

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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September 10, 2025

The Honorable Kashyap Patel  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Director Patel:

Who exactly are you protecting by refusing to release the Epstein files?

In 2023, on Benny Johnson's podcast, you were asked why the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was "protecting the world's foremost predator" by refusing to release the Epstein client list.<sup>1</sup> Your answer: "Simple. Because of who's on that list."<sup>2</sup> Now that you are the Director of the FBI, you know precisely who is implicated in the Epstein files, yet you refuse to release them. Who are you protecting and why?

Your statement was not a random one-off comment. You have repeatedly told the public that the FBI has the power to release the Epstein files, that there exists no reason not to release them, and that you, unlike your predecessors, would be transparent with the American people.<sup>3</sup>

Just two years ago, you attacked then-Director Christopher Wray for not releasing the full Epstein files and told conservative commentator Glenn Beck that whether or not to release the files was "*under direct control of the director of the FBI*."<sup>4</sup> That same year, you exhorted Republican lawmakers to "[p]ut on your big boy pants and let us know who the pedophiles are."<sup>5</sup> In February 2025, when you took office as the Director of the FBI, you vowed that "[t]he American people deserve an FBI that is transparent, accountable, and committed to justice."<sup>6</sup> A week into your tenure, as Attorney General Pam Bondi demanded Epstein-related documents from the FBI, you promised:

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<sup>1</sup> Benny Johnson (@bennyjohnson), X (Dec. 19, 2023), <https://x.com/bennyjohnson/status/1737167456374862197>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> E.g., Ashley Oliver, *10 Reasons the DOJ And FBI Face Backlash Over Epstein Files Flop*, FOX NEWS (Jul. 10, 2025), [www.foxnews.com/politics/10-reasons-doj-fbi-face-backlash-over-epstein-files-flop](http://www.foxnews.com/politics/10-reasons-doj-fbi-face-backlash-over-epstein-files-flop).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*; 4 MAJOR cover-ups Kash Patel would EXPOSE as FBI Director, GLENN BECK (Dec. 2, 2024), <https://www.glennbeck.com/radio/cover-ups-kash-patel-fbi>.

<sup>5</sup> Benny Johnson (@bennyjohnson), X (Dec. 19, 2023), <https://x.com/bennyjohnson/status/1737167456374862197>.

<sup>6</sup> FBI Director Kash Patel, (@FBIDirectorKash), X, (Feb. 20, 2025), <https://x.com/FBIDirectorKash/status/1892670378436128994>.

**“There will be no cover-ups, no missing documents, and no stone left unturned — and anyone from the prior or current Bureau who undermines this will be swiftly pursued. If there are gaps, we will find them. If records have been hidden, we will uncover them. And we will bring everything we find to the DOJ to be fully assessed and transparently disseminated to the American people as it should be.”<sup>7</sup>**

Strangely, all these promises appear to have collapsed once you determined who was actually in the files. In March, the FBI and Department of Justice (DOJ) reportedly conducted a review of over 100,000 pages from the Epstein files, an immense effort that involved commandeering “hundreds of people” from the FBI New York and Washington Field Offices to supplement FBI employees at the Central Records Complex in Winchester, Virginia.<sup>8</sup> Over the course of several weeks, nearly 1,000 FBI agents and employees were instructed to review, flag, and redact “any mentions of Mr. Trump” during marathon review sessions, lasting entire weekends, in which agents slept on their desks as they waited for more files to be loaded.<sup>9</sup> This review was so unusual in both scope and purpose that the Chief of the Record/Information Disinformation Section, which handles the processing of FBI document requests, was reportedly forced to resign after expressing disagreements with his supervisor.<sup>10</sup>

This frantic review by nearly 1,000 agents of over 100,000 pages of investigative material apparently revealed no information worthy of disclosure to the American public—however, at least some information from the review was shared with President Trump. In May, Attorney General Bondi reportedly informed President Trump that his name indeed appeared repeatedly in the Epstein files.<sup>11</sup>

Suddenly, in the aftermath of that conversation, DOJ and FBI released a joint memo stating your “systematic review revealed no incriminating ‘client list’” and your agencies determined “that no further disclosure would be appropriate or warranted.”<sup>12</sup> This memo proved so controversial within DOJ and FBI that Deputy Director Dan Bongino threatened to resign

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<sup>7</sup> FBI Director Kash Patel, (@FBIDirectorKash), X, (Feb. 27, 2025), <https://x.com/FBIDirectorKash/status/1895250405400903882>.

