

What's Wrong with Palantir?

In November 2023, Palantir was awarded a **£330 million** contract to create a new data management system called the **Federated Data Platform (FDP)** that aims to provide 'joined up' NHS services.

Do you want all your hospital, GP and specialist clinic health records to be managed by a US data mining company with what they call 'pseudo-anonymism' i.e. your details are not anonymous.

A company which specialises in military and surveillance technology, already used by ICE to target immigrants in the US, by the Israeli Defence Force to target Palestinian health workers and journalists in Gaza. Any marginal community is particularly at risk and on these grounds the British Medical Association has come out against the contract.

A company whose long-term aim is to have significant control over most government services, including healthcare i.e. to accelerating privatisation of the NHS under its control.

The contract with Palantir is coming up for renewal. Health Trusts have the power to say "No" to the contract, as Manchester Integrated Care Board has done, preferring to go on using its own, in-house, data systems which are working perfectly well. Fewer than half of health authorities in England have started actually using the Palantir technology.

Palantir is a US tech company, initially funded by the CIA, which specialises in AI-powered military and surveillance technology and data analytics. Palantir's previous involvement in state surveillance, racist policing and human rights violations includes:

- policing services to US police forces, shown to disproportionately target Black communities;
- support to the US government to track and deport migrants at the Mexico border, including in forcibly separating children from parents;
- mining health records to produce real-time data on people's location for the deadly ICE raids in the US.

Palantir is very explicit about its political beliefs as a supporter of the "noble, endearing and potentially durable project of the West". Its long-term aim is to have significant control over most government services, including healthcare. Senior Palantir staff infamously described the company's NHS strategy as "**buying our way in**" and "hoovering up" small businesses working with the NHS to "take a lot of ground and take down a lot of political resistance".

Palantir, Israel and enabling genocide

Palantir is currently openly supporting the Israeli military and government in their genocide on Gaza. It is “proud to support Israel in every way [it] can” and is working with Israel to keep them “armed and ahead”.

Palantir has operated its own research and development centre in Israel since 2013. Crucially, Palantir provides predictive policing services to Israel used for surveillance of Palestinians, especially via social media.

What is the NHS FDP contract? How did Palantir get it?

In March 2020, as the global pandemic exploded, the government signed a deal with Palantir for its software to be used to create a Covid-19 database in a contract that was given without competitive tender. In November 2023, Palantir was awarded a five-year contract of £330 million with the NHS for running the FDP contract itself.

In June 2025, the BMA came out against the use of Palantir FDP citing a lack of transparency in data storage and processing and Palantir as an unacceptable choice of partner. Many local NHS trusts and bodies are refusing to comply with the roll-out of the FDP, describing Palantir’s technology as a step backwards on existing systems. Only 34 trusts (just under 15%) are actively using the platform and its products.

Airedale hospital is part of the NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) who make the decision on the contract for data platform

Much of this information is taken from <https://www.medact.org/2024/resources/toolkits/no-palantir-in-the-nhs-campaign-toolkit/#Palantir>

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