

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

July 18, 2025

Mr. Dan Bongino
Deputy Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Department of Justice
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Deputy Director Bongino:

On July 7, the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) released an unsigned memorandum regarding the Trump Administration's "exhaustive review of investigative holdings relating to Jeffrey Epstein." This memorandum made two official findings: (1) "[t]his systemic review revealed no incriminating 'client list'" and (2) "[a]fter a thorough investigation, FBI investigators concluded that Jeffrey Epstein committed suicide in his cell at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York City on August 10, 2019."¹

The first finding directly contradicts public statements Attorney General Bondi has repeatedly made. On February 21, 17 days after her confirmation as Attorney General, Attorney General Bondi was asked directly by Fox News' *America Reports* host John Roberts: "DOJ may be releasing the list of Jeffrey Epstein's clients; will that really happen?"² She responded: "It's sitting on my desk right now to review."³ On February 27, Attorney General Bondi released binders of documents related to Epstein to conservative influencers and commentators,⁴ but despite the major media event the White House staged around this release, these files were largely already publicly available.⁵ After intense blowback from this incident, Attorney General Bondi then appeared on another Fox News show, *Life Liberty Levin*, and claimed that a "whistleblower" told her that "New York SDNY [was] sitting on thousands of pages of documents"; that "we will get everything"; that she was "assured" there was more; and that the country would eventually see "the full Epstein files."⁶ She also claimed that the "FBI withheld

¹ Memorandum from Dep't of Justice and Fed. Bureau of Investigation on Review of Investigative Holdings Relating to Jeffrey Epstein (Jul. 7, 2025), available at <https://www.justice.gov/opa/media/1407001/dl?inline> [hereinafter July 7 memorandum].

² Haley Chi-Sing, *Bondi says Epstein client list 'sitting on my desk right now,' and is reviewing JFK, MLK files*, FOX NEWS (Feb. 21, 2025), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/bondi-says-epstein-client-list-sitting-my-desk-right-now-reviewing-jfk-mlk-files>.

³ *Id.*

⁴ Press Release, Dep't of Justice, Attorney General Pamela Bondi Releases First Phase of Declassified Epstein Files (Feb. 27, 2025), available at <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/attorney-general-pamela-bondi-releases-first-phase-declassified-epstein-files>.

⁵ Anna Durkin Richer & Michael R. Sisak, *No new bombshells in Justice Department's release of Jeffrey Epstein files*, AP (Feb. 27, 2025), <https://apnews.com/article/jeffrey-epstein-files-pam-bondi-trump-1a6af3e9fa1cfb6d267985a971a4929a>.

⁶ Life Liberty Levin, *Pam Bondi on stonewalled Epstein files: We will get everything*, FOX NEWS (Feb. 27, 2025), <https://www.foxnews.com/video/6369422747112?msocid=01561c16f5d864072e93086ff44c65df>; see also Elizabeth Crisp, *Bondi says she was misled on Epstein documents*, THE HILL (Mar. 3, 2025), <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/5172660-attorney-general-pam-bondi-epstein-files>.

all of those documents” and you were providing a detailed report as an explanation for the FBI’s actions with respect to those materials.⁷

According to information my office received, Attorney General Bondi then pressured the FBI to put approximately 1,000 personnel in its Information Management Division (IMD), including the Record/Information Dissemination Section (RIDS), which handles all requests submitted by the public under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act, on 24-hour shifts to review approximately 100,000 Epstein-related records in order to produce more documents that could then be released on an arbitrarily short deadline. This effort, which reportedly took place from March 14 through the end of March, was haphazardly supplemented by hundreds of FBI New York Field Office personnel, many of whom lacked the expertise to identify statutorily protected information regarding child victims and child witnesses or properly handle FOIA requests.

