

## **Motion against the future procurement of Palantir in public sector contracts in East Herts**

**Proposed by:** Councillor Alex Daar

**Seconded by:** Councillor Vicky Smith

### **Background and Context**

Over recent years the USA owned company Palantir has been awarded many public sector contracts. Locally Hertfordshire Police and the various NHS bodies have engaged or considered engaging in contracts with Palantir. See Police Accountability and Performance Meeting, 12 March 2026, 10:30-11.30: Gold Command, Police HQ, North and East Hertfordshire NHS Trust and [NHS FDP Rollout information](#). There is a key decision coming up in February 2027 for NHS contracts when there is a break point in the contract.

### **We note that**

- Palantir is now deeply embedded in the NHS and Ministry of Defence – and the longer they are in place, the harder and more expensive it becomes to remove them and the more the risk of poor value for money increases.
- NHS staff report that this tool is 10x slower than other standard NHS tools <https://democracyforsale.substack.com/p/revealed-palantirs-nhs-tech-is-ten-times-slower-than-nhs-thiel-trump>
- In a [substantial report \(PDF\)](#) examining the government's plans to make the UK a "digital state", MPs on the Science, Innovation and Technology Committee concluded that "Palantir's increasing presence across the public sector represents an unacceptable point of weakness".
- The report also calls for the government to reveal why the Ministry of Defence handed Palantir a £240m contract "without a competitive tender process", argues that ministers should use UK suppliers for the proposed NHS single patient record and declares it would be "irresponsible to roll out a digital ID built on the UK's current digital infrastructure".
- The BMA last year passed a formal resolution [calling for the Palantir NHS contract to be cancelled](#) saying it, "threatens to

undermine public trust in NHS data systems” and is unclear how the sensitive patient data would be processed by Palantir, citing the firm’s track record of creating discriminatory policing software in the US” and its “close links to a US government which shows little regard for international law”.

- The Government has mandated providers and Integrated Care Boards to Palantir’s Federated Data Platform (FDP) to ‘start making use of core products, data capabilities and population health management tools by 2028/29, according to the [Medium Term Planning Framework](#) published by the Department of Health.
- However, according to NHS figures, fewer than a quarter of England’s 215 hospital trusts were actively using FDP by the end of 2024. Some Trust’s are on record as [questioning its functionality and purpose](#).
- £330 million NHS contract awarded – no competitive tender
- Data management, data purposes and data protection very unclear
- At the national level, a recent Health Service Journal article highlighted that the true cost of FDP implementation is likely to be over £1 billion. [Exclusive: Full cost of federated data platform to exceed £1bn | News | Health Service Journal](#)
- The Federated Data Platform is driving out locally tailored and trusted data solutions. In February 2025, the NHS Chief Data and Analytical Officer Network (CDAON) wrote an open letter to Chief Digital and Information Officer, Ming Tang, detailing objections to the FDP’s roll-out. The letter concluded, “we already have similar tools in use that presently exceed the capability and application of what the FDP is currently trying to develop or roll out at a system level”.
- The Palantir claim is based on very few hospitals as recently claimed in the Financial Times <https://www.ft.com/content/a3e94197-87a8-4ba5-8a6d-4b7193993af9?syn-25a6b1a6=1>
- Palantir technology has reportedly been used by U.S. immigration authorities to profile and target migrants and has been used by the Israeli military in Gaza through integration into targeting systems to aid in mapping, identifying, and evaluating targets.

## **We believe**

That this American owned firm does not share our ethical values as demonstrated by its other business interests and its founders' speeches on media and in books. It is therefore in contravention of ethical standards we expect in procurement policies.

That it has not demonstrated that it understands the standards of data security that our residents expect.

That it is not good value for money.

That it will stifle innovation by UK based providers.

## **Council resolves to**

Request the Leader of East Herts Council to:

- To write to the following bodies: Integrated Care Board/Hertfordshire County Council/NHS Trusts/Police and Crime Commissioner to urge them not to engage in contracts with Palantir or to cease involvement as soon as possible. These will include Jan Thomas, CEO Hertford and West Essex ICB, Angie Ridgwell, CEO Hertfordshire County Council, Thom Lafferty, CEO The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust, Martin Armstrong, CEO East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust, Karen Taylor, Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust, Rafal Hejne CEO Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commission office.
- To write to all our local MPs representing East Herts residents – Kevin Bonavia, Lewis Cocking, Josh Dean, Chris Hinchcliffe,
- To inform these organisations of our extreme concern on behalf of all our residents about the security of their data in a firm based in the USA and the escalating cost of one firm holding so many contracts and the loss of alternative UK based providers and associated skills development in a market held hostage by one provider.
- To request to our Leader that the responses from these MPs and organisations are shared back with Members.

We also resolve that the Leader write to request that:

- Hertfordshire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee invite the heads of the local trusts and ICB to a Health Scrutiny

Committee to question them on their plans to join and/or remain with the Federated Data Platform using Palantir and discuss alternative providers.