



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD RELEASES REPORT ON THE FBI'S THREAT REVIEW AND PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

WASHINGTON, DC – The staff of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board (PCLOB) on Thursday released a comprehensive report entitled *The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Domestic Terrorism Threat Review and Prioritization Process* as part of its Countering Domestic Terrorism oversight project. The project examines how the Government, in its efforts to counter domestic terrorism:

- Defines and identifies distinct groups of people that may present or face a significant level of domestic terrorism threat meriting Government response, prevention, or protection activities;
- Assesses the domestic terrorism threat presented or faced by such groups, and prioritizes the Government response, including prevention and protection activities;
- Determines the type, amount, and allocation of resources considering the level of the domestic terrorism threat to and from such groups;
- Ensures that efforts to counter domestic terrorism do not disproportionately or otherwise inappropriately affect particular racial groups, historically underserved communities, religious groups, politically disfavored groups, and other individuals, relative to the threat, and how this is reflected in the Government's policy and training;
- Ensures that operational personnel comply with such policy and training as they execute mission activities, including and with respect to communities of color, religious communities, and political groups; and
- Limits use of racial, religious, political, or ideological affiliation as a predicate for investigation or surveillance.

The report, which is classified, was shared with relevant Executive Branch agencies and Congressional committees.

The report describes and evaluates the Threat Review and Prioritization (TRP) process, which the FBI has used since 2013 to establish annual threat priorities, including domestic terrorist threats.

The report credits the FBI for spending significant time, effort, and resources to conduct the TRP process. The report concludes, however, that the gradual consolidation of distinct domestic terrorism threats into overarching categories, such as the broad “anti-government and anti-authority violent extremism,” appears to limit operational value. Further, the consolidation may operate to overstate the risk of certain groups, potentially leading to heightened scrutiny of individuals within those groups as they are banded at higher levels than they might be absent consolidation. The report also finds that the TRP process itself lacks rigor and clarity, and that its outputs do not meaningfully drive the allocation of resources.

The report includes several recommendations to address privacy and civil liberties concerns and to improve threat prioritization going forward.

The FBI has advised PCLOB that it is decommissioning and replacing the TRP effective September 30, 2026. The FBI has stated it will consider and incorporate PCLOB’s report recommendations as applicable in its revised process.

“I congratulate our professional staff on the completion of this report,” Board Member Beth A. Williams said. “Because efforts to counter domestic terrorism may uniquely impact Americans’ privacy and civil liberties, it is crucial that threat identification and prioritization be conducted with the utmost rigor. PCLOB appreciates the information the FBI has provided, and our agency stands ready to assist the FBI as it develops its new process.”

An unclassified summary of this report is available at www.pclob.gov.

For further information, please contact Public and Legislative Affairs Director Alan Silverleib at info@pclob.gov or [@pao.pclob.gov](https://twitter.com/pao.pclob.gov).

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