



Seattle Office of
Inspector General

Mid-Year Review of OPA Classification and Certification – 2024

January 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024

Office of Inspector General

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Introduction

OIG is required to report on its review of the OPA complaint handling system through regular classification reviews, and via an Annual Report that includes a review of completed investigations. This mid-year report includes classification information and details of OIG certifications of OPA investigations for the first half of 2024.

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	19	26	45	100%
Batch Contact Log	385	122	507	100%
Supervisor Action	49	49	98	98.0%
Bias Reviews	27	28	55	100%
Rapid Adjudication	0	1	1	100%
Mediation	0	1	1	100%
Grand Total	480	227	707	

All values rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent.

Contact Logs

OIG individually reviewed 26 Contact Logs at the time of classification during Q2, bringing the mid-year total to 45 contact logs. OIG has 100% concurrence with contact log classification so far this year.

Batch Contact Logs

Due to limited staffing during Q2, OIG returned to reviewing a statistically significant random sample of Batch Contact Logs. OIG reviewed 122 Batch Contact Logs received by OPA (out of a total of 501 received by OPA) during Q2. OIG had 100% concurrence with OPA's classifications. This maintains a 100% OIG concurrence rate for the 507 Batch Contact Logs reviewed in 2024. OIG plans to resume reviewing all Batch Contact Logs when fully staffed in Q3.

Supervisor Actions

OIG reviewed 49 Supervisor Actions closed by OPA during Q2. OIG had one non-concurrence each in Q1 and Q2, making the overall level of concurrence approximately 98.0%. 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 98 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 23 officers, due to missing the timeframe for required training, however this was all processed under a single case number.

Bias Reviews

OIG evaluated 49 Bias Reviews closed by OPA during Q2. OIG had 100% concurrence with OPA reviews, maintaining a 100% concurrence for all 98 Bias Reviews in Q1 and Q2.

Rapid Adjudication

One case was submitted for Rapid Adjudication in Q2. Although OIG concurred with the Rapid Adjudication classification, after certification the case was re-classified as an Investigation.

Mediation

One Mediation case was submitted for OIG review during Q2, and OIG concurred with the classification. This was the first Mediation case submitted for OIG review in 2024.

Investigations

OIG reviews all OPA investigations prior to case completion to certify whether a case is thorough, timely, and objective. At the end of Q2 OIG issued certifications in 140 cases. These certifications include instances when a case is certified as an Expedited classification. In these cases, the Complainant alleges a serious policy violation; however, preliminary evidence disproves the allegation without the need to interview 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 is able to 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.

In this report, OIG is reporting on the number of certifications issued by OIG, rather than the number of cases certified. Several cases reviewed by OIG may have bifurcated allegations outstanding, 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 2024 Annual Report.

Table 2 | Certifications by Category

OPA Classification	Total Count	% of Total Cases
Partial: Non Objective	0	0.0%
Partial: Not Timely	8	5.7%
Partial: Not Thorough	1	0.7%
Subtotal	9	6.4%
Full: Timely, Thorough & Objective	131	93.6%
Total Certifications Issued by OIG	140	100%

All values rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent.

So far in 2024, OIG has issued nine partial certifications and 131 full certifications. The most common reason a case was partially certified was due to timeliness issues¹, with eight cases partially certified for this deficiency. OIG determined one case was not thorough. As of the end of Q2, all cases OIG certified were found to be objective. Currently, OPA has a full certification rate of 93.6% in 2024 which is consistent with OPA’s full certification rates in 2023 (92%) and 2022 (92%).

¹ On June 1, 2024, the five-day notice requirement was removed from the Seattle Police Officers Guild’s Collective Bargaining Agreement. Five of the eight untimely certifications were due to delayed five-day notifications.