

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 21, 2025

Michael G. Seidel
Section Chief
Record/Information Dissemination Section
Federal Bureau of Investigation
200 Constitution Drive
Winchester, VA 22602

Dear FOIA Officer:

Implicit in Article I of the Constitution is Congress's power of inquiry, which is an essential component of Congress's legislative and oversight functions. Concurrent with inquiries we have made to the Department of Justice pursuant to our Article I oversight authority, which have not yet received a response, we are submitting a parallel expedited request under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, and 28 C.F.R. Part 16, for the following records.

Requested Records

Federal anti-money laundering suspicious activity reports are filed with the Treasury Department and available to the Department of Justice. Senate Finance Committee staff review of Treasury documents showed more than 4,725 wire transfers totaling \$1.08 billion involving Jeffrey Epstein and his associates between 2003 and 2019.

Please produce within twenty business days the following records:

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2. All communications between FinCEN employees and Justice Department or FBI employees regarding any request to obtain suspicious activity reports as part of an investigation involving Jeffrey Epstein or Ghislaine Maxwell. Your office is in the best position to identify where responsive records are likely to reside, but at a minimum, a reasonable search for responsive records should include:
 - a. The Department of Justice's Criminal Division;
 - b. Office of the Attorney General;
 - c. Office of the Deputy Attorney General;
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 - e. Executive Office for United States Attorneys; and
 - f. Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington Field Office.
3. All records reflecting the number of suspicious activity reports produced to the Department of Justice as part of an investigation into Jeffrey Epstein.

For all parts of this request, please produce all responsive records from January 20, 2025, through the date the search is conducted.

Fee Waiver Request

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and 28 C.F.R. § 16.10(k), a waiver of fees associated with processing this request is appropriate. Disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest because it (i) would shed light on the operations or activities of the government; (ii) would contribute significantly to the general public's understanding of government operations and activities; and (iii) is necessary to carry out Congress's Article I oversight functions, as opposed to for a commercial purpose.

First, disclosure of the requested records would shed light on whether the Department of Justice and FBI took appropriate steps to investigate suspicious activity reports involving Jeffrey Epstein, a convicted sex offender who was also accused of sex trafficking young women and girls. *See, e.g.,* Hubbard et al., *Attorney General Pam Bondi faces questions on DOJ probes, Epstein files at Senate hearing*, CBS News (Oct. 7, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/live-updates/pam-bondi-hearing-senate-judiciary-committee-attorney-general/>; Blaise Malley, *Sen. Wyden presses DOJ to release Epstein bank reports to Congress*, Salon (July 17, 2025), <https://www.salon.com/2025/07/17/sen-wyden-presses-doj-to-release-epstein-bank-reports-to-congress/>. Recent reporting and Senate Finance Committee review show that thousands of financial transactions involving Jeffrey Epstein and his associates occurred, and several financial institutions filed suspicious activity reports involving Epstein. *See, e.g.,* *Letter from Senator Ron Wyden to Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent* (Sept. 2, 2025), <https://www.finance.senate.gov/download/letter-from-senator-wyden-to-secretary-bessent-on-epstein-documentspdf>; Benoit et al., *JPMorgan Flagged Epstein Suspicions in 2002, Years Earlier Than Known*, Wall Street Journal (Oct. 31, 2025), https://www.wsj.com/finance/banking/jpmorgan-flagged-jeffrey-epstein-suspicions-in-2002little-changed-39f42fd9?reflink=desktopwebshare_permalink. Those suspicious activity reports are available to the Justice Department and FBI for review and investigation. Congress and the public have a strong interest in knowing whether the Justice Department or FBI requested those reports as part of their investigation, and if not, why not.

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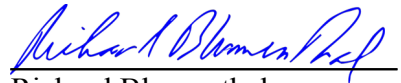
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Christina Butler
Chief, FOIA/PA Unit
Criminal Division
Department of Justice
950 Constitution Ave, NW
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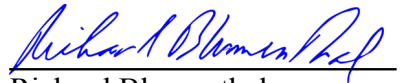
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Kevin Krebs
Assistant Director, FOIA/Privacy Unit
Executive Office for United States Attorneys
Department of Justice
175 N Street, NE, Suite 5.400
Washington, DC 20530-0001

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Chief, Initial Request Staff
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For all parts of this request, please produce all responsive records from January 20, 2025, through the date the search is conducted.

Fee Waiver Request

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and 28 C.F.R. § 16.10(k), a waiver of fees associated with processing this request is appropriate. Disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest because it (i) would shed light on the operations or activities of the government; (ii) would contribute significantly to the general public's understanding of government operations and activities; and (iii) is necessary to carry out Congress's Article I oversight functions, as opposed to for a commercial purpose.

First, disclosure of the requested records would shed light on whether the Department of Justice and FBI took appropriate steps to investigate suspicious activity reports involving Jeffrey Epstein, a convicted sex offender who was also accused of sex trafficking young women and girls. *See, e.g.,* Hubbard et al., *Attorney General Pam Bondi faces questions on DOJ probes, Epstein files at Senate hearing*, CBS News (Oct. 7, 2025), <https://www.cbsnews.com/live-updates/pam-bondi-hearing-senate-judiciary-committee-attorney-general/>; Blaise Malley, *Sen. Wyden presses DOJ to release Epstein bank reports to Congress*, Salon (July 17, 2025), <https://www.salon.com/2025/07/17/sen-wyden-presses-doj-to-release-epstein-bank-reports-to-congress/>. Recent reporting and Senate Finance Committee review show that thousands of financial transactions involving Jeffrey Epstein and his associates occurred, and several financial institutions filed suspicious activity reports involving Epstein. *See, e.g.,* *Letter from Senator Ron Wyden to Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent* (Sept. 2, 2025), <https://www.finance.senate.gov/download/letter-from-senator-wyden-to-secretary-bessent-on-epstein-documentspdf>; Benoit et al., *JPMorgan Flagged Epstein Suspicions in 2002, Years Earlier Than Known*, Wall Street Journal (Oct. 31, 2025), https://www.wsj.com/finance/banking/jpmorgan-flagged-jeffrey-epstein-suspicions-in-2002little-changed-39f42fd9?reflink=desktopwebshare_permalink. Those suspicious activity reports are available to the Justice Department and FBI for review and investigation. Congress and the public have a strong interest in knowing whether the Justice Department or FBI requested those reports as part of their investigation, and if not, why not.

