

DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATION



WHAT WE DO

The Department of Investigation (DOI) is a law enforcement agency that promotes and maintains integrity and efficiency in City government by investigating alleged corruption, gross mismanagement, waste, and abuse by City agencies, entities, employees and contractors. DOI has oversight of more than 45 mayoral agencies with over 300,000 employees, as well as dozens of City boards and commissions. DOI attacks corruption comprehensively through investigations that lead to arrests, public reports, and recommendations for policy and procedural reforms intended to strengthen agencies' internal controls and improve their operations. DOI is guided by a mission to hold wrongdoers accountable—whether public officials, City employees, contractors, or other third parties, thereby improving the way City government functions. In so doing, DOI serves New Yorkers by acting as an independent and nonpartisan watchdog for City government.

FOCUS ON EQUITY

DOI seeks to improve public confidence in government operations and works to ensure that City government functions effectively and with integrity and transparency. DOI focuses on exposing and combatting corruption, waste, mismanagement, and fraud. These abuses can threaten the availability of resources for New Yorkers in need as well as the equitable access to government services. DOI holds individuals engaged in misconduct to account and returns stolen funds to the City, to workers, and to other victims of theft and fraud. DOI provides Policy and Procedure Recommendations (PPRs) to City agencies to remedy vulnerabilities identified by DOI investigations, to improve how City agencies operate, and to prevent future misconduct so that City government can more equitably serve all New Yorkers.

DOI follows the facts and the law, regardless of politics, influence, or position. Through investigations, DOI ensures that wrongdoers who misappropriate public dollars, circumvent City rules to evade safety regulations, or undermine City operations for personal profit, are held accountable. Key investigatory work from the first four months of Fiscal 2026 are described below.

DOI issues public reports regarding its investigative findings and recommendations for reform. Over the first four months of Fiscal 2026, DOI issued five public reports reflecting the breadth of DOI's oversight. Those reports focused on topics of significant public interest including: (1) theft of cash assistance and nutritional benefits from Electronic Benefit Transfer cards, funds that provide critical financial assistance to 1.8 million New Yorkers, and strategies to prevent and limit that theft; (2) the violation of Sanctuary City laws and Department of Correction (DOC) policy by an investigator with DOC who provided information on two persons in custody to further federal civil immigration enforcement; (3) an analysis of gaps in internal controls at the New York City Retirement System that allowed a former retirement benefits examiner to steal \$624,000; (4) an assessment of the New York City Police Department's implementation of policy and procedural changes recommended by DOI to the Department's handling of its Criminal Group Database; (5) the corruption risks posed by complex and burdensome regulatory rules (DOI's Annual Anti-Corruption Report). These reports collectively resulted in 37 PPRs to mitigate future risks, increase transparency, ensure that New Yorkers receive the funds and services that they are entitled to, and that public officials follow the law.

DOI's investigations also identified illegal and unethical conduct that denies or delays the equitable distribution of resources and undercuts public trust in City government. DOI's relationships with the City agencies it oversees and the partnerships it has with local prosecutors and law enforcement led to a number of investigations during this reporting period, including the arrest of a Bronx day care operator on charges of theft of City funds by false representations to the Administration for Children's Services concerning attendance at his in-home day care; the indictment of a director of the Human Resources Administration's rental assistance program and a Bronx landlord on charges of stealing \$110,000 from the City in a fraud scheme; and additional charges against a former chief advisor to the former Mayor, along with two companies and six others, including one senior City employee, for using his position and influence in exchange for various benefits, among others.

OUR SERVICES AND GOALS

- SERVICE 1** **Protect public resources from corruption, fraud, waste, and abuse and ensure that City employees and vendors act with integrity.**
- Goal 1a Investigate potential corruption, fraud, waste, abuse, and unethical conduct to improve the integrity of City operations.
 - Goal 1b Improve the impact and effectiveness of investigations.

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- SERVICE 2** **Conduct background and fingerprint checks for certain City employees, contractors and child care workers.**
- Goal 2a Ensure that all background investigations and fingerprint checks are conducted in a timely manner.

