



**Seattle** Office of  
Inspector General

## **Mid-Year Review of OPA Classification and Certification – 2025**

January 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025

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## Introduction

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) is required to report on its review of the Office of Police Accountability (OPA) complaint handling system through regular classification reviews, and via an Annual Report that includes a review of completed investigations. These quarterly reports will culminate in the OIG Annual Report, which will aggregate the data.

## Classifications

OIG individually reviews all OPA classifications on a weekly basis to validate they have been appropriately assigned, and allegations and employees associated with the complaints were properly identified.

**Table 1** | **OIG Review of OPA Classification Concurrence by Case Type and Quarter**

OPA Classification	Total Q1	Total Q2	Mid-Year Total	Level of Concurrence
Contact Log	14	48	62	100%
Batch Contact Log	106	392	498	99.6%
Supervisor Action	37	37	74	97.3%
Bias Reviews	12	9	21	100%
Rapid Adjudication	0	0	0	N/A
Mediation	1	0	1	100%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>656</b>	

All values rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent.

### Contact Logs

OIG individually reviewed 48 Contact Logs at the time of classification during Q2, bringing the mid-year total to 62 contact logs. OIG has 100% concurrence with contact log classification so far this year.

### Batch Contact Logs

Due to increased staffing in Q2 OIG returned to reviewing Batch Contact Logs on a weekly basis. OIG reviewed all 392 Batch Contact Logs classified by OPA during Q2 and previously reviewed a statistically significant sample of 106 out of 447 Batch Contact Logs classified by OPA in Q1. OIG had 99.6% concurrence with OPA's classification decisions in the cases OIG reviewed. Specifically, OIG disagreed with the classification decisions made in one complaint reviewed during Q1 and one complaint reviewed in Q2. One of the two cases was opened for further investigation, while the other was not reclassified.

## Supervisor Actions

OIG reviewed 37 Supervisor Actions classified by OPA during Q2. OIG had two non-concurrences in Q2, making the overall level of concurrence approximately 97.3%. In both cases, the allegation was not re-classified into an investigation, as the 30-day period for a classification decision mandated by the appropriate Collective Bargaining Agreement passed prior to OIG's review. Additionally, while 74 cases had a supervisor action component, this number does not reflect the number of referrals for Supervisor Actions OPA is responsible for tracking and preparing. For example, in one case OPA completed Supervisor Actions for 19 officers, due to missing the timeframe for required respirator fitting, however this was all processed under a single case number.

## Bias Reviews

OIG evaluated nine Bias Reviews closed by OPA during Q2. OIG had 100% concurrence with OPA reviews, maintaining a 100% concurrence for all 21 Bias Reviews OIG reviewed in Q1 and Q2.

## Rapid Adjudication

OPA has not submitted any cases classified for Rapid Adjudication to OIG so far in 2025.

## Mediation

One Mediation case was submitted for OIG review during Q1. This was the only Mediation case submitted for OIG review so far in 2025. OIG is currently working with OPA on refining some of the language used in the OPA Manual regarding the mediation program. OPA has informed OIG they have some revisions in development.

# Investigations

OIG reviews all OPA investigations prior to case completion in order to certify whether a case is thorough, timely, and objective. At the end of Q2 OIG issued 132 certifications in 126 cases. These certifications include instances when a case is certified as an Expedited investigation and as a typical investigation. When a case is Expedited, the Complainant alleges a serious policy violation; however, preliminary review of information provides dispositive evidence to resolve the allegation without the need to interview further witnesses or the involved employee. OIG must concur with an Expedited Investigation classification in the certification, otherwise OPA re-classifies the case as an Investigation.

In some proposed Expedited classifications, OIG does not initially concur because of insufficient evidence and requests additional information from OPA. In many situations, OPA can remedy identified deficiencies prior to classification to gain concurrence and receive full certification of the Expedited Investigation. In other proposed Expedited Investigations, OIG does not concur with OPA's assessment on the appropriateness of this classification, and these cases are reclassified for further investigation. Finally, in certain cases, Expedited allegations are accepted on some proposed allegations but not on others. In these cases, OPA receives a certification for allegations accepted as an Expedited Investigation, and the case is bifurcated, meaning remaining allegations will be further investigated. This causes multiple certifications to be issued on a single OPA case.

In this report, OIG is reporting on all certifications given to cases by OIG. Several cases reviewed by OIG may have allegations that will be certified later in the year, or Expedited requests may have been completed after the mid-year mark. For this reason, further information on Expedited requests accepted by OIG and bifurcated cases will be available in the 2025 Annual Report.

**Table 2** | Certifications by Category

OPA Classification	Total Count	% of Total Cases
Partial: Non Objective	1	0.8%
Partial: Not Timely	2	1.5%
Partial: Not Thorough	0	0.0%
Non-Certification: Not Objective, Thorough, or Timely	1	0.8%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
Full: Timely, Thorough & Objective	128	97.0%
<b>Total Certifications Issued by OIG</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>100%</b>

All values rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent.

In 2025, OIG has issued three partial certifications, one non certification and 128 full certifications. Only two cases were partially certified due to a timeliness issue, and one was partially certified due to issues with objectivity. Finally, OIG issued a non-certification, where a case is determined it is not thorough, timely, or objective. While issuing this certification OIG met with OPA to offer feedback, and while the issues of the case did not allow OPA to address concerns, OPA took corrective action and offered additional training on topics discussed to ensure case issues did not continue to come up. This is a rare occurrence, and the first non-certification in five years. Overall, OPA received a full certification on about 97% of their cases, which is higher than OPA's full certification rates in 2024 (95%) and 2023 (92%). The biggest area where cases improved is in their timeliness, aided in part by updated collective bargaining language, no longer requiring a 5-day notice to be sent to Seattle Police Officers' Guild (SPOG).