

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051  
MINORITY (202) 225-5074  
<https://oversight.house.gov>

November 18, 2020

The Honorable William P. Barr  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

As you know, on March 1, 2019, several Members of this Committee wrote to you regarding the role of the Department of Justice (DOJ) in approving an extremely favorable deal for convicted sexual predator Jeffrey Epstein and concealing the deal from the survivors of Mr. Epstein's crimes. That letter requested that DOJ release the results and all documents related to a review of these actions by the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR).<sup>1</sup>

Several months later, on July 10, 2019, the Committee sent a letter to Corey Amundson, the Director of OPR, requesting a briefing on the status of the investigation.<sup>2</sup> DOJ sent a cursory response on August 2, 2019, confirming that OPR was investigating, but declining to provide an estimate for when the investigation would be complete and declining to provide a briefing.<sup>3</sup>

On December 20, 2019, the Committee wrote to request that you produce all documents, including email communications, regarding the plea agreement with Mr. Epstein or relating to whether, when, or how to provide information regarding this agreement to the survivors of Mr. Epstein's abuses. The Committee also requested all documents reflecting the Department's

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Reps. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Jackie Speier, Jamie Raskin, et al., to Attorney General William Barr, Department of Justice (Mar. 1, 2019) (online at <https://raskin.house.gov/sites/raskin.house.gov/files/2019.03.01%20DWS%20Frankel%20Speier%20Letter%20to%20DOJ.pdf>).

<sup>2</sup> Letter from Chairman Elijah E. Cummings, Committee on Oversight and Reform, and Chairman Jamie Raskin, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Committee on Oversight and Reform, et al., to Corey Amundson, Director and Chief Counsel, Office of Professional Responsibility, Department of Justice (July 10, 2019) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/documents/2019-07-10.EEC%20JR%20Speier%20Schultz%20Frankel%20to%20Amundson-DOJ%20re%20Acosta%20Investigation.pdf>).

<sup>3</sup> Letter from Assistant Attorney General Stephen E. Boyd, Department of Justice, to Chairman Elijah E. Cummings, Committee on Oversight and Reform (Aug. 5, 2019) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/DOJ.080219.Response%20to%20EEC%20Raskin%20Speier%20Schultz%20Frankel%20re%20Acosta%20Investigation.pdf>).

standards of professional responsibility applicable to attorneys in the Southern District of Florida at the time, as well as any documents relating to Mr. Epstein’s work release, conditions, and treatment during his confinement.<sup>4</sup> DOJ acknowledged receipt of the letter, but never provided a substantive response.<sup>5</sup>

Over the past two years, DOJ told Committee staff that it could not provide a briefing or documents relating to this case because there was an ongoing investigation. However, last week OPR completed its investigation and publicly released an executive summary of its findings, which appear to absolve former United States Attorney Alex Acosta and other DOJ attorneys from any wrongdoing and reducing their failure to prosecute Mr. Epstein to merely “poor judgement.”<sup>6</sup> OPR’s full report was subsequently obtained by the press.<sup>7</sup>

Despite our Committee’s repeated requests for information relating to this investigation spanning more than 16 months, OPR never notified the Committee that it had completed its work, never informed the Committee of its findings, and never provided any briefing or other information regarding these matters. Only Monday—days after the full report had already leaked to the press—did DOJ finally provide it to this Committee.

For these reasons, as the Committee considers next steps in terms of oversight and potential legislation, we now request a briefing from OPR for Members of the Committee, as well as all documents relating to the investigation, the report, and its findings by December 2, 2020.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-5051.

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<sup>4</sup> Letter from Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney, Committee on Oversight and Reform, and Chairman Jamie Raskin, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Committee on Oversight and Reform, et al., to Attorney General William P. Barr, Department of Justice (Dec. 20, 2019) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2019-12-20.CBM%20JR%20Speier%20DWS%20Frankel%20to%20Barr%20DOJ%20re%20Acosta%20OPR%20Investigation.pdf>).

<sup>5</sup> Letter from Chief of Staff and Counselor Mary Blanche Hankey, Department of Justice, to Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney, Committee on Oversight and Reform, and Chairman Jamie Raskin, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Committee on Oversight and Reform (Jan. 8, 2020) (online at <https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/DOJ.010820.Response%20to%20CBM%20JR%20Speier%20DWS%20Frankel%20re%20OPR%20Investigation.pdf>).

<sup>6</sup> Department of Justice, *Press Release: Statement on DOJ Office of Professional Responsibility Report on Jeffrey Epstein 2006-2008 Investigation* (Nov. 12, 2020) (online at [www.justice.gov/opa/pr/statement-doj-office-professional-responsibility-report-jeffrey-epstein-2006-2008](http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/statement-doj-office-professional-responsibility-report-jeffrey-epstein-2006-2008)).

<sup>7</sup> Department of Justice, *Report: Investigation into the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Florida’s Resolution of Its 2006-2008 Federal Criminal Investigation of Jeffrey Epstein and Its Interactions with Victims During the Investigation* (Nov. 2020) (online at [www.washingtonpost.com/context/read-the-report-investigation-into-the-u-s-attorney-s-office-for-the-southern-district-of-florida-s-resolution-of-its-2006-2008-federal-criminal-investigation-of-jeffrey-epstein-and-its-interactions-with-victims-during-the-investigation/db9373e8-22f8-4712-b4a7-be844d162de0/?itid=lk\\_inline\\_manual\\_4](http://www.washingtonpost.com/context/read-the-report-investigation-into-the-u-s-attorney-s-office-for-the-southern-district-of-florida-s-resolution-of-its-2006-2008-federal-criminal-investigation-of-jeffrey-epstein-and-its-interactions-with-victims-during-the-investigation/db9373e8-22f8-4712-b4a7-be844d162de0/?itid=lk_inline_manual_4)).

Sincerely,



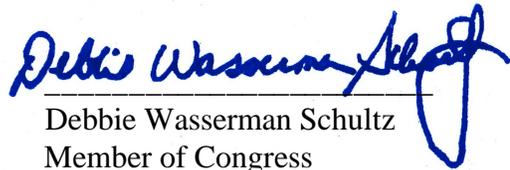
Carolyn B. Maloney  
Chair  
Committee on Oversight and Reform



Jamie Raskin  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and  
Civil Liberties



Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable James R. Comer, Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Chip Roy, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties