PALANTIR OUT OF OUR NHS

Palantir initially got a foothold in the NHS in 2020 during the COVID pandemic, agreeing to a contract for a token £1, to 'help manage NHS data and resources. What began as a temporary emergency arrangement has since grown into a much larger and more concerning role.

In November 2023, Palantir was awarded a £330 million 7-year contract by the Conservative government to run the NHS Federated Data Platform (FDP), a system designed to connect patient and operational data across hospitals and care services in England. As the platform and Palantir apps are rolled out nationwide, Palantir is gaining unprecedented access to NHS data, risking 'vendor lock-in'.

WHY WE SHOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT PALANTIR

Patient Data and public trust

The NHS holds some of the most sensitive information about our lives. Many patients, clinicians and campaigners are concerned about:

- The **security** of large-scale NHS databases – the risk of data breaches and cyber-attacks
- The **growing role of US private corporations** in NHS infrastructure
- **Lack of transparency** and democratic oversight
- Whether a **foreign private company** should manage NHS data
- **Ethical concerns:** Palantir's role in US ICE operations and supporting the IDF in Gaza and the West Bank
- **Future threat:** Palantir is eager to link NHS data to Home Office and other departments' data if asked by the Government to track migrants in the UK.
- **Lobbying and conflicts of interest:**
    - Disgraced Peter Mandelson lobbied for Palantir as a client of his consultancy Global Counsel consultancy. Mandelson arranged a meeting between Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Palantir CEO Alex Karp in February 2025. Seven months later, Palantir was awarded a major Ministry of Defence contract. Concerns have also been raised about links between Palantir and senior political figures.
    - Matthew Swindells, advocated for extension of GP data to link with Palantir's FDP, as an NHS leader, when also acting as adviser to Palantir. Once this conflict was exposed he had to resign.
    - Labour Lord Tom Watson is appointed vice-president of Palantir in the UK to lobby for them and harass critics of Palantir.
- **Cost**: the National Infrastructure and Service Transformation Authority has determined the cost of the FDP programme is upwards of £1.1bn with expected economic benefits of only £808m
- **Public trust in the NHS** and its decisions on patient data is essential. Many people believe that a company with Palantir's record should not be entrusted with NHS patient data. Decisions about patient data must meet the highest standards of ethics, security and accountability.
- **Alternatives exist:** Greater Manchester ICB has refused to use Palantir's FDP. They and many trusts say they have superior systems in place. There are other alternatives. But many campaigners are concerned that their local Trusts are using software linked to the Palantir platform. There was NHS England pressure on hospitals and local trusts to sign up to the FDP, but previous Health Minister Preet Kaur Gill conceded to Parliament that trusts retain the final decision to use or decline the system.

Two House of Commons Select Committees call for contract to end

In June 2026, the influential Science, Innovation and Technology Committee concluded that 'Palantir's increasing presence across the public sector represents an unacceptable point of weakness'. In July, the Health and Social Care Select Committee concurred. The committees highlighted the damaged public trust in NHS data safety, poorly evidenced claims of superior benefits and the ethical questions raised by Palantir's contracts with US military and immigration services, where it has supported 'highly controversial policies and activities'. They pointed to the hostility of Palantir's co-founder Peter Thiel to the NHS and to the company's 'explicitly political manifesto' – evidence of 'a clear mismatch with UK values'.

They recommend that the Government pulls out of Palantir's £330m data contract with the NHS 'and either develop an in-house replacement or seek an alternative developed by UK-owned and UK-based providers that is more compatible with UK values and does not pursue either technical or contractual dependencies'.

PALANTIR'S RECORD

Palantir is not an ordinary healthcare company. Its software has been used for:

- Military operations and warfare
- Surveillance and intelligence gathering
- Border enforcement and migrant tracking, enabling detentions and deportations
- Policing and security operations

In the United States, Palantir technology has been used by ICE to analyse data across government systems to identify and track migrants for deportation. In 2025, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories described Palantir as an enabler of the 'unlawful use of force' there.

WHAT MUST HAPPEN NOW: END THE CONTRACT

- We join with other campaigners in calling on the Government **not to renew the contract with Palantir**.
- And if no renewal notice is given to Palantir by 31 December 2026, then the Palantir FDP contract ends on 31 March 2027. This is what should happen.
- The Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England should give notice now to Palantir that the contract will end on 31 March 2027 and make that decision public now.
- The DHSC and NHSE should announce a pause in further rollout of the FDP and, where Trusts and ICBs are operating their systems of choice, the status quo left in place
- Alternative ethical and UK-based alternative solutions should be urgently explored nationally that meet the following commitments:
    - Full public scrutiny, ethical evaluation and risk assessment
    - Independent investigation
    - Clear guarantees on data security
- As part of the drive to true data sovereignty, a government commitment must be given that patient data and other NHS information will remain under the control of the NHS and will never leave the country or be sold commercially.

KEEP OUR NHS PUBLIC