Audit of the Department of Justice's Compliance with the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 for Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026

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AUDIT DIVISION

26-104

September 2026

Audit of the Department of Justice's Compliance with the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 for Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026

Introduction

Geospatial data refers to information associated with specific locations on the earth's surface, including features such as buildings, roads, rivers, and other physical or environmental characteristics. This information can be analyzed using geographic information systems (GIS), which integrate multiple layers of geospatial data to support visualization, analysis, and decision-making. By combining data from diverse sources into a common geospatial framework, GIS technology enables agencies to identify relationships among datasets and improve operational planning, resource allocation, and program oversight.

The federal government has long recognized the value of coordinated geospatial activities and has been promoting the efficient sharing and use of geospatial information across federal, state, and local entities. This gave rise to Congress enacting the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (GDA), which established a formal governance framework for managing federal geospatial data, improving interagency collaboration, reducing duplication, and strengthening oversight of the federal government's multibillion-dollar investments in geospatial technologies and data assets. Subsection 759(a) of the GDA established the responsibilities and reporting requirements of each covered agency.

The GDA requires that the Inspectors General of covered agencies conduct an audit of their respective agency's compliance with the GDA requirements every 2 years. This is our fourth audit of the Department of Justice's (DOJ or Department) efforts to comply with the GDA. In our last audit, issued in September 2024, we found the Department met 11 of the 13 requirements outlined in the GDA, resulting in one recommendation, for which the Department executed sufficient corrective action to close the recommendation. Please see Appendix 3 for a listing of prior GDA compliance reports issued by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG).

Audit Objective

The objective of this audit was to assess the DOJ's progress toward meeting the requirements for covered agencies established in the GDA under Section 759(a). Appendix 1 contains details on our audit scope and methodology.

Results in Brief

In our audit of the Department's compliance with the GDA for fiscal years (FY) 2025 and 2026, we found that the Department continued to meet 11 of the 13 requirements for which the OIG previously determined the Department to be compliant. Additional actions are needed to address the remaining two requirements. Specifically, our review of 17 geospatial data asset listings uploaded to the federal government's repository for geospatial data (GeoPlatform) found many entries contained broken or missing links or were otherwise inaccessible to the public. We also determined that only 4 of the 17 datasets on the GeoPlatform met the Department's definition of geospatial data; only those four geospatial data listings had metadata in the required format; and two of those four were missing required metadata elements or information required by the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) metadata standards.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The Department needs to take additional actions to improve its GDA compliance. Specifically, the Department should validate its geospatial data assets to ensure that only the listings of datasets meeting the Department's geospatial data criteria are uploaded to the GeoPlatform, and that those datasets are publicly accessible and contain functional links to the underlying data. Further, the Department should ensure all datasets have metadata created in accordance with FGDC standards.

We make three recommendations in this report to assist the Department in ensuring that their geospatial information assets are appropriately and efficiently shared and usable across federal, state, and local entities, as well as by the public, in compliance with the GDA. We provided the Justice Management Division a draft of this report and requested its written response, which is included in Appendix 4. Our analysis of that response and actions necessary to close the report are in Appendix 5.

Geospatial Data Act of 2018

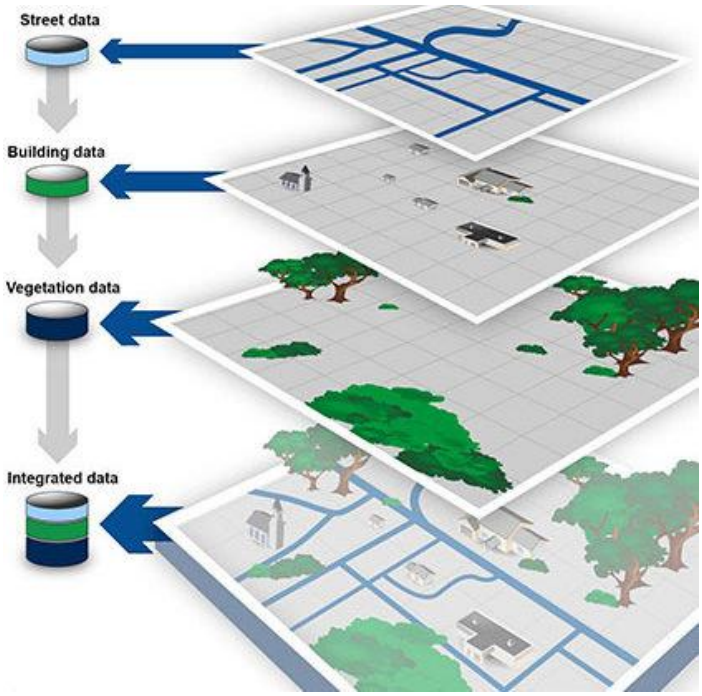
Geospatial data is geographic information that can be referenced to specific locations relative to the earth's surface. For example, features such as buildings, rivers, and roads can all be identified by geospatial locations. Geospatial data can be analyzed in GIS, which combine specialized software and hardware to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, and graphically present a wide range of spatial information.

