

Dear Colleagues,

Please see below some guidance around FDP Communications that I have been asked to share with you all:-

*We are aware that some of you have received the same enquiry about the roll-out of the NHS Federated Data Platform. They are 'copy and paste' and appear to have come via:*

*<https://actionnetwork.org/letters/nhs-trusts-resist-the-rollout-of-palantirs-federated-data-platform>.*

*To support you and your teams to respond to these enquires we have drafted the below lines:*

- Data is a core part of how the NHS delivers care, it's at the heart of transforming services and improving outcomes for patients; using it well saves lives. The NHS Federated Data Platform will support the local, regional and national NHS to use data to better understand their populations and provide services that identify and address health inequalities, helping ensure equitable access to care for all. During COVID-19, similar technology helped track vaccination rates by various demographics, enabling local teams to address disparities. More information about this is available on the [NHS England website](#).*
- NHS England ran an independent and transparent procurement exercise in line with public contract regulations. The choice of preferred supplier was not made by a single person, it was the result of assessment by many different individuals. A consortium, led by Palantir, was awarded the contract to deliver the NHS Federated Data Platform in November 2023. NHS England has a duty to treat all suppliers the same regardless of the public perception of any organisation, or the opinions held by any of their shareholders. NHS England cannot exclude any supplier that is lawfully established and able to bid from participating in the procurement. We are confident that our procurement process did not enable any supplier that does not meet our strict standard selection criteria (which includes mandatory and discretionary exclusions relating to illegal activity, social and environmental breaches) and robust Information Governance requirements to continue through the process.*
- NHS England takes seriously its responsibility to handle health and care data lawfully, proportionately, ethically and in confidence. Privacy by design is a core principle of the NHS Federated Data Platform. We prioritise data protection from the outset and have implemented robust security measures to safeguard patient information. Access to data must have an explicit aim to benefit patients and/or the NHS in England.*

- *Access to NHS health and social care data within the NHS Federated Data Platforms will be carefully controlled. Only authorised users will be granted access to data for approved purposes. The contract has strict stipulations about confidentiality, and there is governance in place to monitor delivery and usage of the NHS FDP. Palantir only operate under the instruction of the NHS when processing data on the platform. Palantir do not control the data in the platform, nor are they permitted to access, use or share it for their own purposes.*
- *While implementation is not being mandated, all trusts and ICBs are being asked to provide plans for how they will maximise the benefits of the NHS FDP for their patients within the next two years. Demand is high, so we are asking trusts to sign-up, so that we can schedule them into the overall delivery timeline. Where the NHS FDP can provide the additional capabilities, it is right and proper that we'd expect organisations to fully consider using FDP as part of their planning to deliver best value for money for taxpayers.*

Please contact the contacts from the FDP Programme (CC'd) if you have any queries at all.

Kind Regards