

PALANTIR OUT OF THE NHS

Palantir is a US technology company with close links to the military, intelligence and security sectors. It works with the Israeli military, the UK and US armed forces, and the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE).

Since 2020, Palantir has also been working inside the NHS.

We are very concerned that Lewisham and Greenwich Trust is one of the hospital trusts nationally who have signed up to using the Federated Data Platform (FDP) and is using additional Palantir software packages. We have been in communication with LGT at the Healthier Communities Select Committee (where we received a written reply) and at the Trust Board meeting (April 2026). Health Minister Preet Kaur Gill confirmed to Parliament that hospitals and local trusts retain the final decision to use or decline the system, despite national NHS pressures and investment from NHS England.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Palantir was given a contract to help manage NHS data and resources. What began as a temporary emergency arrangement has since grown into a much larger role. In November 2023, Palantir was awarded a £330 million contract 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 is rolled out nationwide, Palantir is gaining unprecedented access to NHS data.

Why we are 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 private corporations in NHS infrastructure
 - Lack of transparency and democratic oversight
 - Whether a foreign private company should manage NHS data
 - Ethical concerns
 - Future threat: Palantir is willing if asked to link in NHS data to Home Office and other departments' data
- Public trust is essential to the NHS. Decisions about patient data must meet the highest standards of ethics, security and accountability.

The Parliamentary Science, Innovation and Technology Committee

This influential committee recently concluded that “Palantir’s increasing presence across the public sector represents an unacceptable point of weakness”.

The committee highlighted Palantir’s contracts with US military and immigration services, where it has supported “highly controversial policies and activities”, as well as co-founder Peter Thiel’s hostility to the NHS and the company’s “explicitly political manifesto” – evidence of “a clear mismatch with UK values”.

And they went on to recommend that the Government pulls out of the Palantir’s £330m data contract with the NHS.

“The Government should commit to exercising the February 2027 break clause in the Federated Data Platform contract,” the report added, “and either develop an in-house replacement or seek an alternative developed by UK-owned and UK-based providers that are more compatible with UK values, and do not pursue either technical or contractual dependencies.”

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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. In 2025, a United Nations Special Rapporteur described Palantir as an enabler of the “unlawful use of force” in the Palestinian Territories.

Many people believe that a company with this record should not be entrusted with NHS patient data.

Is the Palantir Platform Even Necessary?

There are also serious practical concerns.

- Clinicians, data experts and NHS organisations have warned that the Federated Data Platform could:
- Lock the NHS into Palantir long-term
- Replace local systems that already work well
- Create new governance and operational problems
- Divert resources from other digital improvements
- Slow innovation across the NHS - there are NHS digital experts who could carry out this work

Many NHS trusts have still not adopted the platform, reflecting ongoing uncertainty and lack of confidence.

Questions About Influence

Concerns have also been raised about links between Palantir and senior political figures.

Reports have highlighted connections between Peter Mandelson, his consultancy Global Counsel, and Palantir. 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.

These developments underline the need for full transparency and public scrutiny.

Our Demand: Pause the Rollout

We join health campaigners across the UK in calling for a pause in the national rollout of the Federated Data Platform. The Government should be prepared to use the contract break clause available in February 2027.

Before NHS data is handed over on an even larger scale, there must be:

- Full public scrutiny, ethical evaluation and risk assessment
- Independent investigation
- Clear guarantees on data security

savelewishamhospital@yahoo.com

www.savelewishamhospital.com www.keepournhspublic.com