



Siân Berry MP
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House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

10 February 2026

Cabinet Secretary
Cabinet Office

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

We are writing with deep concern to urgently call for an immediate inquiry into the Government's current contracts with US-based spy-tech giant Palantir and the influence that Peter Mandelson had on these contracts.

Last week, by his own admission, we learned that the Prime Minister was aware of Mandelson's close ties to Jeffrey Epstein when he appointed him as British Ambassador to the United States of America.¹ Given what we know now, and what the Prime Minister knew then, we believe this appointment should have never happened. Mandelson was forced to resign in disgrace, permitted to maintain his Labour party membership and position in the House of Lords for several more months, and now a criminal investigation has been launched into his conduct in public office.

This all could have and should have been avoided. And still, the lingering effects of Mandelson's corruption remain, especially in the Government's contracts with Palantir.

As you know, Mandelson co-founded a lobbying firm, Global Counsel, to help private companies procure massive contracts with governments. Palantir hired Global Counsel as a client, and even though Mandelson resigned from his post at the firm when he became ambassador, he retained a large stake in the company, reportedly around 21%.²

As reported by the New York Times, the US Justice Department releases of the Epstein files revealed that Peter Thiel, the co-founder of Palantir, maintained a close financial and personal relationship with Jeffrey Epstein. Epstein invested \$40M dollars into Valar Ventures, a firm that Thiel co-founded. There are many questions and ethical concerns about the web of connections between Thiel, Epstein and Mandelson.³

Last year, Mandelson's team arranged a meeting for the Prime Minister to visit Palantir's offices in Washington D.C. at which Mandelson was also present in his official role as ambassador and seemingly his unofficial role as Palantir stakeholder. This meeting was not initially listed on the PM's register of visits, and later last year, the Government awarded Palantir a £240m Ministry of Defence contract through a direct award, meaning without any competition.

The Government has still so far refused to share details of this meeting. Until it does, it would seem highly plausible that Mandelson could have used his position and influence with this Government, and his connections gained from being part of Epstein's network, for his own financial gain - and that the Government both knew about and permitted this to happen.

While also employing Mandelson's Global Counsel, Palantir was awarded an NHS contract of over £330mn by a previous Conservative Government in 2023. We do not know the extent to which Mandelson influenced the procurement of this contract. Moreover, as Green Party



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leader Zack Polanski pointed out to Wes Streeting in a letter last week, the workers who keep our NHS running have misgivings about this contract, not least because of the risk of long-term vendor lock-in leading to increasing costs and price gouging. We join the British Medical Association and others who have called on the Government to scrap the contract.

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 - it has no place in our NHS or any of our public services.

Our concerns with Palantir are not just moral and ethical, important as those are. They are also strategic.

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. There are already long-term risks to UK sovereign decision-making from dependencies on US-based tech giants like Microsoft, Amazon, and Oracle. The UK's reliance on Palantir risks making it even more difficult for the UK to confront or even publicly disagree with the US administration, adding to pre-existing challenges posed by increasing belligerence over software access, tariffs and trade.

The risks of sanctions and data exploitation by the US through tech giants are well established and has led to firm action from France, Denmark and others.⁴⁵⁶⁷ Parliament and the public deserve clarity on how the Palantir contracts were awarded, what alternative suppliers were considered, and what assessment was made of long-term dependency risks, sovereign capability impacts, and whole-life value for money.

We are therefore calling on the Government to:

- Conduct an internal and independent inquiry into Mandelson's involvement in contracts between the UK Government and Palantir and publish the findings, including whether Mandelson shared privileged information with Palantir and the extent to which he used his role in Government for personal gain
- Scrap its NHS and MoD contracts with Palantir at the earliest opportunity
- Review UK dependence on contractors such as Palantir to secure the UK's digital sovereignty

Our democratic institutions depend on transparency, oversight, and accountability. We thus look forward to your prompt attention to these issues of national interest and the highest standards of transparency in all matters relating to Palantir.

Yours sincerely,

Siân Berry MP
Ellie Chowns MP
Carla Denyer MP
Adrian Ramsay MP



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¹ <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2026-02-04/debates/C63E8C34-DFCA-499D-8E13-515C58BEA3DA/Engagements?highlight=mandelson#contribution-A5818A02-A078-494E-9AA9-05A58ED97B3B>

² <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/sep/24/peter-mandelson-advisory-firm-revokes-his-voting-rights-and-ends-dividend-payments>

³ <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/04/business/jeffrey-epstein-peter-thiel-estate.html#:~:text=Epstein's%20Inner%20Circle-.Jeffrey%20Epstein%20Invested%20With%20Peter%20Thiel%2C%20and%20His%20Estate%20Is,asset%20still%20held%20by%20Mr>

⁴ <https://www.techradar.com/pro/denmark-wants-to-replace-windows-and-office-with-linux-and-libreoffice-as-it-seeks-to-embrace-digital-sovereignty>

⁵ <https://apnews.com/article/europe-digital-sovereignty-big-tech-9f5388b68a0648514cebc8d92f682060>

⁶ <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/policy-solutions/checking-presidents-sanctions-powers>

⁷ https://columbialawreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Schwartz-LEGAL_ACCESS_TO_THE_GLOBAL_CLOUD.pdf