HOW WE PERFORMED

- DOI issues Policy and Procedure Recommendations (PPRs) whenever investigations reveal that changes to agency policies and procedures would improve a systemic problem identified through investigations. During the first four months of Fiscal 2026, the number of written PPRs issued to City agencies fell by 54 percent compared to the first four months of Fiscal 2025 (from 65 to 30). The acceptance and implementation rates for issued PPRs remained consistent, and the rate of PPRs that are still pending a response (acceptance or rejection) from agencies rose from five percent to six percent.
- DOI provides corruption prevention and whistleblower lectures to City staff on how to recognize and report corruption, laws governing behavior for City employees and vendors, and legal protections afforded to whistleblowers. The number of lectures conducted by DOI fell by 29 percent in the first four months of Fiscal 2026, down from 90 in the same period of Fiscal 2025 to 64. The timing of in-person and webinar lectures depends on numerous factors, including hiring frequency at agencies and staff availability. Despite the decrease compared to the same period in Fiscal 2025, DOI remains on track to meet the target of 100 lectures set for Fiscal 2026. The number of attendees at eLearning-online training sessions rose 82 percent in the reporting period (from 3,813 to 6,944), demonstrating commitment from City agencies to ensure staff receive DOI's corruption prevention eLearning-online training.
- In the first four months of Fiscal 2026, the average time to complete an investigation increased 29 percent from 252 days in the prior year's reporting period to 325 days. This time is impacted by the complexity of the investigation, which often is conducted in collaboration with prosecutors and other law enforcement partners. DOI is mindful of the length of investigations and seeks to ensure that each investigation is completed in a reasonable timeframe but recognizes that the appropriate timeframe must be determined on case-by-case basis.
- During an investigation, DOI may provide referrals to federal, state, or local prosecutors' offices for possible criminal action. DOI also makes referrals to agencies, as well as the City's Conflicts of Interest Board, for administrative action. The number of referrals for civil and administrative action fell by 36 percent from 185 in the first four months of Fiscal 2025 to 118 in the same period of Fiscal 2026, and arrests resulting from DOI investigations fell by 54 percent (from 102 to 47). Referrals for criminal prosecution also decreased by 77 percent (from 163 to 38). This decrease is attributable, in part, to a change in DOI's case management system. The previous system counted every individual who was referred for criminal prosecution as one referral, whereas the new system treats each case referred for criminal prosecution as one referral, regardless of the number of individuals referred within that case. All referrals depend on the facts found. The determination to make arrests is done in collaboration with prosecutors and other law enforcement partners. Highly complex and impactful cases, such those involving senior public officials or non-profits receiving substantial public funds, may require more time and resources. These generally lead to fewer referrals for prosecution, as well as fewer arrests, due to typically involving a smaller group of individuals under investigation.
- DOI seeks recovery and returns of funds to the City and victims of crime and misconduct where appropriate. In the first four months of Fiscal 2026, financial recoveries all significantly increased compared to the same period in Fiscal 2025. This includes financial recoveries to the City ordered or agreed to (up from \$1,717,000 to \$4,557,000), financial recoveries to the City collected (up from \$420,000 to \$4,965,000), and financial recoveries to individuals and non-City entities ordered or agreed to (up from \$57,000 to \$420,000). Whether and when funds are recovered depends on a litany of factors—including the availability of funds for seizure and the nature of the resolution of a criminal case—some of which are beyond DOI's control.
- DOI conducts citywide background investigations for certain new employee hires, transfers, and promotions. The number of background investigations closed in the first four months of Fiscal 2026 decreased 21 percent compared to the same period in Fiscal 2025 (from 409 to 324), while the rate of background investigations received and closed within six months fell 15 percentage points, dropping from 99 percent to 84 percent. These decreases are a result of increased demand and internal staffing levels.
- In the first four months of Fiscal 2026, DOI closed 64 background investigations opened prior to July 1, 2019, referred to as backlogged investigations. Only 21 backlogged background investigations remained open at the end of the reporting period.