<sup>8</sup> Adam Goldman & Alan Feuer, *How a Frantic Scouring of the Epstein Files Consumed the Justice Dept.*, N.Y. TIMES, (July 24, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/24/us/politics/epstein-files-trump-bondi-justice-department-fbi.html>.

<sup>9</sup> Jason Leopold, *The FBI Redacted Trump’s Name in the Epstein Files*, BLOOMBERG (Aug. 1, 2025), [www.bloomberg.com/news/newsletters/2025-08-01/epstein-files-trump-s-name-was-redacted-by-the-fbi](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/newsletters/2025-08-01/epstein-files-trump-s-name-was-redacted-by-the-fbi).

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> Alayna Treene & Adam Cancryn, *Bondi Briefed Trump That His Name Was in Epstein Files*, CNN (July 23, 2025), [www.cnn.com/2025/07/23/politics/bondi-trump-epstein-list-files](https://www.cnn.com/2025/07/23/politics/bondi-trump-epstein-list-files).

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*; Dominic Pattern, *Musk Vs. Trump: Watch Joe Rogan & FBI Director Kash Patel React To Claim POTUS Is In Epstein Files*, DEADLINE (June 6, 2025), <https://deadline.com/2025/06/musk-trump-joe-rogan-kash-patel-podcast-1236426296/>.

after arguing with Attorney General Bondi, and later cryptically posted to X that he will “never be the same after learning what I’ve learned.”<sup>13</sup>

Obvious questions abound: why were so many agents tasked with reviewing documents that were never released? What specific instructions were they given during the review? What information did these agents uncover that led DOJ and FBI to reverse their promise to release the files, and how are these decisions related to the President? The American public is already aware of the reporting that Jeffrey Epstein considered President Trump his “closest friend” for a decade—reporting corroborated by the many pictures and videos documenting their friendship.<sup>14</sup> We are aware that President Trump has described Mr. Epstein as a “terrific guy,” admitting to *New York Magazine* in 2002: “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.”<sup>15</sup> We are aware of the reporting that Mr. Epstein admired President Trump’s modeling agency, T Models, and created his own modeling firm, MC2, in its image, to be “just like it.”<sup>16</sup> Those facts are all out in the public. Yet there is still obviously more that the FBI is covering up.

Equally troubling are questions that have little to do with Jeffrey Epstein and everything to do with your priorities: how did removing hundreds of agents from their regular duties in two of our nation’s most important field offices—in our nation’s most populous city and our capital—to work on this bizarre project delay or stymie important criminal, cybersecurity, and counterterrorism investigations and undermine the FBI’s readiness to protect the public?

Given these significant and urgent concerns, we request that you provide documents and information related to the FBI’s review of the Epstein files. As you promised, and in your own words: “There will be no cover-ups, no missing documents, and no stone left unturned—and anyone from the prior or current Bureau who undermines this will be swiftly pursued.”<sup>17</sup>

Today, your own FBI is plainly undermining and violating these promises of total transparency, comprehensive document production, and investigative zeal. Someone there is aiding an unconscionable cover-up of an appalling crime of vast magnitude. Accordingly, I expect you to “swiftly pursue” any and all perpetrators of this misconduct, up to and including yourself, Attorney General Bondi, and President Trump, whose lewd letter to Mr. Epstein was just obtained from the Epstein estate and released by the House Oversight Committee

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<sup>13</sup> Flip Tomitija, *Bongino Vows To Uncover ‘Truth’ In Cryptic Message: ‘We Cannot Run A Republic Like This’*, THE HILL (July 26, 2025), <https://thehill.com/policy/national-security/5422040-bongino-vows-to-uncover-truth-in-cryptic-message-we-cannot-run-a-republic-like-this/>.

