**COOKIE POLICY**

The Adoption Authority of Ireland uses "cookies" to help improve your browsing experience of our website. This Cookie Policy should be read in conjunction with our **Privacy Notice**

**WHAT IS A COOKIE?**

A 'cookie' is a small data file that is placed on your computer or mobile device ("device").  It allows a website to remember your actions or preferences until the cookie is deleted or expires. Some of the cookies we use are essential for our website to work.  We also use some non-essential cookies to collect information to help us improve the website.

Cookies can be stored for varying lengths of time on your browser or device. Session cookies are generally deleted from your computer or device when you close your browser.  Persistent cookies will remain stored on your computer or device until deleted or until they reach their expiry date as detailed in the tables below.

**TYPES OF COOKIES USED**

We have set out below the cookies we use, their purpose, duration and whether the cookie is placed by us or a third party.  Some cookies are referred to as first party cookies meaning they are set by our domain.  Third party cookies are set by a domain other than our website. Third party cookies are covered by the third parties' cookie policies.

**Strictly Necessary Cookies**

These cookies are necessary for the website to function and cannot be switched off in our systems. They are usually only set in response to actions made by you which amount to a request for services, such as setting your privacy preferences, logging in or filling in forms. You can set your browser to block or alert you about these cookies, but some parts of the site will not then work. These cookies do not store any personally identifiable information.

| Cookie Name | First/Third Party Cookie | Purpose | Expiry |
|---|---|---|---|
| _dc_gtm_UA-xxxxxxxx | Third Party | This cookie is associated with sites using Google Tag Manager to load other scripts and code into a page. Where it is used it may be regarded as Strictly Necessary as without it, other scripts may not | 0 Days |

| | | function correctly. The end of the name is a unique number which is also an identifier for an associated Google Analytics account. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OptanonAlertBoxClosed | Third Party | This cookie is set by websites using certain versions of the cookie law compliance solution from OneTrust. It is set after visitors have seen a cookie information notice and in some cases only when they actively close the notice down. It enables the website not to show the message more than once to a user. The cookie has a one year lifespan and contains no personal information. | 730 Days |
| OptanonConsent | Third Party | This cookie is set by the cookie compliance solution from OneTrust. It stores information about the categories of cookies the site uses and whether visitors have given or withdrawn consent for the use of each category. This enables site owners to prevent cookies in each category from being set in the users browser, when consent is not given. The cookie has a normal lifespan of one year, so that returning visitors to the site will have their preferences remembered. It contains no information that can identify the site visitor. | 730 Days |

**Performance/Analytics Cookies**

These cookies allow us to count visits and traffic sources so we can measure and improve the performance of our site. They help us to know which pages are the most and least popular and see how visitors move around the site. All information these cookies collect is aggregated and therefore anonymous. If you do not allow these cookies we will not know when you have visited our site, and will not be able to monitor its performance.

| Cookie Name | First/Third Party Cookie | Purpose | Expiry |
|---|---|---|---|
| Universal Analytics Google | Third Party | We use Google Analytics to help us understand how visitors engage with our website. | |
| _ga | | With this information, we can continually improve the information that we provide on our sites, and the processes for actions such as contacting us. We also use it to increase the number of new people finding our website. | 2 years |
| _gid | | | 24 hours |
| _gat | | | 1 minute |
| _ga_<container-id> | | | 2 years |

| _gac_gb_<container-id><br><br>AMP_TOKEN<br><br>_gac_<property-id> | | You can find out more in [Analytics cookies and privacy information](#).<br><br>Google may process your personal data independently of the Adoption Authority and we cannot be held responsible for how they handle it. We recommend that you read their privacy notice carefully. [Read Google's overview of privacy and safeguarding data](#) | 90 days<br><br>1 year<br><br>90 days |
|---|---|---|---|

## HOW TO OPT OUT OF COOKIES?

You can change the cookie preferences you selected in the Cookie Settings when you first visited out website by clicking on the icon below. You may need to refresh your page for your settings to take effect. Please note this icon is permanently accessible on the bottom left hand side of our website, so it you can easily change your cookie preferences at any time.



Alternatively, most web browsers allow some control of most cookies through the browser settings. However, turning cookies off may interfere with your browsing experience. To find out more about cookies, including how to see what cookies have been set and how to manage and delete them, visit [www.allaboutcookies.org](http://www.allaboutcookies.org).

 Find out how to manage cookies on popular browsers:

- [Google Chrome](#)

- [Microsoft Edge](#)

- [Mozilla Firefox](#)

- [Microsoft Internet Explorer](#)

- [Opera](#)

- [Apple Safari](#)

To opt out of being tracked by Google Analytics across all websites visit [http://tools.google.com/dlpage/gaoptout](http://tools.google.com/dlpage/gaoptout)

## CHANGES TO THIS POLICY

We reserve the right to change this Cookie Policy from time to time at our sole discretion. If we make any changes, we will post these changes here and update the "Last Updated" date at the bottom of this Cookie Policy. However, if we make material changes to this Cookie Policy we will notify you by means of a prominent notice on our website prior to the change becoming effective.

**CONTACT US**

If you have any queries about our Cookie Policy please contact us in writing, by email or by telephone:

The Adoption Authority of Ireland
Shelbourne House
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Ballsbridge
Dublin 4
D04H6F6
Ireland

Email: dataprotection@aai.gov.ie

Telephone: 01 2309 3000 (Option 6)

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