The primary function of a GIS is to link multiple sets of geospatial data and display the combined information as maps with different layers of information. Assuming all of the information has been formatted to the same geospatial standards and formats, users can potentially overlay geospatial data about any number of specific topics to examine how the data in the various layers interrelate. Each layer of a geographic information system map typically represents a single theme which could be derived from a source completely different from the other layers. For example, one theme could represent all streets in a specific area. Another theme could correspond to all buildings in the same area, and another could show vegetation. Analyzing this layered information as an integrated whole can significantly aid decision makers in considering complex choices, such as where to locate a police station to best serve the greatest number of citizens. The figure to the right portrays the concept of data themes in a geographic information system.

For many years, the federal government has taken steps to coordinate geospatial activities both within and outside the federal government to discourage the duplication of data and the inefficient use of resources. Beginning in the early 1950s, the federal government began promoting the coordinated use, sharing, and dissemination of geospatial data nationwide through various Office of Management and Budget Circulars and Executive Orders. However, in 2015 GAO found that federal efforts to collect this data historically lacked coordination and often were duplicative, resulting in billions of dollars in wasted resources. As a result, Congress introduced the GDA with the goal of improving collaboration across agencies, reducing waste, and providing oversight of the federal government's multibillion-dollar investments in geospatial data.

Figure

Visual Representation of Data Themes in a Geographic Information System



Source: U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO-15-193)

The GDA was signed into law on October 5, 2018, to formalize governance processes related to geospatial data, provide policy and guidance to empower the use of geospatial data and technology, and facilitate broad cooperation between the public and private sectors.[1] The GDA includes in its definition of geospatial data both information that is tied to a location on the earth and information derived from remote sensing, mapping, surveying technologies and images, and aerial photographs. The GDA specifically excludes from its requirements any classified national security-related geospatial data and activities of the intelligence community, as well as geospatial data and activities of "Indian tribes" that are not conducted using federal funds.[2]

[1] Public Law 115-254, Subtitle F – Geospatial Data (Geospatial Data Act of 2018); 43 U.S.C. Chapter 46.

[2] 43 U.S.C. § 2801 states that term "Indian tribe" has the meaning given that term under section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. § 450b).

Audit Results

In this audit, we determined that the Department continued to meet 11 of 13 GDA requirements, which matches what we identified in our 2024 audit. However, our review showed that the Department needs to take additional actions to achieve full compliance with the remaining two requirements.

The table below provides a summary of the 13 GDA requirements and our audit findings over the last three audit cycles.

Table

The Department's Compliance with the GDA

Section		FY 21-22 Status	FY 23-24 Status	FY 25-26 Status
759(a)(1)	Geospatial Data Strategy – Prepare, Maintain, publish, and implement a strategy for advancing geographic information.	Met Requirements	Continued to Meet Requirements	Continues to Meet Requirements
759(a)(2)	Geospatial Data Collection – Collect, maintain, disseminate, and preserve geospatial data such that the resulting data, information, or products can be readily shared with other federal agencies and non-federal users.	Made Progress	Made Progress	Made Progress
759(a)(3)	Geospatial Data Integration – Promote the integration of geospatial data from all sources.	Met Requirements	Continued to Meet Requirements	Continues to Meet Requirements
759(a)(4)	Approved Agency Record Schedules – ensure geospatial data and activities are included on approved National Archives and Records Administration record schedules.	Met Requirements	Continued to Meet Requirements	Continues to Meet Requirements
759(a)(5)	Geospatial Resource Allocation – Allocate resources to fulfil the responsibilities of effective geospatial data collection, production, and stewardship.	Met Requirements	Continued to Meet Requirements	Continues to Meet Requirements
759(a)(6)	Geospatial Data Standards – Use the geospatial data standards, including the standards for metadata for geospatial data, and other appropriate standards, including documenting geospatial data with the relevant metadata and making metadata available through the GeoPlatform.	Unable to fully assess	Made Progress	Made Progress
759(a)(7)	Industry Coordination – Coordinate and work in partnership to efficiently and cost effectively collect, integrate maintain, disseminate, and preserve geospatial data.	Met Requirements	Continued to Meet Requirements	Continues to Meet Requirements
759(a)(8)	Use of Geospatial Data – Make federal geospatial information and services more useful to the public; enhance operations; support decision making; and enhance reporting to the public and to Congress.	Met Requirements	Continued to Meet Requirements	Continues to Meet Requirements
759(a)(9)	Personal Privacy Protection – Protect personal privacy and maintain confidentiality.	Met Requirements	Continued to Meet Requirements	Continues to Meet Requirements
759(a)(10)	National Spatial Data Infrastructure Contributions – Participate in determining, when applicable, whether declassified data can contribute to and become a part of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.	Made Progress	Met Requirements	Continues to Meet Requirements
759(a)(11)	Use of Existing Geospatial Data – Search all sources, including the GeoPlatform, to determine if existing federal, local, or private geospatial data meets the needs of the covered agency before expending funds for geospatial data collection.	Made Progress	Met Requirements	Continues to Meet Requirements
759(a)(12)	Geospatial Data Quality – To the maximum extent practicable, ensure that a person receiving federal funds for geospatial data collection provides high-quality data.	Made Progress	Met Requirements	Continues to Meet Requirements
759(a)(13)	Lead Covered Agency Coordination – Appoint a contact to coordinate with the lead covered agencies for collection, acquisition, maintenance, and dissemination of the National Geospatial Data Asset data themes.	Met Requirements	Continued to Meet Requirements	Continues to Meet Requirements

