

Thank you for trusting us with some information about you. We take that trust seriously and we want you to know how we use your information and why.

1. WHO IS HOLDING YOUR INFORMATION?

Name	Rachael Sterling T/A Sterling VA
Company Registration Number if applicable	N/A
Email address	admin@sterlingva.co.uk
Data Retention Period(s) or the criteria we use to decide how long to keep your information	Prospect data – 3 years Customer, Supplier, Associate, Affiliate data – 7 years from last financial transaction
If applicable, card and payment processor (3rd party) names and their security policy links	We use secure, GDPR-compliant payment processors to handle transactions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dubsado: All payments made through Dubsado are processed securely. For more details, you can review Dubsado's Privacy Policy.• Bank Transfers: If you choose to pay via bank transfer, your bank's privacy and security policies will apply. Please refer to your specific bank's terms and conditions for more information.
Cookie policy	Our website uses cookie policy provided by WordPress through the cookie policy banner. This policy covers how cookies are used to improve user experience and track analytics. By continuing to use our site, you agree to the collection and handling of data as described in this policy.
Third parties we share information with	For any cookies related to our client management system, Dubsado, please refer to Dubsado's Cookie Policy .
	We ensure your data is secure and handled responsibly. We may share your data with the following GDPR-compliant third parties: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cloud Storage Providers: To store and share documents securely (e.g., Google Drive).• Email Providers: To communicate and transfer files (e.g., Gmail).



Do we transfer your data to any organisations/countries outside the EU/UK?

IF YES, is this only to 'adequate' countries (check THIS LINK if you are not sure)

**IF NO, here is a summary of the safeguards we have put in place
Further information can be obtained from the person responsible for data**

- Password Management Tools: To securely share passwords without storing or seeing them (e.g., LastPass).
- CRM and Project Management Tools: To manage client data, projects, and invoices (e.g., Dubsado).

No

No

- Encryption: All client work is encrypted before being sent.
- Password Protection: Passwords are shared securely via LastPass, ensuring we do not see or store client passwords.
- Client Consent: We obtain explicit consent via contracts before handling or transferring your data.
- Data Processing Agreements (DPAs): For clients providing third-party data, we use DPAs to ensure GDPR compliance.
- Secure Platforms: We only use GDPR-compliant platforms and secure authentication (e.g., two-factor authentication) for all systems handling client data.

Do we use any automated decision making/profiling tools on your data?

If YES you can get more information on how we do this from the person responsible for data

**Person responsible for data within our business:
name and contact information**

No

Name: Rachael Sterling

Email: admin@sterlingva.co.uk

Our data regulator contact details are:

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)



	<p><i>The data regulators for the UK can be found via this link: UK- https://ico.org.uk/</i></p>
Are we obliged to collect ID or finance related data for Anti Money Laundering or other legally required purposes?	No
IF YES, your ID and Finance Data will only be used for these purposes	N/A
Are we collecting information about people under 16	No
Date this Policy last updated	14 October 2024

2. WHOSE INFORMATION DO WE COLLECT?

We process information about:

"Prospects"	contacts working at or connected with potential Clients; potential clients
"Clients"	who have bought goods or services from us, and "Client Contacts" who are individuals employed by or contracted to Clients; children for whom services have been purchased
"Suppliers", "Associates"	suppliers or potential suppliers of goods or services to us;
"Affiliates/Referrers"	who have signed up to our affiliate scheme or who have referred Prospects to us;
"Employees"	Our employees if we have any. Employees should refer for data privacy information relating to their own data to their contract of employment.

3. OUR POLICY

We promise respectful treatment of the personal information of everyone we have contact with. We want it to be simple and clear.

This Policy explains how we do that – when and why we collect information, how we use it, the situations when other people can see or use it, and how we keep it secure.

But just to set the scene in case you don't want to read through all the details just now, we can be clear up front.

We don't sell, rent or trade email lists with anyone else.



We've split this Policy into sections, depending on who you are.

Section A is for everyone and includes information about cookies on our websites.

Section B is for you if you are or work for a business prospect.

If you are a Client or a Client Contact, Section C is for you.

Section D is for you if we have information about you purely because we are providing services to a Client.

And if you're a supplier, associate or Affiliate/Referrer, Section E is for you.

SECTION A: FOR EVERYONE

Whoever you are, our intention is to use your information to make things work smoothly for you in your experience of dealing with us. If that's not how it turns out for you, please make sure to contact us. It's best to put things in writing, which you can do by emailing the address above.

We keep this Policy under regular review, and we may revise it as time goes on. Please check back here from time to time to make sure you've got the latest information.

A.1. OUR GENERAL APPROACH TO PERSONAL DATA

We're committed to protecting your privacy and honouring your legal rights to control how we use your personal data.

