

F.B.I. Dismantles Elite Public Corruption Squad

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The F.B.I. is disbanding a squad that handles investigations into members of Congress and fraud by federal employees, according to people familiar with the matter, a move that comes as the Trump administration seeks to eliminate or marginalize units responsible for public corruption cases.

The squad's members are likely to be reassigned, potentially asked to do immigration work, and its work is expected to be merged with one of the other corruption units in the bureau's Washington field office, according to a person familiar with the changes.

The special agent in charge of criminal matters at the field office — who was recently responsible for investigating the Biden administration's green energy grants — was also pushed out of his job, those people said.

The moves, some of the most drastic to date by the F.B.I. director, Kash Patel, could reduce the bureau's capacity to fulfill one of its core missions: leading major investigations into [public corruption](#) cases that have included, among many others, the two federal prosecutions of Mr. Trump led by the special counsel Jack Smith.

It follows the decimation of the Justice Department's [public integrity unit](#), which had its staffing cut from more than two dozen personnel last fall to a skeleton crew of four to six prosecutors now, according to people briefed on the moves.

Since returning to office, President Trump has taken other actions to downgrade federal law enforcement's ability to hold the powerful and well-connected to account. He has granted [clemency to political allies](#), fired [those who brought cases against the Capitol rioters](#), and supported the [dismissal of bribery charges](#) against the New York mayor, Eric Adams, which prompted the resignation of prosecutors.

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