SERVICE 1 Protect public resources from corruption, fraud, waste, and abuse and ensure that City employees and vendors act with integrity.

Goal 1a Investigate potential corruption, fraud, waste, abuse, and unethical conduct to improve the integrity of City operations.

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY25	FY26
★ Complaints	13,566	14,612	14,435	*	*	5,063	4,652
★ Written Policy and Procedure Recommendations issued to City agencies	123	212	158	*	*	65	30
Written Policy and Procedure Recommendations issued during previous fiscal years that have been accepted by City agencies (%)	87%	87%	87%	75%	75%	88%	88%
– Written Policy and Procedure Recommendations issued during previous fiscal years that have been implemented of those accepted by City agencies (%)	87%	88%	91%	*	*	91%	92%
Written Policy and Procedure Recommendations issued during previous fiscal years that are still pending an outcome from City agencies (%)	5%	7%	6%	*	*	5%	6%
Written Policy and Procedure Recommendations issued during previous fiscal years that have been rejected by City agencies (%)	5%	6%	6%	*	*	6%	6%
★ Corruption prevention and whistleblower lectures conducted	240	236	298	100	100	90	64
Corruption prevention lecture e-learning attendees	29,245	27,351	16,724	*	*	3,813	6,944
Integrity monitoring agreements	12	12	10	*	*	9	9
Vendor name checks completed within 30 days (%)	97%	97%	91%	85%	85%	95%	95%
★ Critical Indicator ● Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ⇅ Directional Target * None							

Goal 1b Improve the impact and effectiveness of investigations.

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY25	FY26
★ Average time to complete an investigation (days)	201	214	251	180	180	252	325
Active Investigations	1,618	1,619	1,515	*	*	943	912
Closed investigations	878	895	806	*	*	297	325
★ Referrals for civil and administrative action	918	796	495	*	*	185	118
★ Referrals for criminal prosecution	425	449	287	*	*	163	38
★ Arrests resulting from DOI investigations	313	349	220	*	*	102	47
★ Financial recoveries to the City ordered/agreed (\$000)	\$10,121.0	\$4,805.0	\$4,165.0	*	*	\$1,717.0	\$4,557.0
★ Financial recoveries to the City collected (\$000)	\$2,118.0	\$2,192.0	\$1,537.0	*	*	\$420.0	\$4,965.0
Financial recoveries to individuals and non-City entities ordered/agreed (\$000)	\$2,063.0	\$375.0	\$2,058.0	*	*	\$57.0	\$420.0
★ Critical Indicator ● Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ⇅ Directional Target * None							

SERVICE 2 Conduct background and fingerprint checks for certain City employees, contractors and child care workers.

Goal 2a Ensure that all background investigations and fingerprint checks are conducted in a timely manner.

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY25	FY26
★ Average time to complete a background investigation (from date of receipt) (days)	119	115	116	180	180	109	117
Closed background investigations (of those opened on or after July 1, 2019)	1,712	1,714	1,256	*	*	409	324
Background investigations received and closed within 6 months (%)	99%	99%	98%	80%	80%	99%	84%
Backlogged background investigations closed during the reporting period	547	369	275	*	*	104	64
Backlogged background investigations remaining open	729	360	85	*	*	256	21
Time to notify the Department of Mental Health and Hygiene of arrest notifications for current child care workers after receipt from the State Division of Criminal Justice Services (days)	1	1	1	*	*	1	1
★ Critical Indicator ● Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ⇅ Directional Target * None							

AGENCY CUSTOMER SERVICE

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
Customer Experience	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY25	FY26
Letters responded to within 14 days (%)	100%	100%	100%	*	*	100%	100%
Average wait time to speak with a customer service agent (minutes)	3	3	3	*	*	3	3
CORE facility rating	NA	NA	100	*	*	NA	NA
Completed requests for interpretation	20	87	15	*	*	4	14
★ Critical Indicator 🌟 Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ⬆️⬆️ Directional Target * None							

