

When we provide services, we want to make them easy, useful and reliable. Where services are delivered on the internet, this sometimes involves placing small amounts of information on your computer, mobile phone or tablet. These are known as cookies. They cannot be used to identify you personally.

## **What do cookies look like?**

A cookie is a short string of text and numbers. The numbers are your identification code, which can only be seen by the website server that gave you the cookie. A cookie (also called web cookie, Internet cookie or browser cookie), is a small piece of data sent from a website and stored in the user's web browser while the user is browsing it.

## **What cookies are used for**

Cookies:

- enable a service to recognise your computer so you don't have to give the same information several times during one task
- recognise that you may already have given a username and password so you don't need to do it for every web page requested
- measure how many people are using services, so popular services can be made easier and faster
- analyse anonymous data to help us understand how people interact with our services, so we can make them better

## **How we use cookies**

We will not use cookies to collect personally identifiable information about you.

We use Google Analytics to collect information about how people use our website, and this involves the use of cookies. Google Analytics stores information about what pages you visit, how long you are on the site, how you got here and what you click on. We do this to make sure its meeting people's needs and to help us improve how we provide the information about our services that you are looking for. We do not collect or store your personal details such as your name or address. We cannot identify who you are, and we do not share any of the information with third parties.

## **How to manage your cookies**

We will not use cookies to collect personally identifiable information about you. However, if you wish to restrict or block the cookies set by Public Health Agency or any other website, you can do this through your browser settings.

Please be aware that restricting cookies may impact on the way our website works for you.

If you wish to restrict or block or delete the cookies from our website, or any other website, you can do this through your browser settings. Your browser is the way you access the internet for example Internet Explorer, Chrome, Firefox, Safari. The 'Help' function within your browser should tell you how you can restrict or block cookies.

Please be aware that restricting cookies may impact on the way our website works for you.

For advice about how to control cookies go to [www.aboutcookies.org/](http://www.aboutcookies.org/)

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