My office was told that these personnel were instructed to “flag” any records in which President Trump was mentioned. Notably, in 2002, Mr. Trump said of Mr. Epstein, “I’ve known Jeff for 15 years. Terrific guy, He’s a lot of fun to be with. It is even said that he likes beautiful women as much as I do, and many of them are on the younger side.”⁸ Just yesterday, it was reported that the Department previously reviewed a “leather-bound album” comprised of dozens of letters from Mr. Epstein’s friends in celebration of his 50th birthday in 2003.⁹ The letters were collected by Mr. Epstein’s partner Ghislaine Maxwell and included one from President Trump that allegedly “contains several lines of typewritten text framed by the outline of a naked woman, which appears to be hand-drawn with a heavy marker ... and the future president’s signature is a squiggly ‘Donald’ below her waist.”¹⁰

Despite tens of thousands of personnel hours reviewing and re-reviewing these Epstein-related records over the course of two weeks in March, it took DOJ more than three additional months to officially find there is “no incriminating ‘client list,’” and the memorandum with this finding includes no mention of the whistleblower or additional documents, the existence of which Attorney General Bondi publicly claimed on February 27.

The second finding in the July 7 memorandum does not contradict any official statement from DOJ and accords with the DOJ Inspector General’s investigation into the Bureau of Prison’s custody of Jeffrey Epstein.¹¹ However, public skepticism of the government’s transparency in this matter has been needlessly increased due to the release of surveillance video

⁷ See e.g., Emma Colton, *DOJ brass vowed full transparency on Epstein before turning up empty-handed*, FOX NEWS (Jul. 13, 2025), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/doj-brass-vowed-full-transparency-epstein-before-turning-up-empty-handed>.

⁸ Landon Thomas, Jr., *Jeffrey Epstein: International Moneyman of Mystery*, N.Y. MAG (Oct. 28, 2002), https://nymag.com/nymetro/news/people/n_7912.

⁹ Khadeeja Safdar & Joe Palazzolo, *Jeffrey Epstein’s Friends Sent Him Bawdy Letters for a 50th Birthday Album. One Was From Donald Trump*, WALL ST. J. (July 17, 2025), <https://www.wsj.com/politics/trump-jeffrey-epstein-birthday-letter-we-have-certain-things-in-common-f918d796>.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ See generally, DEP’T OF JUSTICE, OFF. OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, INVESTIGATION AND REVIEW OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS’ CUSTODY, CARE, AND SUPERVISION OF JEFFREY EPSTEIN AT THE METROPOLITAN CORRECTIONAL CENTER IN NEW YORK, NEW YORK (Jun. 2023), available at <https://oig.justice.gov/sites/default/files/reports/23-085.pdf>.

from outside of Jeffrey Epstein's cell in the hours leading up to his death, which the July 7 memorandum described as "full raw" footage;¹² in fact, the footage was likely modified according to the metadata embedded in the video.¹³

Prior to becoming FBI Deputy Director, you spent years as a private citizen making claims about the Jeffrey Epstein case. For example, you stated: "That Jeffrey Epstein story is a big deal. Please do not let that story go. Keep your eye on it."¹⁴ On July 11, far-right activist Laura Loomer claimed that you and FBI Director Patel "[were] livid with [Attorney General Bondi] over her DOJ Memo and the lack of transparency from her office regarding the Jeffrey Epstein files."¹⁵ Subsequent public reporting indicates this apparent dispute came to a head at a meeting between White House, DOJ, and FBI officials that you and Director Patel attended, leading to claims that you may resign from your position over these issues.¹⁶ You have made no public statements since these reports have come out, but reports have emerged that the dispute may have been related to Attorney General Bondi accusing you of leaking to *NewsNation* a story critical of her for allegedly preventing the FBI from releasing more Epstein-related records.¹⁷

Given the serious questions about the veracity of Attorney General Bondi's public statements regarding the Epstein-related records in DOJ's possession and the effect those questions are having on the public's ability to trust DOJ's July 7 finding that there is "no incriminating 'client list,'" I ask that you provide the following information and materials no later than August 1, 2025.

1. Have you personally reviewed all files in DOJ's possession related to Jeffrey Epstein?
2. Is the FBI in possession of further Epstein-related records that DOJ has not reviewed?
3. The records DOJ released on February 27 did not include a client list. Attorney General Bondi claimed on February 21 that she had the client list "sitting on [her] desk right now to review." What was your understanding of the nature of the Epstein-related records Attorney General Bondi was reviewing prior to February 27?
4. Attorney General Bondi claimed a whistleblower disclosed that thousands of pages of additional Epstein-related records existed and "were being kept [by the] Southern District of New York."

¹² July 7 memorandum at 2.

