

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DEMOCRACY FORWARD
FOUNDATION,

Plaintiff,

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, *et. al.*,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 25-4270 (TSC)

JOINT STATUS REPORT

Pursuant to the Court’s June 17, 2026, Minute Order, the Parties conferred and respectfully submit the following joint status report on this Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”) case:

Plaintiff sent five FOIA requests to Defendants on July 25, 2025, and one on July 28, 2025.

The first FOIA request to Defendant Department of Justice (“the Department”) seeks materials prepared or compiled by DOJ officials for Attorney General Pam Bondi’s review regarding the Jeffrey Epstein matter and all briefing materials prepared for Attorney General Bondi for her meetings with President Trump regarding the Epstein matter. ECF No. 1 ¶ 31. The Office of Informational Policy (“OIP”) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) are handling this request for the Department.

The second FOIA request to DOJ seeks records reflecting communications of certain DOJ officials regarding the Epstein matter, as well as communications sent by those DOJ officials containing specific key terms. *Id.* ¶ 38. OIP and the FBI are handling this request for the Department.

The third FOIA request, sent to the FBI, seeks records reflecting communications of certain FBI officials regarding the Epstein matter, as well as communications sent by those FBI officials containing specific key terms. *Id.* ¶ 45.

The fourth FOIA request, also sent to the FBI, seeks directives, guidance, and instructions provided from FBI political appointees or other leadership to agency personnel designated to the Information Management Division to assist with the Epstein-related records review and records reflecting all staff assigned to review Epstein-related records, such as a list of agent names; calendar entries of participants, or email including email addresses reflecting those staff. *Id.* ¶ 49. The request also seeks records reflecting all mentions of President Trump within the Epstein-related records review. *Id.*

The fifth request seeks records reflecting communications between or among certain DOJ officials and certain FBI officials regarding the Jeffery Epstein matter. *Id.* ¶ 54. OIP and the FBI are handling this request for the Department.

The sixth FOIA request seeks records of correspondence between President Trump and Epstein. *Id.* ¶ 63. OIP and the FBI are handling this request for the Department.

The FBI:

As previously reported, the FBI identified fewer than 1,000 pages of potentially responsive documents. It made its first interim release on June 15, 2026, consisting of 259 pages reviewed and 69 pages released, its second interim release on July 17, 2026, consisting of 569 pages reviewed and 266 pages released, and its third release on August 31, 2026, consisting of the 441 page direct referral from OIP and the remaining consulted materials.

Additionally, the FBI received an 18-page consult request from OIP on August 26, 2026, which it returned to OIP on September 11, 2026. The FBI has completed processing of all records in its possession.

OIP:

As previously reported, OIP identified approximately 4,000 pages of potentially responsive documents and issued interim responses on July 17 and August 17, 2026. Pursuant to the Court's July 22, 2026, Minute Order, OIP is processing 750 pages per month. OIP issued an additional interim response on September 16, 2026, as to Parts 1 and 2 of Plaintiff's second FOIA request, and Part 1 of Plaintiff's fifth FOIA request, informing Plaintiff that OIP processed 1,072 pages of records: 159 pages were appropriate for release with certain information withheld, 307 were being withheld in full, an additional 384 are entirely duplicative of material in the aforementioned 466 pages or previous August 17, 2026 interim response, and the remaining 222 pages are available online in the Department's Epstein Library. Pursuant to the Court's Order, OIP will issue another response to Plaintiff on October 16, 2026. Plaintiff has reiterated its request that for pages OIP has represented are available online in the Department's Epstein Library, OIP share how many of those pages are redacted (either in whole or in part). OIP intends to confer with Plaintiff regarding any outstanding questions after completing processing of all materials. OIP anticipates processing will be complete by November 16, 2026.

Pursuant to the Court's order, the parties will file a further Joint Status Report on or before October 21, 2026, and every thirty days after, until production is complete, at which case the parties will propose a schedule for summary judgment briefing if necessary.

Dated: September 21, 2026

/s/ Amy C. Vickery
Amy C. Vickery
(admitted pro hac vice)*

Respectfully submitted,

JEANINE FERRIS PIRRO
United States Attorney

Daniel A. McGrath
D.C. Bar #1531723
Robin F. Thurston
D.C. Bar #7268942
Democracy Forward Foundation
P.O. Box 34553
Washington, D.C. 20043
(202) 448-9090
avickery@democracyforward.org
dmcgrath@democracyforward.org
rthurston@democracyforward.org

By: /s/ Kaitlin K. Eckrote
KAITLIN K. ECKROTE
D.C. Bar #1670899
Assistant United States Attorney
601 D Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20530
(202) 252-2485
Kaitlin.eckrote@usdoj.gov

Attorneys for the United States of America

**Not admitted to practice law in the
District of Columbia; practicing under
the supervision of Democracy Forward
lawyers who are members of the DC Bar.*

Counsel for Plaintiff