

# Keep private companies away from our NHS Data

Our personal health information is hugely valuable for research in the public interest. But the government wants our data to be shared with for-profit companies to create new products and help UK economic growth.

As a result, underfunded NHS organisations (e.g. hospital Trusts) are being pushed into 'deals' in which they share our personal data with private companies in return for so-called 'rewards'.

At the same time, new, business-friendly legislation will weaken many of the safeguards that currently protect our data privacy.

**KEEP OUR  
NHS PUBLIC**

## Keep Our NHS Public demands

- ➔ Changes to legislation to increase protections for our personal health data
- ➔ Greater public investment in the NHS and academic sector for research and development that is in the public interest
- ➔ Public investment to develop publicly owned and controlled NHS data services
- ➔ No more sharing of personal health data with private companies, unless there are exceptional circumstances
- ➔ Exceptional circumstances should be decided by a new, publicly accountable body, independent of government and the private sector

# Concerns raised by data sharing deals with the private sector

## NHS funding

The NHS should be properly funded: NHS organisations should not be coerced into trading our personal data to make up for funding shortfalls.

## Data deals

Negotiations don't take place on a level playing field: the private sector has more experience and resources. The government wants data sharing 'as default', with quick deals made in favour of the data users' interests. 'Rewards' (e.g. discount on products developed from our data) won't recognise the data's true value, and any benefits for one NHS organisation won't extend to others, so further fragmenting the NHS as a national system.

## Private interest in public benefits

Surveys show that most of us are happy for our NHS data to be used for research in the public interest. However, many have refused consent for their data to be shared as they fear it may be used commercially.

Data sharing 'as default' will reduce public trust. If large numbers of patients opt out, this undermines the usefulness of the NHS data pool for public research in the public interest.

For more information on data sharing, go to [tinyurl.com/konpdata](https://tinyurl.com/konpdata) or scan the QR code below

## Take action to protect your data:

1. Write to your MP (see our briefing via the QR code)
2. Raise the issue with your local community group or trade union branch
3. Join Keep Our NHS Public at [keepournhspublic.com](https://keepournhspublic.com)



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