¹³ Dhruv Mehrotra, *The FBI's Jeffrey Epstein Prison Video Had Nearly 3 Minutes Cut Out*, WIRED (Jul. 15, 2025), <https://www.wired.com/story/the-fbis-jeffrey-epstein-prison-video-had-nearly-3-minutes-cut-out>; Dhruv Mehrotra, *Metadata Shows the FBI's 'Raw' Jeffrey Epstein Prison Video Was Likely Modified*, WIRED (Jul. 11, 2025), <https://www.wired.com/story/metadata-shows-the-dojs-raw-jeffrey-epstein-prison-video-was-likely-modified>.

¹⁴ Colton, *supra* note 7.

¹⁵ Laura Loomer (@LauraLoomer), TWITTER (Jul. 11, 2025), <https://x.com/LauraLoomer/status/1943673916817346656>.

¹⁶ Marc Caputo, *Scoop: FBI's Dan Bongino clashes with AG Bondi over handling of Epstein files*, AXIOS (Jul. 11, 2025), <https://www.axios.com/2025/07/11/epstein-files-dan-bongino-pam-bondi-trump>.

¹⁷ Kaitlan Collins, Kristen Holmes, Evan Perez & Paula Reid, *Bongino still in limbo as Trump fumes and JD Vance seeks to play mediator; sources say*, CNN (Jul. 14, 2025), <https://www.cnn.com/2025/07/14/politics/dan-bongino-epstein>.

- a) Were you aware of this Jeffrey Epstein-related whistleblower?
 - b) If so, what actions did the FBI take to review the whistleblower's claims? For any claims the FBI verified, what actions did the FBI take to identify and pursue those additional Epstein-related records?
 - c) Did the FBI ultimately recover additional documents based on the whistleblower's disclosure?
 - d) Did the FBI provide a written report, per the Attorney General's request, regarding the FBI's actions around the additional documents identified in this whistleblower's claim? If yes, please provide the DOJ Office of the Inspector General and the Committee a copy of that report.
5. Aside from the negative backlash Attorney General Bondi received over the February 27 record release, what was the purpose of placing almost 1,000 FBI IMD personnel on 24-hour shifts to review Epstein-related records over the course of a two-week period in March?
6. Who made the decision to pull hundreds of New York Field Office personnel to this March review of Epstein-related records?
7. Why were personnel told to flag records in which President Trump was mentioned?
- a) What happened to the records mentioning President Trump once they were flagged?
 - b) Is there a log of the records mentioning President Trump? If yes, please transmit a copy of the log to the Committee and the OIG.
8. Did personnel review any correspondence to Mr. Epstein, including letters compiled in a "leather-bound album" as part of this year's review?
- a) Did personnel review any correspondence between President Trump and Mr. Epstein, including a letter in the reported "leather-bound album" as part of this year's review?
9. Why is the July 7 memorandum making the two official findings regarding Jeffrey Epstein unsigned by any DOJ or FBI officials?
10. Please describe in detail the process that occurred in the three-month period between April and the July 7 memorandum, after the March review of documents, that led to the findings in the July 7 memorandum.
11. Please list all political appointees and senior DOJ officials involved in the review of the Epstein-related records since February 2025.

12. Please list all political appointees and senior FBI officials involved in the drafting of the July 7 memorandum.
13. Why does the July 7 memorandum describe the surveillance footage as “full raw” when it was modified?
 - a) Please describe in detail all of the modifications made to the “full raw” surveillance footage before its publication.
14. What was the nature of the dispute between you and White House and DOJ officials after the release of the July 7 memorandum?
 - a) Up until the release of the July 7 memorandum, was it your understanding that the Department planned to release more Epstein-related records?
15. Is this dispute between you and White House and DOJ officials the reason behind your July 11 absence from work?
16. Are there additional Epstein-related records that Attorney General Bondi is preventing the FBI from releasing to the public or preparing for public release?
 - a) If so, can any of these records be lawfully produced to the public with appropriate statutory redactions of sensitive personal information, such as information regarding child victims or child witnesses?

I look forward to your full and immediate responses to these questions. Prompt attention to this important matter is crucial to understanding the truth and preventing the Administration’s actions from causing greater harm.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary