

June 23, 2026

The Honorable Todd Blanche
Acting Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

William K. Marshall III
Director
Federal Bureau of Prisons
320 First St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20534

Dear Acting Attorney General Blanche and Director Marshall:

I write to follow up on my August 7, 2025, letter seeking information related to transfer of Ghislaine Maxwell to a minimum-security Bureau of Prisons (BOP) facility without explanation and possibly in violation of BOP policy. I requested a response to that letter by August 28, 2025. Nearly ten months later, I have received no answer. Faced with this obstruction, my colleagues and I filed Freedom of Information Act requests for similar information, a step to which no member of Congress should have to resort.¹ The Department of Justice has not complied with that request either.

Furthermore, since my initial letter, BOP appears to have changed its policy to ensure that Acting Attorney General Blanche remains responsible for Ms. Maxwell's placement. Last month, BOP updated its internal guidance to state that the Attorney General can supersede BOP to "designate or redesignate the place of a prisoner's imprisonment" at will.² The new guidance does not even require that the Attorney General act only after considering BOP's recommendation and other factors. Instead, BOP "*may* provide relevant information." (emphasis added).³

As I wrote last year, Ms. Maxwell's abrupt transfer has the appearance of a political favor orchestrated by Acting Attorney General Blanche. Then-Deputy Attorney General Blanche held two unusual meetings with Ms. Maxwell just one week after public reporting that Ms. Maxwell assembled a birthday book for Jeffrey Epstein that included a personal note from President

¹ Press Release, Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, *Whitehouse, Blumenthal, Schiff File FOIA Requests to Break Through Trump Administration Stonewalling* (Nov. 26, 2025), <https://www.whitehouse.senate.gov/news/release/whitehouse-blumenthal-schiff-file-foia-requests-to-break-through-trump-administration-stonewalling/>.

² Federal Bureau of Prisons, *Change Notice, Inmate Security Designation and Custody Classification*, May 6, 2026, https://www.bop.gov/policy/progstat/5100_008_cn-3.pdf.

³ *Id.*

Trump.⁴ During those meetings, Ms. Maxwell spoke favorably of President Trump.⁵ Roughly one week later, she was transferred to a minimum-security facility, even though BOP policies do not ordinarily permit such transfers for people like Ms. Maxwell whose criminal history involves sex offenses.⁶

Former Attorney General Bondi confirmed to the House Oversight Committee that Acting Attorney General Blanche interviewed Ms. Maxwell because “[h]e was leading the Epstein matter and the release of everything from the beginning.”⁷ Congress has an interest in knowing whether BOP changed its policy so Acting Attorney General Blanche can continue to fulfill a political deal with Ms. Maxwell in exchange for her comments about President Trump.

Last week, BOP for the first time addressed Ms. Maxwell’s transfer. BOP said, “BOP designates and transfers inmates based on established criteria” and that “Ms. Maxwell’s “designation and transfer were made independently by BOP and were based on . . . factors that required additional security measures.”⁸ BOP asserted that “[n]o preference, special treatment, or political influence played any role in these decisions.”⁹ If this statement is true, then BOP should have no issue providing the information related to Ms. Maxwell’s transfer that I requested more than ten months ago. Furthermore, BOP should explain why its new policy permits the Attorney General to depart from the policy that “BOP designates and transfers inmates based on established criteria.”¹⁰

To that end, I request that you preserve all records related to the May 6, 2026, issuance of Change Notice 3 to Program Statement 5100.08, Inmate Security Designation and Custody Classification. I further request that you provide the information requested in my August 7, 2025, letter and the following additional information no later than July 10, 2026.

1. All documents related to the initiation and development of any portions of Change Notice 3 regarding the authority of the Attorney General to designate or redesignate the place of a prisoner’s imprisonment.

⁴ Sadie Gurman et al., *Ghislaine Maxwell Discusses Trump, Epstein History in Justice Department Interview*, Wall St. J. (Aug. 22, 2025), <https://www.wsj.com/us-news/law/justice-department-releases-ghislaine-maxwell-interview-transcript-98cd6d7f>.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Hailey Fuchs, *Bondi punts blame for the Epstein files to Todd Blanche*, Politico (June 4, 2026), <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/06/04/todd-blanche-pam-bondi-epstein-files-00951134>.

⁸ Federal Bureau of Prisons (@OfficialFBOP), X (June 17, 2026, 17:10 ET), <https://x.com/officialfbop/status/2067354319679086721?s=43%3c/a>.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.*

2. All documents related to the exercise of the Attorney General's authority to designate or redesignate the place of a prisoner's imprisonment since May 6, 2026.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on
Federal Courts, Oversight,
Agency Action, and
Federal Rights