Use of Cookies

1. What Are Cookies?

Cookies are small text files stored on your device when you visit certain websites. These files contain data about your activity and preferences, allowing websites to offer a tailored browsing experience. They assist with website navigation, personalization, and specific site functions (e.g., login and language preferences). When you revisit a site, your browser retrieves the cookies and sends them back to the website's server, enabling it to differentiate you from other users and retrieve relevant data.

2. How We Use Cookies

This site employs various cookies to enhance both its functionality and your user experience. Additionally, some cookies are used for statistical reporting purposes. While the data collected by cookies may vary, none of it allows us to personally identify you. Below is a description of the main types of cookies used on this site.

3. Main Cookies Used on This Site

3.1 CMSPreferredCulture

Used by the Content Management System (CMS) to store your preferred language or content culture for translated pages.

3.2 ASP.NET_SessionId

This cookie maintains the user's session ID for security purposes during browsing.

3.3 CMSCurrentTheme

Stores the name of the current visual theme to ensure the website displays correctly.

3.4 Cookieconsent status

Remembers your cookie preferences through our cookie consent widget.

3.5 VisitorStatus

Identifies whether you are a new or returning visitor, used for analytics purposes.

4. Third-Party Cookies

From time to time, we may incorporate services provided by third parties to improve your browsing experience. These services may include embedded social media widgets or videos from platforms like YouTube, as well as social sharing buttons. These third-party providers may also place cookies on your device to support their functionality. Please note that we do not control these cookies. For further details, you may want to review the cookie policies of these third-party providers and learn how to manage their cookies.

Examples of third-party cookies include:

4.1 Google Analytics

Cookies: _ga, _gid, _gat

We utilize Google Analytics to track user behavior, such as which pages are visited and how long users stay on our site. This information helps us gather statistics about website usage but does not personally identify any individual.

You can find more information about Google Analytics' privacy policy here: <u>Google Analytics</u> <u>Privacy Policy</u>.

5. How to Manage Your Cookies

Cookies are essential for many websites to function properly, and we recommend allowing them (most browsers enable cookies by default). However, you have the option to block or restrict cookies through your browser settings if you prefer. To learn how to do this, check your browser's help section or refer to this article that explains how to disable cookies:

How to Disable Cookies.

6. Further Information

For more information about cookies and their uses, visit **BBC** Webwise Guide on Cookies.

To learn more about Google Analytics and its cookies, visit Google Analytics Cookie Concepts.