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House Oversight Demands Thousands of Epstein Records Dating Back to 1998 as USVI Takes Center Stage in Ongoing Inquiry

The Committee's detailed letter to AG Gordon Rhea seeks unredacted documents from multiple Epstein-related cases and all investigative communications since 1998, underscoring the depth of Epstein's activities in the USVI as Congress expands its oversight.

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Little St. James, located southeast of Great St. James off St. Thomas's southern coast, is one of the U.S. Virgin Islands properties tied to Jeffrey Epstein at the center of the Oversight Committee's records request.

Following The Consortium's earlier reporting on the Oversight Committee's public announcement, a letter obtained by the publication now reveals that the Committee is requiring Virgin Islands Attorney General Gordon C. Rhea to turn over thousands of pages of Epstein-related records, a sweeping request that deepens federal scrutiny of the territory's longtime ties to Epstein.

At the center of the request is a directive requiring Attorney General Rhea to turn over all documents—unredacted and dating back to January 1, 1998—related to four major cases involving Epstein, his estate, and JPMorgan Chase. The Committee's letter, dated Nov. 18, also requests every communication, record, or investigative document tied to any federal or local criminal inquiry involving Epstein or Ghislaine Maxwell. Committee Chairman James Comer said the material is needed “to assist the Committee's oversight of this matter,” adding that Congress is evaluating legislative changes on sex-crime enforcement, plea agreements, and ethics reporting requirements.

The request carries a deadline of December 2, 2025, and extends to records from Estate of Jeffrey E. Epstein, Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands v. Estate of Jeffrey E. Epstein, Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands v. JP Morgan Chase Bank, and all communications linked to any criminal investigation into Epstein or Maxwell.

In laying the foundation for its demand, the Committee summarized the depth of Epstein's footprint in the Virgin Islands. Epstein owned Little St. James and Great St. James, conducted business operations in the territory, and controlled companies such as the Financial Trust Company, which the Committee says received “hundreds of millions of dollars in tax incentives” between 1999 and 2012. The letter cites reporting that Epstein employed the wife of former Governor John P de Jongh, Cecile, hired an architecture firm owned by Mr. de Jongh's uncle, “sponsored scholarships,” and “donated money,” and that court filings claim he “allegedly paid law enforcement entities such as the V.I. Police Department.”

The Committee also pointed to newly released documents suggesting Epstein stayed in communication with prominent U.S. officials. Records published by majority staff show that Epstein remained in touch with former Governor Kenneth Mapp and exchanged messages with Delegate to Congress Stacey Plaskett during a 2019 House Oversight hearing. The Committee said the disclosures highlight “the interconnectedness between the USVI and Mr. Epstein.”

The letter revisits the litigation the USVI government pursued after Epstein's death. In 2020, the V.I. Attorney General filed a civil enforcement action against the Epstein estate and “ten Epstein-created entities,” alleging violations involving anti-criminal enterprise, sex trafficking, child exploitation, and fraud statutes. The case concluded with a 2022 settlement requiring the defendants to pay the territory \$105 million “plus one half of the proceeds from the sale of Little St. James.”

Another settlement followed in the government's lawsuit against JPMorgan Chase, which the USVI accused of facilitating Epstein's sex-trafficking network. According to the Committee, the bank allegedly allowed Epstein to withdraw “some \$1.75 million in cash for payment to his victims” and “banked the victims themselves.” JPMorgan agreed to pay \$75 million. The Committee said records produced during the USVI litigation “will aid its ongoing investigation” into federal enforcement related to Epstein and Maxwell.

The letter arrives as part of a wider campaign by the Committee to gather federal and non-federal documents. Comer has subpoenaed the Department of Justice, which has provided about 33,000

pages of materials now made public. The Committee has also released approximately 65,000 pages of documents from DOJ, the Epstein estate, and deposition transcripts from former Attorney General Bill Barr and former Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta.

A series of deposition subpoenas have been issued to current and former political and law-enforcement leaders, including Bill and Hillary Clinton; former Attorneys General James Comey, Loretta Lynch, Eric Holder, Merrick Garland, William Barr, Jeff Sessions, and Alberto Gonzales; and former FBI Director Robert Mueller. After learning that Mueller cannot testify for health reasons, the Committee withdrew his subpoena. Written declarations from Comey, Gonzales, Holder, Lynch, Sessions, and Garland stated they hold no information about the Epstein or Maxwell cases.

The Committee has also subpoenaed the Epstein estate for unredacted records and requested Suspicious Activity Reports from the U.S. Department of the Treasury. According to the Committee, Treasury is “fully cooperating.” JPMorgan and Deutsche Bank have received subpoenas for Epstein-related financial transactions.

In Tuesday’s letter, Comer wrote that “it is imperative that Congress conduct oversight of the federal government’s enforcement of sex trafficking laws generally and, specifically, its handling of the investigation and prosecution of Mr. Epstein and Ms. Maxwell.” He said the Committee may use the material to “improve federal efforts to combat sex trafficking” and to assess whether changes are needed to federal statutes governing non-prosecution agreements and plea arrangements.

The letter’s closing paragraphs emphasize the Committee’s view that the Virgin Islands remains deeply entwined with the national inquiry into Epstein’s conduct, both through his long-standing presence in the territory and through the extensive litigation that followed his death. The Committee said its investigation remains active and that additional steps will follow as it seeks a complete accounting of federal actions surrounding Epstein and Maxwell.