

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY,

Defendant

Civil Action No. 24-2172 (JMC)

JOINT STATUS REPORT

Plaintiff Judicial Watch, Inc., and Defendant Central Intelligence Agency (collectively, the “Parties”), through counsel, respectfully submit this Joint Status Report pursuant to the Court’s June 15, 2026 Scheduling Order to update the Court on the status of Plaintiff’s Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”) request.

Defendant’s Position:

Since the parties’ last joint status report, Defendant continues to conduct a search for responsive documents, which includes the responsiveness review, and remains amenable to working with Plaintiff to reduce the number of potentially responsive records that will require review.

In the joint status report filed on June 12, 2026, Plaintiff incorrectly informed the Court that “Defendant initially informed the Court that searches would be complete by December 2024” and that “Defendant merely claims its search is continuing...” This is not the case.

In the first status report, dated December 2, 2024, the Defendant stated, “Defendant *anticipates* completing the search for potentially responsive records in December 2024, *at which point it will begin reviewing the search results and producing responsive, non-exempt material to*

Plaintiffs. After the search is complete and the number of potentially responsive records is complete, the Parties will confer about an appropriate processing rate.” (emphasis added).

In the status report dated March 7, 2025, Defendant informed Plaintiff that it completed its search and anticipated beginning rolling productions no later than April 2025; however, in the June 9, 2025 status report, Defendant provided an update, stating, “Defendant previously reported that its search was complete. However, Defendant has identified additional searches that need to be conducted, and those searches are ongoing. Defendant anticipates the production of documents will be following the completion of the additional searches.” In the September 8, 2025 and December 15, 2025 status reports, Defendant provided updates that the searches returned a significant volume of potentially responsive materials, causing responsiveness review to take longer than anticipated and, in the December 15, 2025 status report, provided a 48 month estimate to complete review and that it was amenable to working with Plaintiff to reduce the number of potentially responsive records by excluding categories of records which may not be the type of records Plaintiff seeks. In the March 6, 2026 and June 12, 2026 status reports, Defendant reported its responsiveness review continues.

Defendant maintains that the Court should not grant the relief requested by Plaintiff below. Defendant remains willing to continue to confer on potential narrowing and asserts that a conferral on narrowing is the appropriate next step.

Plaintiff’s Position:

More than two years after this lawsuit was filed, the agency states that it is still not finished with its search. Notably the agency does not claim that this is because the request was overbroad or otherwise unmanageable. It simply has not finished the search after more than two years.

In fact, after more than two years, the agency has provided no specific information as to the number of records located, how many records have been reviewed or yet to be reviewed, or why interim productions have not begun. The “significant volume” of records claimed to have already been located might actually be less than significant. The agency has provided no information to the Court or Plaintiff to assess this claim.

The agency’s narrative above regarding previous status reports only demonstrates the shifting claims made by the agency regarding its alleged efforts over the last two years. The agency still has not stated when the search will be complete, much less when productions will begin. Instead, it makes a less than good faith offer to work “with Plaintiff to reduce the number of potentially responsive records,” yet it has provided no information as to the number of records located, the searches conducted, or any information that could shed light on a way to reduce the number of responsive records.

Accordingly, pursuant to the Court’s June 15, 2026 Minute Order, Plaintiff proposes that the agency be ordered to provide a detailed description of the status of its efforts, including but not limited to descriptions of the searches conducted and remaining to be conducted, and a date certain when the searches will be complete. The agency also should be ordered to disclose the number of records located and reviewed, the rate at which the records are being reviewed, and a date certain when the review will be complete. Finally, agency should be ordered to provide a date certain when interim productions will begin. Alternatively, Plaintiff requests an in-person status conference to further address these matters.ⁱ

Pursuant to the Court’s Scheduling Order of October 21, 2024, the Parties will file an additional Joint Status Report on or before November 2, 2026, to update the Court about the status of this FOIA matter.

Dated: September 2, 2026
Washington, DC

Respectfully submitted,

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ⁱ The agency did not provide an update to Plaintiff on the status of its efforts or a draft status report until 4:19 p.m. today, the day this status report was due. This lack of timeliness further hinders Plaintiff's ability to assess the agency's efforts. Going forward in this case, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the agency be ordered to provide an update to Plaintiff and any draft status report at least one business day in advance of the filing deadline.