# Kash Patel On Classified Documents

**Highlights:**

* Kash Patel said he wanted to release classified documents and was involved in Trump’s discussions of classified documents.

## Patel Wanted To Release Classified Documents And Was Involved In Trump’s Discussions Of Classified Documents

### Patel Wanted To Release Classified Documents From The National Archives Weeks Before The Raid On Mar-A-Lago

**Patel Claimed That Trump Wanted To Declassify Troves Of Documents, But White House Counsel Instead Delivered Them To The National Archives.** According to ABC, “Patel, who under Trump had been the chief of staff for the acting defense secretary, claimed in a string of interviews that Trump had declassified a trove of ‘Russiagate documents’ in the final days of his administration. But Patel claimed Trump's White House counsel had blocked the release of those documents, and instead had them delivered to the National Archives.” [ABC, [8/17/22](https://abcnews.go.com/US/weeks-mar-lago-search-trump-dod-official-vowed/story?id=88461618)]

**Patel Claimed That He Was Going To Retrieve The Documents From The National Archives And Publish Them.** According to ABC, “’I've never told anyone this because it just happened,’ Patel said in an interview on a pro-Trump podcast on June 22. ‘I'm going to identify every single document that they blocked from being declassified at the National Archives, and we're going to start putting that information out next week.’ Patel did not provide a clear explanation of how he would legally or practically obtain the documents.” [ABC, [8/17/22](https://abcnews.go.com/US/weeks-mar-lago-search-trump-dod-official-vowed/story?id=88461618)]

**Patel Claimed That Trump Asked Him To Go Retrieve Classified Documents From The National Archives.** According to ABC, “The day before he left office, Trump authorized the declassification of a set of documents related to the Russia probe. The memorandum, released in January 2021, acknowledged that ‘portions of the documents in the binder have remained classified and have not been released to the Congress or the public.’ So according to Patel, Trump asked him to work on retrieving the classified documents from the National Archives and then release them to the public. ‘President Trump was like, 'Who knows those documents better than anyone?' And I was like, 'If you want me to go, I'll go,’’ Patel said.” [ABC, [8/17/22](https://abcnews.go.com/US/weeks-mar-lago-search-trump-dod-official-vowed/story?id=88461618)]

### Patel Claimed To Have Knowledge Of The Classified Documents At Mar-A-Lago

**Patel Claimed That He Was Present When Trump Declassified Documents.** According to the Associated Press, “Patel is presumably of interest to investigators because of his claims, including in a May interview with Breitbart News, that he was present as Trump declassified material even though no changes had been made to classification markings on the documents. In that interview, Patel said, Trump ‘declassified whole sets of materials in anticipation of leaving government that he thought the American public should have the right to read themselves.’” [Associated Press, [11/4/22](https://apnews.com/article/donald-trump-mar-a-lago-government-and-politics-8a51290da3e8f59c83edbfc2898f547d)]

**Patel Claimed That Trump Kept Documents Related To “Russiagate,” The Ukraine Impeachment Matter, And Matters Of National Security.** According to the Washington Post, “Within days of Trump and his lawyers learning the FBI had begun a criminal investigation this spring, Patel offered right-wing media outlets what amounted to a public explanation for why Trump would still have so many sensitive government secrets. ‘It’s information that Trump felt spoke to matters regarding everything from Russiagate to the Ukraine impeachment fiasco to major national security matters of great public importance,’ Patel said in a Breitbart interview on May 5.” [Washington Post, [11/3/22](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2022/11/03/kash-patel-grand-jury-trump/?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=wp_news_alert_revere&location=alert)]