

Deliver by hand at the NHS ICB or Trust board meeting, ideally to support a written question submitted in advance depending on local board requirements.

To: Board members of the [named] ICB or [named] NHS Trust

[Date]

Dear Board Members,

Palantir and the NHS Federated Platform Data Contract

We are writing to express our deep concern about the contract awarded to Palantir Technologies for the NHS Federated Data Platform (FDP).

As you will be aware, this contract, awarded in 2023 and valued at hundreds of millions of pounds, has generated widespread public concern. There are serious questions about the security and governance of sensitive patient data. Large-scale health databases are inherently vulnerable to breaches, misuse, and cyber-attack, and many people are uneasy about entrusting NHS data management to a private overseas company whose commercial priorities may not align with the public interest or the founding values of the NHS.

We know that Palantir are engaged in surveillance, border enforcement (including the illegal targeting of migrants), policing, human rights abuses and warfare and use the data they have collected to facilitate this involvement. In the US, ICE (US Immigration Customs and Enforcement) uses Palantir software for cross-governmental data analysis, including health data, to track people down. In 2025 the UN Special Rapporteur described Palantir as an enabler of 'the unlawful use of force' in the Palestinian Territories.

If this were not enough, recent concerns have emerged about the links between Peter Mandelson, his company Global Council and Palantir. Mandelson arranged for Keir Starmer to meet with Alex Karp, Palantir CEO in February 2025; 7 months later the UK Defence Secretary awarded Palantir a multimillion-pound contract.

There are also practical questions about the suitability of the Palantir's FDP platform itself. Several clinicians, data experts and NHS bodies have warned that the platform risks displacing locally developed systems that are *already* effective, potentially slowing progress on other national digital initiatives and creating additional governance and operational challenges. Despite pressure for nationwide adoption, many NHS trusts have not yet implemented the platform, reflecting ongoing uncertainty and lack of confidence.

Given the scale of the contract and the sensitivity of NHS patient data, I believe it is essential that these issues are subject to full and transparent investigation. Public trust is fundamental to the effective functioning of the NHS. Decisions about national data infrastructure must command the highest levels of confidence in terms of ethics, security, value for money and clinical effectiveness.

I therefore urge you to work with your fellow Board Members to call for a pause in the national rollout of the Federated Data Platform, and to press the government to make use of the contractual break clause available in February 2027 if concerns remain unresolved.

Yours sincerely,

[Author(s) names]

Add email address of author(s)