile phone you'll need to refer to your handset manual.

Each make of web browser has a different way of disabling persistent cookies. It's not possible to maintain a detailed and up to date guide on how to do this as there are so many browsers with so many versions, but we've outlined below how to do this in a few popular browsers. Please note the method does vary between versions of the same browser and any changes you make to your browser's settings is done at your own risk.

**Internet Explorer:** Go to the Tools menu and select Internet Options. Go to the Privacy tab. Click on Advanced and again on "Override automatic cookie handling". Click on Block. Click on "Always allow session cookies" if you want to increase the chance of websites working properly. Click on OK and OK again.

**Firefox:** Go to the Tools menu and select Options. Click on the Privacy tab and change the History option from "Remember history" to "Use custom settings for history". To temporarily keep cookies for the duration of your session and to have them automatically deleted when you finish, change the option for "Keep until" from "they expire" to "I close Firefox". This will allow most websites to function properly. If you want to completely disable cookies uncheck "Accept cookies from sites" but expect some sites not to behave as expected.

**Chrome:** Go to the Tools menu (the spanner icon) and select Settings. Click on Advanced Settings. Under "Privacy" click on "Content settings...". Under "Cookies" click on "Clear cookies and other site and plug-in data when I close my browser". This will let most websites work correctly and all cookies will be deleted when you close Chrome. If you don't want to use cookies at all and risk some sites not working properly then select "Block sites from setting any data" and "Block third-party cookies and site data".