

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

July 28, 2025

The Honorable Todd Blanche  
Deputy Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Deputy Attorney General Blanche:

We are writing to follow up on Ranking Member Durbin's initial inquiry of July 18, 2025, requesting information from Attorney General Bondi, regarding the unsigned July 7 memorandum detailing the Trump Administration's "exhaustive review of investigative holdings relating to Jeffrey Epstein."<sup>1</sup> Since that time, you have taken steps that raise more questions about the Department of Justice's (DOJ) transparency and mismanagement of information as it relates to the Jeffrey Epstein investigation and prosecution.

On July 22, you posted on social media that "[f]or the first time, the Department of Justice is reaching out to Ghislaine Maxwell to ask: what do you know?"<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to public reporting, this meeting occurred on July 24, 2025,<sup>3</sup> and continued the following day,<sup>4</sup> while Ms. Maxwell is currently incarcerated in a Federal Bureau of Prisons' facility serving a 20-year sentence for her central role in Jeffrey Epstein's heinous crimes.<sup>5</sup>

The purpose and timing of this meeting are perplexing. Ms. Maxwell was federally indicted and arrested in July 2020, during the first Trump Administration.<sup>6</sup> In addition to conspiracy and sex trafficking charges, Ms. Maxwell was charged with two counts of perjury stemming from false statements she made in a civil deposition, while under oath, regarding her role in facilitating the abuse of minors by Mr. Epstein.<sup>7</sup> In fact, during Ms. Maxwell's

<sup>1</sup> Letter from Senator Richard J. Durbin, Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, to Attorney Gen. Pam Bondi (Jul. 18, 2025) (citing Memorandum from Dep't of Justice and Fed. Bur. 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]).

<sup>2</sup> Todd Blanche (@DAGToddBlanche), X.COM (Jul. 22, 2025), <https://x.com/DAGToddBlanche/status/1947623916538617946>.

<sup>3</sup> See Aaron Katersky, James Hill, Brandon Baur & Katherine Faulders, *DOJ Meeting with Longtime Jeffrey Epstein Associate Ghislaine Maxwell*, ABC NEWS (Jul. 24, 2025), <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/doj-meeting-ghislaine-maxwell-set-thursday-sources/story?id=124021785>.

<sup>4</sup> See Aaron Katersky, Katherine Faulders, Brandon Baur & Jon Haworth, *Deputy AG Blanche Meeting for 2nd day with Ghislaine Maxwell*, ABC NEWS (Jul. 25, 2025), <https://abcnews.go.com/US/deputy-ag-blanche-set-meet-2nd-day-ghislaine/story?id=124064062>.

<sup>5</sup> See James Hill & Aaron Katersky, *Ghislaine Maxwell, Jailed Epstein Accomplice, Appeals Case to US Supreme Court*, ABC NEWS (Apr. 11, 2025), <https://abcnews.go.com/US/ghislaine-maxwell-jailed-epstein-accomplice-appeals-case-us/story?id=120714835>.

<sup>6</sup> See Press Release, Dep't of Justice, U.S. Atty's Off. for S.D.N.Y., *Ghislaine Maxwell Charged in Manhattan Federal Court for Conspiring with Jeffrey Epstein to Sexually Abuse Minors* (Jul. 2, 2020), <https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/ghislaine-maxwell-charged-manhattan-federal-court-conspiring-jeffrey-epstein-sexually>.

<sup>7</sup> Indictment, *U.S. v. Maxwell*, 20-cr-330, (S.D.N.Y. 2020), available at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/press-release/file/1291491/dl?inline>.

prosecution, DOJ prosecutors argued in court that her “willingness to brazenly lie under oath about her conduct, including some of the conduct charged in the Indictment, strongly suggests her true motive has been and remains to avoid being held accountable for her crimes.”<sup>8</sup> It is highly unusual, if not unprecedented, for the Deputy Attorney General to conduct such an interview, rather than line prosecutors who are familiar with the details of the case and can more readily determine if the witness is lying.<sup>9</sup> In light of troves of corroborating evidence collected through multiple investigations, a federal jury conviction, and Ms. Maxwell’s history and willingness to lie under oath, as it relates to her dealings with Jeffrey Epstein, why would DOJ depart from long-standing precedent and now seek her cooperation? And now a source has come forward to allege that DOJ offered limited immunity to speak with Ms. Maxwell, a prosecutorial tactic to secure cooperation from alleged co-conspirators in criminal cases, when she has already been tried and convicted.<sup>10</sup>

It seems likely this meeting is another tactic to distract from DOJ’s failure to fulfill Attorney General Bondi’s commitment that the American people would see “the full Epstein files,” especially in light of credible reports that FBI officials were told to “flag” any Epstein files in which President Trump was mentioned and that Attorney General Bondi told the President that his name appeared in the files.<sup>11</sup> As you know, Ms. Maxwell is currently pursuing an appeal to overturn her 2021 convictions for her role in the crimes she and Jeffrey Epstein committed. Given her documented record of lying and her desire to secure early release, there are serious concerns that Ms. Maxwell may provide false information or selectively withhold information, in return for a pardon or sentence commutation;<sup>12</sup> indeed, President Trump noted to reporters on Friday that he is “allowed to” pardon Ms. Maxwell, and Ms. Maxwell’s defense attorney said, “We hope he exercises that power.”<sup>13</sup> Your false claim that the meeting is the “first time” DOJ has reached out to Ms. Maxwell also raises questions about the Trump Administration’s motives. This is self-evidently not the first time DOJ has questioned Ms. Maxwell, because DOJ, through the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York, investigated and prosecuted Ms. Maxwell.

