Cookie Policy

Information About Our Use of Cookies - The 1-Minute Guide

Here's what we think you need to know:

- We use cookies to make our website easier for you to use
- We use cookies to help stop our online-forms from being used to send spam-email
- We use cookies to monitor usage so we can spot trends and make improvements
- We **DO NOT** use cookies to identify individuals (and never will)
- We **DO NOT** store personal information in cookies

We believe that our use of cookies is very necessary for the smooth functioning of the website. We do not believe that they pose any threat to your personal privacy or online security and we recommend that you indicate that you will "allow" cookies. If you "disable" cookies the interactive functions of the website will not operate. For example, data-submission via forms, as well as user-registration, user-login, and many other features of the website cannot work fully without using cookies.

What are cookies?

A cookie is used by a website to send 'state information' to a Users' browser and for the browser to return the state information to the website. The state information can be used for authentication, identification of a User session, User preferences, shopping cart contents, or anything else that can be accomplished through storing text data on the User's computer.

Cookies cannot be programmed, cannot carry viruses, and cannot install malware on the host computer. However, they can be used to track users' browsing activities which was a major privacy concern that prompted European and US law makers to take action.

Cookies are used by most websites for a variety of reasons - often very practical reasons to do with the operation of the website. However, they are also used to monitor how people are using the website (which pages are visited and how long is spent on each page). Each "visitor session" is tracked even though no effort is made to try to identify them in person.

The new legislation now states that you must be able to opt-out from having cookies stored on their computer.

What happens if you disable cookies (i.e. opt-out)?

If you decide to disable cookies we record this so you don't get asked the question again. You will find that most of the website works as expected although functions that rely on cookies are obviously disabled. These functions include using online forms (e.g. our enquiry form) or any feature that requires login. We use a cookie to remember your cookie preferences, this has a couple of consequences:

- If you delete all your cookies you will have to tell us your preference again
- If you use a different device, computer profile or browser you will have to tell us your preference again

What happens if you ignore the question?

If you ignore the question the website will continue to set cookies as necessary. This approach of "implied opt-in" is specifically discussed and approved in the guidance notes issued by the Information Commissioner's Office (the organisation charged with enforcement of this legislation).

Please see table below for cookie specifics and why we use them:

Name	Service	Purpose	Type
SESS	WordPress	This cookie stores the session ID of an authenticated user to provide them a better user experience. This cookie expires 28 days from the session date.	Essential
wordpress_ wordpress_logged_in_ wordpress_test_cookie, wfvt_	WordPress	WordPress uses cookies to verify who you are. There are cookies for logged in users and for commenters. The wordpress_test_cookie is used to test	Essential

Name	Service	Purpose	Type
		whether or not the browser has cookies enabled.	
_pk_ref, _pk_cvar, _pk_id, _pk_ses	O'Brien Media Analytics	These are O'Brien Media Analytics cookies. We use O'Brien Media Analytics to help us collect anonymous statistics on visitors to the site, where visitors have come to the site from, how long a user spends on the site, and the pages they visited. This helps us to understand how people use the site and to make improvements to our site. This cookie expires 28 days from the session date.	Convenience
piwik_ignore	O'Brien Media Analytics	This cookie will be set if you choose to opt out of participating in website analytics provided by O'Brien Media.	Convenience
__atuvc, __atuvs	AddThis	Commonly embedded in websites to enable visitors to share content with a range of networking and sharing	Convenience

Name	Service	Purpose	Type
		platforms. It stores an updated page share count.	
wordpress_, wfvt_, wordpress_logged_in_, wordpress_test_cookie, wp-settings-1, wp-settings-time-1	WordPress	WordPress uses cookies to verify who you are. There are cookies for logged in users and for commenters. The wordpress_test_cookie is used to test whether or not the browser has cookies enabled.	Essential
_stconvquote, _stconvquote_sub	ST Solicitors	Saves entered data provided through the conveyancing quote tool	Essential
_id, _share, _comp	Facebook	These cookies, provided by Facebook, are set when a visitor is logged in to or otherwise using their service. This allows a user to easily comment or share an article with their peers through the social network.	Convenience
_twitter_sess, gt	Twitter	These cookies, provided by Twitter, are used in conjunction with the Twitter social plugins in order to allow you to share content via	Convenience

Name	Service	Purpose	Type
		Twitter. Twitter makes use of cookies to improve its own service.	
_wp_contact	ST Solicitors	Saves the status of contact form submissions on stsolicitors.com	Essential
APISID, GMID, HSID, PREF, SSID, SID,	Google Maps	These cookies are used by Google to store user preferences and information when viewing pages with Google maps on them.	Convenience