Second, disclosure of the requested records would contribute significantly to the general public's understanding of whether the government has taken all appropriate and necessary steps in the investigation of Jeffrey Epstein and his associates. This information is not already in the public domain. Upon receipt of these records, we intend to disseminate pertinent information along with our analysis through publication on our offices' various platforms, which will enhance the public's understanding of the government's activities.

Third, the request is wholly for non-commercial purposes. Our Senate offices operate as part of the federal government. We seek the requested information not for commercial use, but to aid in congressional oversight, good government, and transparency for the American people.

Expedited Processing Request

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552(a)(6)(E) and 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(e)(1)(ii) and (iv), expedited processing is warranted. Expedition is required when there is a compelling need for the requested information, including where requests involve urgency to inform the public concerning actual or alleged federal government activity or a matter of widespread and exceptional media interest in which there exist possible questions about the government's integrity that affect public confidence. We certify to be true and correct to the best of our knowledge that circumstances warranting expedited processing exist here.

First, Congress has the constitutional authority to legislate and conduct oversight and is entitled to the expeditious disclosure of information to facilitate those processes. The requested information relates to a subject of heightened public interest, namely Jeffrey Epstein's crimes and the extent of the federal investigations of Epstein, including into his financial records. Timely provision of this information is vital for Congress to perform its constitutionally mandated legislative and oversight functions over the Justice Department's and FBI's investigatory practices.

Second, it is urgent that the public get answers about the true extent of the federal investigation into Epstein's crimes. Upon receipt of these records, we intend to disseminate pertinent information along with our analysis through publication on our offices' various platforms.

Third, there is widespread and exceptional media interest in this matter, which, as explained above, raises questions about the government's integrity that affect public confidence. *See, e.g.,* Emine Sinmaz, *House Democrat accuses Trump's DoJ of 'gigantic cover-up' over shut Epstein inquiry*, The Guardian (Nov. 4, 2025), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/nov/04/jamie-raskin-justice-department-epstein-investigation>; Elena Moore, *House Oversight Committee subpoenas the Justice Department for Epstein files*, NPR (Aug. 5, 2025), <https://www.npr.org/2025/08/05/nx-s1-5493371/house-oversight-committee-epstein-subpoenas-justice-department>.

Guidance Regarding the Search & Processing of Requested Records

Please search for responsive records regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics. In conducting the search, please construe the terms "record," "document," and "information" in their broadest sense, including any written, typed, recorded, graphic, printed, or audio or video material of any kind. Any request for "records" includes any attachments to those records or other materials enclosed with those records when they were previously transmitted. Any request for "communications" includes, but is not limited to, emails, letters, memoranda, calendar invitations, text messages, direct messages, and attachments thereto. To the extent that an email is responsive to a request, the request includes all prior messages sent or received in that email chain, as well as any attachments to the email.

Please search all relevant records or systems containing records regarding agency business. Do not exclude records regarding agency business contained in files, email accounts, or devices in the personal custody of your officials, such as personal email accounts or text messages. Records of official business conducted using unofficial systems or stored outside of official files are subject to the Federal Records Act and FOIA.

FOIA requires agencies to disclose records to Congress that may otherwise be withheld from the public. 5 U.S.C. § 552(d). If it is your position that any of the requested documents are nonetheless exempted from disclosure requirements, please provide a *Vaughn* index as required by *Vaughn v. Rosen*, 484 F. 2d 820 (D.C. Cir. 1973); *see also Roth v. U.S. Dept. of Justice*, 642 F. 3d 1161, 1185 (D.C. Cir. 2011) ("Under our case law, agencies invoking a FOIA exemption must provide a specific, detailed explanation of why the exemption applies to the withheld materials."). FOIA also requires agencies to release "any reasonably segregable portions" of documents that may be partially exempt and to prepare "an index relating any withheld portions to specific FOIA exemptions." *Lykins v. U.S. Dept. of Justice*, 725 F.2d 1455, 1466 (D.C. Cir. 1984).

Where possible, please provide responsive material in an electronic format by email. Please send any responsive material being sent by email to Annie_Owens@judiciary-dem.senate.gov. Please send any material being mailed to Sheldon Whitehouse, 530 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. If it will accelerate release of responsive records, please provide responsive material on a rolling basis.

Conclusion

We look forward to working with the Department of Justice to ensure the timely and exhaustive disclosure of all non-exempt records responsive to this request. If you have any questions regarding how to construe this request or believe that further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production, please do not hesitate to contact us. If the request for a fee waiver is denied in part or in full, please contact our offices immediately. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sheldon Whitehouse", written over a horizontal line.

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Federal
Courts, Oversight, Agency
Action, and Federal Rights

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Blumenthal", written over a horizontal line.

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam B. Schiff", written over a horizontal line.

Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator