

Transcript of digital ID section of Louis Mosley's interview on [Times Radio on 2 October 2025](#):

John Pienaar: *I've got to ask you then, Louis, about digital ID which is now, as you know probably more than I do, a very very big big story. And if you caught the new Times app – which is now available, it's called 'The State Of It', recommend it very very highly – they were discussing private doubts about digital ID among Government ministers. You know privately, obviously this is not stuff they discuss very publicly. And there's pressure in politics from the Left and the Right with deep worries and opposition to the idea of digital ID. I do want to ask you, what is your view on that question?*

Louis Mosley: Well, these proposals to introduce a new form of digital ID in the UK are ones that we have been widely linked to online. So, many people are talking about Palantir's involvement with that programme and I want to say that we will not be participating in that.

John Pienaar: *You will not. So tell me why.*

Louis Mosley: Well, actually the answer is on a couple of levels. One is I have, actually, personal concerns about digital ID. That's both on a technical level. I think there are other ways of addressing the challenge that we have with engaging with government services online. I think there are ways to improve that, that wouldn't require a wholesale new form of ID. And I think it does open up the risk of misuse as well. But also it's a problem on a corporate level. So Palantir have long had a policy that we will help democratically elected governments to implement the policies they've been elected to deliver. And that does mean that often we are involved in the implementation of very controversial measures. However, digital ID is not one that was tested at the last election. It wasn't in the manifesto. So, we haven't had a clear, resounding public support at the ballot box for its implementation and, as you said, we're seeing a wide divergence of views and a lot of controversy around it. So, it isn't one for us.

John Pienaar: *That is a really interesting and important statement from a company of the importance and size of Palantir, and I guess maybe the reasoning behind it may be summarised as Palantir's keeping out of politics. But not everything Governments do is in their manifesto. To that extent Governments do what Governments do, and they answer for it at the following general election and sometimes in between. But you are making a political judgment then on the validity, the democratic validity, of this particular programme.*

Louis Mosley: I think I would characterise it as it's a programme that needs to be decided at the ballot box, not in the company boardroom, and we haven't had that clear public mandate, if you like, that this is a programme that the British public want to see implemented.

John Pienaar: *I mean I can't remember, it may be I'm just not recalling it. I can't remember another example of a major corporation which deals very closely with the Government taking a decision like that.*

Louis Mosley: Well, I think it sticks very closely to the policy we've always had. We work for democratically elected Western-aligned governments to deliver the policies they've been elected to deliver. And this is not one that has had that public mandate and support at the ballot box. And it is, as we're seeing, a very controversial one.

John Pienaar: *Louis, have you told the Government this is how you feel? That you will not be taking part, you will not be tendering for any part of the digital ID programme which is the first anyone's heard of it.*

Louis Mosley: Well, that's a process that the Government will undertake, I guess, in due course when they pursue the market engagement. So we won't participate in that market engagement.

John Pienaar: *Does that also mean that you're turning your back as a company, as a corporation, on what could be a very, very important, lucrative piece of business?*

Louis Mosley: Well, we'll see. Potentially. But like I said, we are sticking to what has always been our long standing policy on this.

John Pienaar: *Okay. You know the tech, you'll understand my sudden interest in this subject. I mean, you know your industry better than I do. Is the view you've just shared with me, and with us, is that widespread in your industry or you in some way out there at the frontier?*

Louis Mosley: I can't speak for others. You'd have to ask them yourself, John.

John Pienaar: *In general terms...*

Louis Mosley: I suspect that, rather like we're seeing emerge in the public, there will be a wide divergence of views on this one.

John Pienaar: *Right. And this is – again, I'm asking you I guess to speculate – among the other views privately expressed by ministers about the digital ID programme was at least one senior politician who thought it wasn't going to happen. It would just be too difficult. Do you think it's going to happen?*

Louis Mosley: Well, I think as I said, one of my concerns about it is the technical feasibility of it, or maybe better expressed, the technical necessity of it. No doubt we have all had the experience of engaging with parts of government where the online experience leaves something to be desired. It needs improvement. However, we are in a world now where there are, I think, at least a dozen unique identifiers for each of us in government. We have passports, we have driving licenses, we have unique tax codes, we have

National Insurance numbers. Now, each of these sits in a silo and doesn't talk to the other, isn't harmonized. There's no way for government to easily jump from one to another. That could be achieved in the back end with relatively little effort and I think would go a long way to improving that citizen experience. I don't see the need for an additional form of identification on top of the many that already exist.

***John Pienaar:** And just finally on this, the worries about data security. I mean, how real, how worrying are they?*

Louis Mosley: They are always worrying. Any digital system is at risk and needs to be protected, needs to be secured, and of course the more of these you have, the greater your surface area of risk.

***John Pienaar:** Right. Okay. Last question then, and again thanks for coming in. The conversation I had with the technology minister from Ukraine. It kind of implied, as I said, a huge paring down of the size of the state by way of personnel, people behind desks. Is that where we're heading?*

Louis Mosley: I think that we'll see a big change in the types of jobs that people do when delivering public services. And I think some of those roles will undoubtedly disappear, but I think others will be created. So I think on a net basis we may not see an enormous change. However, I think the areas of public service that will see an enormous benefit are typically frontline. So it will be teachers and doctors and such like who will find their day-to-day jobs enormously improved and augmented by technology, particularly by AI. They will see their productivity increase, and that ultimately will make them more valuable.