Operator

Young Procurement, run by Tim Young MCIPS, a sole trader

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www.belowthreshold.co.uk

Registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), registration number ZC305322.

Hosting and data

Railway runs the application and holds the database, stored files and backups, in Railway EU West (europe-west4, Amsterdam, Netherlands). Railway is a US company; the data sits in the EU.

Each organisation is the controller of the personal data in its procurements; Young Procurement is its processor, under a data processing agreement.

Procurement submissions, files, assessments, invitations and questions are kept for the period the authority sets after a procurement is closed or cancelled (7 years by default), then deleted. A summary, the decision, the contract entry, notices and the audit trail are kept as the authority's record. A procurement under legal hold is kept until the hold is lifted.

Demo call requests and quotes are kept for 24 months, then deleted. The email log is kept for 90 days. Supplier codes work for 15 minutes and are deleted within a day. Files that fail the virus check are kept in quarantine for 30 days, then deleted. Encrypted backups are kept for 35 days. Demo sandboxes last 7 days.

How a procurement is protected

- Sealed bids: nobody at the buyer can see answers, prices, files, or who has bid, until the deadline has passed and the procurement lead releases them. Each supplier's submission is encrypted with its own key (AES-256-GCM).
- Access: two-step sign-in for every buyer, evaluator and administrator account, with account lock-out and automatic sign-out after inactivity. The server checks every request against the person's role and their place on that procurement's team. Evaluators must declare any conflict of interest before they can see submissions. Each organisation sees only its own procurements. The people who run the platform have no access to procurements through the application.
- Virus scanning: every uploaded file is checked with ClamAV, an open-source scanner that runs inside our own hosting. Definitions are updated every 6 hours. A file that fails the check, or cannot be checked, is never made available to download.
- Audit trail: every important action is recorded in a tamper-evident, append-only audit trail, which can be exported.
- Encrypted backups are made every day and kept for 35 days. A restore can be tested with a built-in check. The encryption keys are currently kept on the same server as the data, and backups are on the same storage. Separate keys and an off-site backup copy are planned.

No AI

No AI. Below Threshold does not use artificial intelligence. Specifications, bids, scores and documents are never sent to AI tools or used to train AI models. Every decision is made by your people.

Email

Email is sent through Brevo from noreply@belowthreshold.co.uk. The sending domain has SPF, DKIM and DMARC records, so receiving mail servers can check a message against those records. DMARC enforced (reject).

What has been reviewed, and what we do not claim

An internal security review was carried out in November 2026, and the issues it found have been fixed. That review was not independent, and it was not a penetration test.

The service has not yet had an independent penetration test. A report can be provided when one has been completed. We do not give a date for that.

We do not claim Cyber Essentials, ISO 27001, or any other certification of this service. We do not claim that the service is a legal clearance. Your organisation stays responsible for its procurement decisions and for publishing any required notices.

Security contact: tim@youngprocurement.co.uk. Report a problem at https://www.belowthreshold.co.uk/security#report.

Further information

Security page: https://www.belowthreshold.co.uk/security
Privacy notice: https://www.belowthreshold.co.uk/privacy
Service status: https://www.belowthreshold.co.uk/status
security.txt: https://www.belowthreshold.co.uk/.well-known/security.txt