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[Redacted]

By email: [Redacted]

Our ref: FOI2022/25291
15 December 2022

Dear [Redacted],

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Access or use of Palantir Technologies software

Thank you for your request for information of 1 December 2022 about access or use of Palantir Technologies software. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

I'm writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) to ask that you please disclose to me whether or not your body uses or has access to systems sold to government built by Palantir Technologies. This request can be considered in 2 parts, for ease.

Firstly, I'd like to know if, since 2021 through to present, your body has any active contracts with Palantir, or has bought their software through a third party supplier or from crown commercial services or other such means.

Secondly, if you do not have any active contracts with Palantir, I'd like to know if 1) data from your body is used on Palantir software through another department or 2) your department has access to Palantir systems, software, or if data typically stored by yourselves is, via another contract potentially with another department, given to whichever department to be used on Palantir systems for any reason at all. I'd also like to know if the reverse of this is true - IE if you yourselves have a contract with them which has access to data from other departments, I'd like these to be listed please.

Some examples of ways in which this is being or has been done in government, for further clarity:

In a contract with the Cabinet Office, a 'data connector tool' the agreement states that Palantir's work as the supplier will be given free to any potential participating department, and then goes on to list: 'HMRC, HO, Defra, Department for Transport, Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency, Highways England and Port Health Authorities'



Also, in an agreement with Crown Commercial Services for the supply of 'back office software', of which Palantir helped platform build as part of a framework agreement, the posted customer list for said software includes:

1. Any of the following:
 - a) Ministerial government departments;
 - b) Non ministerial government departments;
 - c) Executive agencies of government;
 - d) Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs), including advisory NDPBs, executive NDPBs, and tribunal NDPBs;
 - e) Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies (ASPBs);
 - f) Police forces;
 - g) Fire and rescue services;
 - h) Ambulance services;
 - i) Maritime and coastguard agency services;
 - j) NHS bodies;
 - k) Educational bodies or establishments including state schools (nursery schools, primary schools, middle or high schools, secondary schools, special schools), academies, colleges, Pupil Referral Unit (PRU), further education colleges and universities;
 - l) Hospices;
 - m) National Parks;
 - n) Housing associations, including registered social landlords;
 - o) Third sector and charities;
 - p) Citizens advice bodies;
 - q) Councils, including county councils, district councils, county borough councils, community councils, London borough councils, unitary councils, metropolitan councils, parish councils;
 - r) Public corporations;
 - s) Public financial bodies or institutions;
 - t) Public pension funds;
 - u) Central banks; and
 - v) Civil service bodies, including public sector buying organisations.

Those listed and maintained by the Government on their website at

<https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Forrganisations&data=05%7C01%7CInformationRequests%40defra.gov.uk%7C4daf319f7b414736ca2108dad6ad22b2%7C770a245002274c6290c74e38537f1102%7C0%7C0%7C638058336336892047%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ij1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sd=2a91DHFUeyle1zqwa0BZwN2VMqiwqfnwpTvYQneoP44%3D&reserved=0> or any replacement or updated web-link.

3. Those listed and maintained by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) at

<https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ons.gov.uk%2Feconomy%2Fnationalaccounts%2Fuksectoraccounts%2Fdatasets%2Fpublic&data=05%7C01%7CInformationRequests%40defra.gov.uk%7C4daf319f7b414736ca2108dad6ad22b2%7C770a245002274c6290c74e38537f1102%7C0%7C0%7C638058336336892047%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ij1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sd=2a91DHFUeyle1zqwa0BZwN2VMqiwqfnwpTvYQneoP44%3D&reserved=0>

[1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Krp0%2Bhae0%2BvA1kWoCKDPGuziavFQOStpYI29gO4rdR0%3D&reserved=0](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/108888/1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Krp0%2Bhae0%2BvA1kWoCKDPGuziavFQOStpYI29gO4rdR0%3D&reserved=0)

sector classification guide or any replacement or updated web-link.

4. *Those bodies in England, Wales or Northern Ireland which are within the scope of the definition of "Contracting Authority" in regulation 2(1) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR) and/or Schedule 1*

As you can see, it's a pretty extensive list, but my only focus is on if your department knowingly has access to Palantir systems, shares data with them or another department that uses them, or has any contracts with them issued in either 2021 or 2022.

Defra does not hold a contract directly with Palantir for the use of their software, nor has Defra purchased the software. The Cabinet Office have licenced the software for HMG's use and holds and manages a contract with Palantir to deliver the now named Border Flow Service.

The Cabinet Office & Defra have a Data Sharing agreement / MoU to share data via the Border Flow Tool (BFT) (Defra's internal name for the configuration of the Palantir data connectors to our LoBs) to the now named Border Flow Service (BFS). This service is hosted in a Private Palantir cloud.

Defra provides Import and Export data to the BFS on an hourly base at the Notification & Certificate detail level. Defra has the ability to enrich and introduce data into the Palantir – Border Flow Service. Northern Ireland Directorate (NID) are currently running a work package using Palantir resource. This is being performed under contractual cover owned by Cabinet Office with Palantir.

Information disclosed in response to this FOIA request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk), together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

We attach Annex A, explaining the copyright that applies to the information being released to you, and Annex B giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

Information Rights Team
InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk

Annex A

Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs or logos) can be also used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

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Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party see the [Intellectual Property Office's website](#).

Annex B

Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Andrew Mobsby, Head of Information Rights via email at InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure are on our website.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted using the following link:

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-concern/>