AGENCY RESOURCES

Resource Indicators	Actual			Sept. 2025 MMR Plan	Updated Plan	Plan	4-Month Actual	
	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY26¹	FY27¹	FY25	FY26
Expenditures (\$000,000)²	\$47.7	\$55.7	\$57.7	\$55.9	\$64.1	\$54.1	\$32.9	\$37.9
Revenues (\$000,000)	\$2.8	\$3.5	\$3.5	\$4.2	\$4.2	\$4.2	\$0.2	\$1.2
Personnel	272	273	264	295	314	295	267	273
Overtime paid (\$000)	\$372	\$447	\$445	\$107	\$107	\$107	\$108	\$151
¹February 2026 Financial Plan. ²Expenditures include all funds "NA" - Not Available								

SPENDING AND BUDGET INFORMATION

Where possible, the relationship between an agency's goals and its expenditures and planned resources, by budgetary unit of appropriation (UA), is shown in the 'Applicable MMR Goals' column. Each relationship is not necessarily exhaustive or exclusive. Any one goal may be connected to multiple UAs, and any UA may be connected to multiple goals.

Unit of Appropriation	Expenditures FY25¹ (\$000,000)	February 2026 Financial Plan FY26² (\$000,000)	Applicable MMR Goals³
Personal Services - Total	\$27.6	\$31.7	
001 - Personal Services	\$22.1	\$25.7	All
003 - Inspector General	\$5.5	\$6.0	All
Other Than Personal Services - Total	\$30.1	\$32.4	
002 - Other Than Personal Services	\$29.3	\$29.3	All
004 - Inspector General	\$0.8	\$3.1	All
Agency Total	\$57.7	\$64.1	
¹Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2025. Includes all funds. ²Includes all funds. ³Refer to agency goals listed at front of chapter.			

NOTEWORTHY CHANGES, ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

- In February 2025, DOI began using a new case management system. As a result, several data points are captured differently in the new system than they were in the prior system. Every effort was made to obtain exact matches for data ahead of the Fiscal 2025 Mayor's Management Report. However, there was a margin of error as data continues to be audited and evaluated. Accordingly, some updates were made after the production of the Fiscal 2025 Mayor's Management Report.
- Various indicators were updated to reflect finalized data:
 - The previously published Fiscal 2025 4-month actual figure for 'Complaints' in Goal 1a was updated from 5,050 to 5,063.
 - The previously published Fiscal 2025 4-month actual figure for 'Corruption prevention and whistleblower lectures conducted' in Goal 1a was updated from 81 to 90.
 - The previously published Fiscal 2025 4-month actual figure for 'Corruption prevention lecture e-learning attendees' in Goal 1a was updated from 3,731 to 3,813.
 - The previously published Fiscal 2025 4-month actual figure for 'Active investigations' in Goal 1b was updated from 941 to 943.
 - The previously published Fiscal 2025 4-month actual figure for 'Referrals for criminal prosecution' in Goal 1b was updated from 162 to 163.
 - The previously published Fiscal 2025 4-month actual figure for 'Financial recoveries to the City ordered/agreed (\$000)' in Goal 1b was updated from \$1,036.4 to \$1,717.0.
 - The previously published Fiscal 2025 4-month actual figure for 'Financial recoveries to the City collected (\$000)' in Goal 1b was updated from \$298.4 to \$420.0.
 - The previously published Fiscal 2025 4-month actual figure for 'Financial recoveries to individuals and non-City entities ordered/agreed (\$000)' in Goal 1b was updated from \$0.0 to \$57.0.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For additional information go to:

- Reports:
<https://www.nyc.gov/site/doi/newsroom/public-reports-current.page>
- DOI's Office of the Inspector General for NYPD:
<https://www.nyc.gov/site/doi/oignypd/web/oignypd.page>
- Report Corruption:
<https://www.nyc.gov/site/doi/report/report-corruption.page>

For more information on the agency, please visit: www.nyc.gov/doi.