

Dear Mr Rothwell,

Thank you for your letter of 19th March in response to our 12th February communication, urging Homerton Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust not to adopt Palantir's Federated Data Platform (FDP).

Our request was motivated by human rights concerns about Palantir, data security and impact on patients.

In your response you told us that the Trust needs to remain politically neutral, while you highlighted the importance, for the community and for patients, of safety and trust, as well as the organisation's inclusive and anti-racist ethos. This is why we urge you not to align the Homerton with Palantir because Palantir is pivotal to both the racist ICE in the US and to the Israeli army committing war crimes in Palestine. Standing for the sanctity of civilian life in Palestine and opposing racist practices in the US are not purely or even primarily political considerations; they are basic human values that the vast majority of our fellow residents in Hackney uphold. When you write about a "set of Trust values" surely these must include these most basic of human values.

We must also add that an association between the Trust and Palantir could well erode patient trust, especially within migrant communities, not least among pregnant women with insecure immigration status, potentially deterring and delaying them from seeking healthcare.

Since our last correspondence, the consensus among local residents, human rights advocates and NHS staff has deepened on the incompatibility of Palantir with our basic human values. You may have noted that Amnesty International - itself a politically neutral organisation - has now launched a campaign called "No Palantir in Our NHS." More significantly, an article published in *The Nerve* on the 13th March, has concluded, based on observations by senior system engineers and high-level security experts, that data management contracts with Palantir pose a critical risk to Britain's national security. The article (link below) engages in detail with the arguments on sovereignty over data. It shows that Palantir does not need to own the data or even have stewardship over it, to be able to extract, transform and exploit the data, in the service of whatever values they uphold (<https://www.thenerve.news/p/palantir-technologies-uk-mod-sources-government-data-insights-security-state-secrets>).

Your letter of 19th March referred to the protest outside the Trust's Education Centre immediately prior to the 12th February Council of Governors' meeting. We note that the Trust's senior management response to our peaceful and unthreatening protest is different to the approach taken by the Board at the Whittington Health NHS Trust to a similar protest. As reported in the *Islington Tribune* 27th March, protesters against the adoption of the Palantir FDP, organised by the Defend the Whittington Coalition, were invited to join the Board meeting and provide a five-minute presentation, from Duncan McCann of the Good Law Project (<https://www.islingtontribune.co.uk/article/campaigners-confront-hospital-chiefs-over-ai-giant>). We would welcome a similar opportunity.

While we remain hopeful that mounting pressure at a national level will ultimately lead to the Secretary of State for Health & Social Care intervening to exercise the break clause in the NHS England contract with Palantir early next year, we will continue to campaign for Homerton not to adopt the FDP. In particular, we would like the opportunity for a small deputation to address the Board before it reaches any final decision and to meet in the near

future with the Trust's Chief Executive, Ms Sadiq, and Ms Elford as Chair, and to discuss in detail the objections we have raised to our local hospital buying into the Palantir package.

Yours Respectfully

Sussan Rassoulie, Secretary, Hackney Palestine Solidarity Campaign, on behalf of Hackney Coalition against Palantir

Marion Macalpine, on behalf of Hackney Keep Our NHS Public

George Binette, Chair, Hackney Palestine Solidarity Campaign

Coral Jones (Dr) Chair, Socialist Health Association, London

Jordan Rivera, Branch Secretary, on behalf of Homerton Hospital Trust UNISON

Matt Paul, Branch Secretary, on behalf Hackney UNISON

Mike Simons, on behalf of Hackney Stop the War

Pat Quigley MBE, retired National Education Union member

Amanda Bentham, Secretary, Hackney Independent Socialist Collective

Pauline Moon, for Hackney Patients not Passports

Duncan McCann (in a personal capacity)

Cllr Zoë Garbett

Cllr Liam Davis

Cllr Felicity Premru

PLEASE RESPOND TO: Sussan Rassoulie

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