<sup>8</sup> The Government’s Reply Memorandum in Support of Detention, *U.S. v. Maxwell*, 1:20-cr-00330 at 9 (S.D.N.Y. Jul. 13, 2020), ECF 22, available at

<https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.nysd.539612/gov.uscourts.nysd.539612.22.0.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> Scott MacFarlane, Daniel Klaidman & Pat Milton, *To Former Prosecutors, Everything About the Justice Dept.*

*Interview with Ghislaine Maxwell Looked Unorthodox*, CBS NEWS (Jul. 25, 2025),

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/to-former-prosecutors-everything-about-the-justice-dept-interview-with-ghislaine-maxwell-looked-unorthodox>.

<sup>10</sup> Aaron Katersky, Katherine Faulders, Brandon Bauer & Jon Haworth, *Ghislaine Maxwell Received Limited Immunity During Meetings with Deputy Attorney General: Sources*, ABC NEWS (Jul. 25, 2025), <https://abcnews.go.com/US/deputy-ag-blanche-set-meet-2nd-day-ghislaine/story?id=124064062>.

<sup>11</sup> Sadie Gurman, Annie Linskey, Josh Dawsey & Alex Leary, *Justice Department Told Trump in May That His Name Is Among Many in the Epstein Files*, WALL ST. J. (Jul. 23, 2025), <https://www.wsj.com/politics/justice-department-told-trump-name-in-epstein-files-727a8038>.

<sup>12</sup> Jim Geraghty, *Why Does Ghislaine Maxwell Think She’s Going to Get a Presidential Pardon*, NAT’L REV. (Jul. 25, 2025), <https://www.nationalreview.com/the-morning-jolt/why-does-ghislaine-maxwell-think-shes-going-to-get-a-presidential-pardon> (citing Emma Bussey, *Ghislaine Maxwell Believed Trump Would Save Her, Now She’s Documenting Everything Behind Bars: Jail Source*, N.Y. POST (Jul. 19, 2025), <https://nypost.com/2025/07/19/us-news/ghislaine-maxwell-believes-president-trump-will-save-her>).

<sup>13</sup> See Aaron Rupar (@atrupar), X.COM (Jul. 25, 2025), <https://x.com/atrupar/status/1948742263091163340>; see also Glenn Thrush & Valerie Crowder, *After Ghislaine Maxwell Interview, Concerns Mount Over Possibility of Pardon*, N.Y. TIMES (Jul. 25, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/25/us/politics/ghislaine-maxwell-trump-pardon.html>.

Due to the serious questions about the potential for a corrupt bargain between the Trump Administration and Ghislaine Maxwell, and the impact this would have on the victims and survivors of Jeffrey Epstein and Ms. Maxwell's horrific abuses, we ask that you make the following public commitments:

- That DOJ will provide full transparency to the victims and survivors of Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell with respect to any decisions the Department makes regarding Ms. Maxwell's appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court; and
- That DOJ will not offer a pardon or commutation of sentence to Ms. Maxwell in exchange for information or advocate for a pardon or commutation of sentence on Ms. Maxwell's behalf to the White House in exchange for her cooperation.

The victims and survivors of Jeffrey Epstein have been repeatedly let down by the criminal justice system. This case was initially brought to the public's attention because, during a previous Republican Administration, the Department entered into a favorable, "sweetheart" agreement with Epstein, without alerting his numerous victims.<sup>14</sup> This cannot happen again. Rather than engaging in this elaborate ruse, DOJ should simply release the Epstein files, as Attorney General Bondi promised to do.

We also ask that, in addition to the requests in Ranking Member Durbin's July 18, 2025 letter, you provide the following information and materials no later than August 4, 2025.

1. Please provide a detailed explanation of why DOJ believes Ms. Maxwell will be truthful now after arguing in court about her "willingness to brazenly lie under oath about her conduct." What has changed since this 2020 assessment by the first Trump Administration?
2. Please provide a detailed explanation of what information DOJ believes Ms. Maxwell has that could answer questions and suspicions the public has about Jeffrey Epstein that it did not obtain prior to her 2020 arrest and indictment.
3. Please provide a detailed explanation of why DOJ concluded in the July 7 memorandum that there is "no incriminating 'client list'" before seeking to question Ms. Maxwell.
4. Please identify the names and titles of every person present during the July 24-25, 2025 interviews of Ms. Maxwell.
5. Please provide all recordings, transcripts, reports of investigations, FD-302s, or other notes pertaining to the July 24-25, 2025 interviews of Ms. Maxwell.

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<sup>14</sup> Annie Karni, Eileen Sullivan & Noam Scheiber, *Acosta to Resign as Labor Secretary Over Jeffrey Epstein Plea Deal*, N.Y. TIMES (Jul. 12, 2019), <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/12/us/politics/acosta-resigns-trump.html>.

6. Please provide all previous recordings, transcripts, reports of investigations, FD-302s, or other notes from prior interviews of Ms. Maxwell.
7. Please provide the complete terms of the limited immunity proffer to Ms. Maxwell to secure her cooperation with the July 24-25, 2025 interviews.
8. Please provide a complete description of any other agreement, oral or written, DOJ has entered into with Ms. Maxwell regarding this or any future interviews.
9. Please provide a complete list of every division at DOJ that your office pulled from to review the FBI's redactions in the Epstein-related records.
10. Please provide the number of attorneys your office assigned to review the FBI's redactions in the Epstein-related records and a calculation of personnel hours dedicated to this task.
11. Please provide the Microsoft SharePoint online collaborative file that your office maintained that logged the mentions of President Trump and others in the Epstein-related records reviewed by DOJ and FBI.

We look forward to your full and immediate responses to these questions. Prompt transparency is crucial to preventing this Administration's actions from causing greater harm.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin  
Ranking Member



Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator

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