<sup>14</sup> Alan Feuer & Matthew Goldstein, *Inside the Long Friendship Between Trump and Epstein*, N.Y. TIMES (July 19, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/19/us/politics/inside-trump-epstein-friendship.html>.

<sup>15</sup> Chris Cameron, *Trump Says Epstein ‘Stole’ Underage Victim from Mar-a-Lago Spa*, N.Y. TIMES (July 29, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/29/us/politics/trump-epstein-virginia-giuffre-mar-a-lago.html>.

<sup>16</sup> Linda Robertson, Julie K. Brown and Nicholas Nehamas, *Did A Miami-Based Modeling Agency Fuel Jeffrey Epstein’s ‘Machine of Abuse’?*, MIAMI HERALD (Feb. 19, 2022), [www.miamiherald.com/news/local/article238351108.html](http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/article238351108.html).

<sup>17</sup> FBI Director Kash Patel, (@FBIDirectorKash), X, (Feb. 27, 2025), <https://x.com/FBIDirectorKash/status/189525040540090388>.

Democrats—despite assurances by the President, Vice President, and numerous Administration officials that no such letter existed.<sup>18</sup>

Given the FBI's embarrassing lack of transparency around this investigation, to assist the Committee in conducting our oversight of the Bureau, and to understand the full extent of this potential abuse of law enforcement resources to protect President Trump, please provide answers to the following questions by 5:00 p.m. on September 16, 2025:

1. How many FBI agents and employees worked on the review of materials related to Jeffrey Epstein since January 20, 2025?
2. How many pages of materials did FBI agents and employees review related to Jeffrey Epstein since January 20, 2025?
3. Cumulatively, how many hours did FBI agents and employees work on the review of materials related to Jeffrey Epstein since January 20, 2025?
4. On what date did you first learn President Trump's name was in the materials related to Jeffrey Epstein?
5. On what date did you first become aware that DOJ and FBI would not be releasing further information to the public regarding Jeffrey Epstein, as detailed in the July 2025 Joint Memorandum?
  - a. Who made the decision not to release this information?
  - b. Who told you about this decision?
  - c. On what basis was this decision made?
  - d. Where is this rationale for this decision memorialized?
6. How many times does Donald Trump's name appear in materials related to Jeffrey Epstein in FBI's possession?
7. What names were FBI agents told to look out for, mark, or otherwise note? What names were they told to redact?

In addition, please also provide the following documents by 5:00 p.m. on September 16, 2025:

1. All documents related to staffing of the review of materials related to Jeffrey Epstein, including those sufficient to show the number of agents and employees

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<sup>18</sup> Michael Gold, *House Panel Releases Drawing for Epstein Apparently Signed by Trump*, N.Y. TIMES (Sept. 8, 2025), [www.nytimes.com/2025/09/08/us/politics/epstein-trump-birthday-book.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/08/us/politics/epstein-trump-birthday-book.html).

tasked with the review, what offices they were reassigned or delegated from, and the cost of the review;

2. All review protocols, instructions, or directions provided to the FBI agents and employees conducting the review of materials related to Jeffrey Epstein since January 20, 2025;
3. All documents, memoranda, reports, findings, or summaries of the review of materials related to Jeffrey Epstein conducted by the FBI between January 20, 2025, and the present, including but not limited to SharePoint files created during FBI's review;
4. All communications, memoranda, summaries, or analysis raising concerns regarding the effect of the review on FBI's readiness, operational efficiency, or other investigations since January 20, 2025; and
5. All communications relating to Michael Seidel, the former section chief of the Record/Information Disinformation Section, concerning the review of materials related to Jeffrey Epstein, and any personnel action considered or taken against him, since January 20, 2025.

I look forward to your response to this important oversight request.

Very truly yours,

  
Jamie Raskin  
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman