

EXHIBIT B



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Information Policy
Sixth Floor
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

June 22, 2026

Ben Sparks
American Oversight
foia@americanoversight.org

Re: FOIA-2026-03602
ADF:ERH:AKT

Dear Ben Sparks:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated and received in this Office on June 12, 2026, in which you requested electronic communications of Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche containing combinations of terms and dating from March 10, 2025 to May 7, 2025. **Please note that this Office was closed due to a lapse in funding appropriations from October 1, 2025 through November 12, 2025, which will result in a delay in responding to your request.**

You have requested expedited processing of your request pursuant to the Department's standard permitting expedition for requests involving "[a]n urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged federal government activity, if made by a person primarily engaged in disseminating information." See 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(e)(1)(ii) (2018). Based on the information you have provided, I have determined that your request for expedited processing under this standard should be denied. This Office cannot identify a particular urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged federal government activity beyond the public's right to know about government activities generally. Specifically, this Office considered: (1) whether the request concerns a matter of current exigency to the American public; (2) whether the consequences of delaying a response would compromise a significant recognized interest; and (3) whether the request concerns federal government activity. See *Al-Fayed v. CIA*, 254 F.3d 300, 310 (D.C. Cir. 2001). This determination should not be taken as an indication as to the importance of the requested records. See *Energy Pol'y Advocs. v. U.S. Dep't of the Interior*, No. 21-1247, 2021 WL 4306079, at *3 (D.D.C. Sept. 22, 2021) ("While the request may suggest that the requested information is important in some sense, it fails to identify any specific reason to conclude that obtaining the requested documents is time sensitive.").

You have also requested expedited processing of your request pursuant to the Department's standard involving "[a] matter of widespread and exceptional media interest in which there exist possible questions about the government's integrity which affect public confidence." See 28 C.F.R. § 16.5(d)(iv) (2018). Pursuant to Department policy, we directed your request to the Director of Public Affairs, who makes the decision whether to grant or deny

expedited processing under this standard. See id. § 16.5(d)(2). The Director has determined that your request for expedited processing should be denied. Please be advised that, although your request for expedited processing has been denied, it has been assigned to an analyst in this Office and our processing of it has been initiated.

To the extent that your request requires a search in another Office, consultations with other Department components or another agency, and/or involves a voluminous amount of material, your request falls within “unusual circumstances.” See 5 U.S.C. § 552 (a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii) (2018). Accordingly, we will need to extend the time limit to respond to your request beyond the ten additional days provided by the statute. For your information, we use multiple tracks to process requests, but within those tracks we work in an agile manner, and the time needed to complete our work on your request will necessarily depend on a variety of factors, including the complexity of our records search, the volume and complexity of any material located, and the order of receipt of your request. At this time we have assigned your request to the complex track. In an effort to speed up our process, you may wish to narrow the scope of your request to limit the number of potentially responsive records so that it can be placed in a different processing track. You can also agree to an alternative time frame for processing, should records be located, or you may wish to await the completion of our records search to discuss either of these options.

Please be advised that the records search options available are dynamic and can be adjusted according to the types of records you are seeking. In general, there are five categories of records search options available to you:

1	Official Correspondence	This category includes final, signed communications, memoranda, policies, and guidelines.
2	Emails and Attachments	This category includes emails sent or received by Department officials and records attached thereto.
3	Calendars	This category includes the electronic calendar of Department officials.
4	Standalone Documents	This category includes both electronic computer records and non-electronic (i.e. paper) records of Department officials to the extent that such records were not attached to an email ¹ .
5	Classified Records	This category includes both electronic and non-electronic (i.e. paper) classified records maintained by Department officials.

The time required to complete our records search will vary significantly depending on the types of records that need to be searched in order to fulfill your request. Furthermore, there are distinct and significant differences between the search time required to complete certain categories of records searches. For example, a records search focused on category 1 records (Official Correspondence) requires the least amount of time to complete. A records search seeking records from categories 2 and/or 3 requires significantly more time than that of

¹ This category does not include Official Correspondence (i.e. category 1 records).

category 1. Whereas a search seeking records from categories 4 and/or 5 is the most time-consuming search option and requires substantially more time to complete than a search focused on records of categories 2 and/or 3.

Additional factors, including the timeframe of your request and the number of Department officials who need to be searched in order to fulfill your request, can make a substantial difference in the time it takes to complete our records search. Generally speaking, requests seeking records prior to January 20, 2017, will require additional search time, and the more Department officials that are subject to the records search, the longer it will take to complete.

At this time and in an effort to facilitate our response to your request, we are focusing our records search on emails and attachments (category 2) and standalone documents (category 4) that may be responsive to your request. Based on our experience, the vast majority of records responsive to FOIA requests consist of category 2 records, and it is not common for there to be standalone documents (category 4) that are not also located as attachments to emails. If you are interested in either adding additional categories of records to your search or focusing your search on records other than categories 2 and 4, please notify this Office as soon as possible. You may also agree to an alternative formulation of your request, including a different scope or date range. Please include the administrative tracking number associated with this request in all your correspondence.

Any decision with regard to the application of fees or any request for a fee waiver will be made only after we determine whether fees will be implicated for this request.

If you have any questions, wish to discuss reformulation or an alternative time frame for the processing of your request, or if you require further assistance regarding any aspect of your request, you may contact our Acting FOIA Public Liaison, Eric Hotchkiss, at: Office of Information Policy, United States Department of Justice, Sixth Floor, 441 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001; telephone at 202-514-3642.

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001; e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; or toll free at 1-877-684-6448.

If you are not satisfied with this Office's determination in response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy, United States Department of Justice, Sixth Floor, 441 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIA STAR portal by creating an account following the instructions on OIP's website: <https://www.justice.gov/oip/submit-and-track-request-or-appeal>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically submitted within ninety days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the

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envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." If possible, please provide a copy of your original request and this response letter with your appeal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew D. Fiorillo", with a stylized flourish at the end.

for

Andrew D. Fiorillo

Chief, Initial Request Staff