We only collect and use personal data when we need to

- because you have asked us to do something (for example, send you newsletters);
- so that we can reply to queries or complaints;
- to develop and manage our business relationships;
- to help grow our business and fulfil our contracts;
- to provide services to clients;
- to calculate payments to associates or Affiliates/Referrers;
- to meet our legal obligations.

We try to make sure the information we hold is accurate and up to date and is no more than we need to have.

A.2. CATEGORIES OF DATA

The types of information that we will be processing depend on the nature of our relationship with you.

We may process information about you that you have yourself provided to us or published generally on the internet through social media or on other websites.



In all cases, we will have what identifying and communication information that is relevant and that we can sensibly obtain: that is, your name, email address, employer or business name, job title or position, contact address, social media addresses, and we may also capture some of the information published by you in your social media output to the extent that it may be relevant to our interactions.

If you are or work for a prospect, we will aim to obtain and process information that is relevant to our building a business relationship with you and doing business together, which may relate to your business and your personal interests.

If you are or work for a customer or supplier, we will also keep records of our interactions, the work we have done for you or commissioned from you, the progress of work, and financial and accounting records.

If we are processing information about you purely because we are providing services to others, please see Section D below. Please note that your rights may be subject to applicable exemptions.

If you have any questions or concerns about our use of your information, or how we have responded to any request about your personal data, please take it up in the first instance by emailing us at the above address.

If we can't sort it out, the official authority contact details are set out in the form above, and you can raise your concerns with them.

A.3. DOWNLOADS, NEWSLETTERS AND SERVICES

We monitor who opens what in our newsletter lists, and pre-set sequences of information we send you. We do this, so we can see if content is popular and generate more of it, or if it is not read.

There may be sub-routines that trigger if you click on links or articles. These are designed to offer you more information about things you are interested in.

You can unsubscribe from these sequences at any time.

Existing Clients may receive emails about specific offers relating to things you have already purchased. You can unsubscribe from these at any time.

We use automations (little sequences of emails that start when you ask for something in particular) to send you the information you asked for, to send you products you have bought and to administer services you have subscribed to. A lot of our onboarding for new products is by emails that send you hints and tips and little videos on 'how to'. You can unsubscribe from these at any time, but they don't go on for that long and you might want to wait for all the information as most people find it useful.

We monitor who reads our mailing and automations, how many times, and which links you choose to use and read. We use this information to increase the content's level of interest and help us improve what we send. You can remove your information from this monitoring by disabling cookies on your website browser before opening emails from us. From time to time, we contact individual email newsletter subscribers, but it is extremely rare.



We use anonymised data about you from time to time to target advertising campaigns based on profiling the sort of person who wants to receive information from us.

We ask our own sales and marketing people (both internal and external) to contact Prospects from time to time. This is normally because you have requested a call, or because we are actively trying to let you know about something you may benefit from.

We are not a hard sell or cold calling-based organisation but prefer to build long-term relationships with satisfied and relaxed clients.

A.4. SOCIAL MEDIA

We have an active presence on social media. If you are using social media they are holding and using your information in accordance with their data privacy policy.

If you 'like' any of our posts or 'follow' us or contact us on social media we keep a record of that. Your replies to us, messages you send us, and your other activity linked to our posts may be seen by members of our staff and by our associates. Our contracts with them hold them to high standards of protecting your information.

A.5. NO SALE OR EXCHANGE OF YOUR DATA

We do not sell or exchange your personal data with organisations who may want to sell you something or use your data for research or other purposes.

A.6. DATA LOCATION AND PLATFORMS

Like most small businesses, we do not have any tailor-made software – we use mainstream packages for everything from our Client records, to email, to accounting.

This means that some of your data may be held in the EEA, and some may be held in services in the USA or elsewhere. We have picked mainstream suppliers with appropriate security standards.

A.7. WE MAY SHARE SOME OF YOUR DATA WITH THESE PEOPLE

We have an outsourced support team for our own business which may include Virtual Assistants, Web Designers, IT support, Sales and Marketing, Accounting and more. They have limited access to your data, where the service they provide to us means they need it.

For example, if our IT support wants to check the functionality of a laptop or back up, they may need temporary access to information that may include something about you.

For example, if we invoice you, our Accountant needs to process the information in the invoice.

Our team use our software to access any data they need. We do not permit copying or sharing by the team and actively monitor for any potential breaches.

Your information/advice is held in the strictest confidence. Our team are all contracted to strict confidentiality clauses.



We restrict who can export or download data that is held to a limited number of individuals who are authorised to back up data.

If you want to know who is on our team, please email and ask us.

A.8. HOW LONG DO WE KEEP YOUR DATA FOR?

Your information will be kept for the length of time set out in our retention period (see Section 1, Table, above).

If you subscribed to a newsletter or updates list, you will remain on the list(s) you joined until you unsubscribe from that list.

A.9. WANT TO SEE WHAT WE HOLD ON YOU?

If you want to know what information we have about you (if any) email the address above and give us your name, email address(es). We may require you to confirm your identity before proceeding.

Provided we can legitimately disclose the information to you (see Section D:), we will happily do a search and send you what we have.

A.10. WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS

You have the right to know what information we are collecting on you, and to amend it if it is inaccurate.

If you feel for some reason we have information we should not be keeping, or it is out of date or otherwise wrong, please let us know and we will take appropriate action.

Most of the information we hold is not based on your individual consent but is based on our needing the information to run our business and provide our products and services.

You have a "right to be forgotten" - but that does have some legal limits to it. If you want us to remove information about you, let us know. If you have been a Client, we may not be able to remove all data as we will have to ensure that we can continue to comply with legal, accounting, taxation and our insurer's requirements.

A.11. OUR LEGAL BASIS FOR PROCESSING YOUR DATA

Signing onto our newsletter list is by your consent – and when you withdraw your consent we stop that processing of your data.

Apart from that, the information we hold is based on our needing the information to run our business and provide our products and services – either so we can perform our contract with you, or because we have a legitimate business interest in processing your data.

In a few situations we are processing personal data because we are under a legal obligation to do so. This principally relates to our business, accounting and tax records.



SECTION B: PROSPECTS

Most of the information we process comes from you. We process it so we can reply to you, and when you contact us again we know what you asked before, what you were sent, and what you told us.

Typically, we are collecting name, contact details, how we came across you, and background information from you or published by you on social media or freely accessible on the internet, on why you might be interested in our products or services or a relevant contact for our business.

If you sign up to a newsletter list, you will be sent what you asked for. You can unsubscribe at any time by clicking the unsubscribe button on any email.

You are not automatically subscribed to any other lists but may be invited to join an appropriate one.

If we email you individually using our own email system or respond to an email sent to us at any of our business email addresses, a copy of that email will also be stored.

If you make an enquiry via our website, we will keep details of that enquiry and response for our data retention period (Section 1, Table, above).

We do not routinely keep special category data. To the extent we hold this, it was supplied or made publicly available by you.

SECTION C: CLIENTS

Once you buy something from us, we will collect information from you at the point of sale.

This will include the information we collect from Prospects (above). We collect your email address, phone number and postal address so we can provide what we have contracted to, invoice you and keep proper records of our business relationship.

We process your data to support the delivery the goods and services you have bought. We keep records of the goods/services provided to you, and information you give us, so we can support you when needed and advise you of any additional services you may need.

C.1. THIRD PARTY DATA

As well as your own personal data, we understand that you may need to provide us with personal data relating to your employees, your workers, or third parties (often your clients or suppliers) – depending on the services we are providing to you. We hold all such information under strict confidentiality obligations, as set out in our terms of business.



C.2. FINANCIAL AND CREDIT CARD DETAILS

Credit card payments are handled by an external secure processor in accordance with their data security policies (see Section 1, Table, above).

We receive limited information from our processor for us to tie up your payment with your invoice.

If you pay us by BACS or direct transfer, we know only what the bank tells us, which is usually the name of the person who paid us and how much and the reference number.

We do not routinely keep credit scores nor use credit reference agencies.

SECTION D: THIRD PARTY INFORMATION

We will act in accordance with your statutory rights, subject to the exclusions and exemptions that may apply.

When we are processing data about you on behalf of a Client, we are operating under the banner of our Client's data privacy policy. We will refer any enquiry from you to them, as they are the 'data controller' responsible for dealing with your query. But we will support that by providing relevant information to our Client for passing to you.

When we are processing data about you because of a direct connection between you and our business we are acting as a 'data controller' (and operating under this policy).

SECTION E: SUPPLIERS, ASSOCIATES AND AFFILIATES

If you become a supplier, associate or an Affiliate/Referrer we keep a copy of the contract between us, and your bank details so we can pay you. We also keep a record of invoices/payments for accounting purposes.

We keep a record of the work you undertook for us/our clients along with any comments, reviews or suggestions about that work including complaints (if any) and their resolution.

This information is all needed to manage our Client relationships and our supply chain.

If we set up an Affiliate/Referrer scheme, Affiliate/Referrer data will be held in accordance with this policy. We will ask you for information when you apply, and that information will be kept to administer the scheme.

If you are a Referrer, we remind you that referrals that you make to us may only be made with the knowledge and consent of the person being referred.



4. COMPLAINTS

If you have a complaint about the way we are handling your information or how we have responded to a request for information or removal, you can take this up in the first instance by emailing us at the email address set out above.

If we can't sort it out, the relevant supervisory authority details can be found on the form above.