Source: The Geospatial Data Act of 2018 Subsection 759(a) and the results of OIG audits from 2022, 2024, and 2026

During our audit, we evaluated the Department's 17 data assets listed on the GeoPlatform to determine their compliance with the GDA requirements. As outlined below, our observations identified three areas that the Department needs to address to ensure that the Department's geospatial data is findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable in compliance with the GDA.

Appendix 2 provides a full breakdown of observations related to the Department's 17 geospatial data assets on the GeoPlatform.

The Department should validate its geospatial data assets to ensure that only listings of datasets meeting the Department's geospatial data criteria are uploaded to the GeoPlatform.

The GDA defines geospatial data as information tied to a location on the earth and typically represented through geographic features or coordinates. For purposes of the Department's GDA compliance efforts, the Justice Management Division (JMD) has defined geospatial data as datasets containing earth-referenced geographic coordinates, such as latitude and longitude.

Our review of the Department's 17 datasets from listings uploaded to the GeoPlatform found that only 4 datasets contained geographic coordinates and met the Department's definition of geospatial data. Eight datasets contained only generalized location information, such as city or state identifiers, and did not include geographic coordinates. The remaining five dataset links directed users to DOJ webpages where information could be viewed. However, the information was not available to download and did not appear to be geographic data. For example, two dataset entries from the Civil Rights Division contained collections of documents from Americans with Disability Act complaints, consent decrees, and settlements, which contained only links to webpage copies of the documents.

During our discussions with JMD, officials stated that they provide components with guidance, including a job aid defining what constitutes geospatial data, but determinations regarding whether datasets meet that definition are left to the individual components responsible for the data. JMD does not independently review DOJ dataset listings uploaded to the GeoPlatform for compliance with the Department's geospatial data criteria.

Ensuring that only compliant dataset listings are uploaded to the GeoPlatform is important to maintaining the platform's reliability, accuracy, and compliance with federal geospatial data standards. Uploading dataset listings that do not meet established geospatial criteria may reduce the usefulness of the GeoPlatform as an authoritative source of geospatial information for government agencies and the public.

The Department should ensure dataset listings uploaded to the GeoPlatform are publicly accessible and contain functional links to the underlying data.

GDA 759(a)(2) requires that agencies collect, maintain, disseminate, and preserve geospatial data so that it can be readily shared with other federal agencies and non-federal users. We determined that the DOJ did not fully meet this requirement. Specifically, according to GeoPlatform.gov, the GeoPlatform is intended to support the Federal Government's Open Government and Open Data initiatives by promoting transparency, collaboration, and public access to geospatial information. Achieving these objectives requires that dataset listings uploaded to the GeoPlatform remain accessible, functional, and usable by the public.

Our review of the Department's geospatial datasets on the GeoPlatform identified multiple accessibility and functionality issues. Specifically:

- Links associated with two listings from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives directed users to a file hosting website requiring users to be DOJ employees with login credentials. After we notified JMD of this issue, JMD provided four updated links and stated it would not require user logins and that the new links will be updated on GeoPlatform later. However, we found that as of September 2, 2026, one of the new links again required login credentials to access the data;
- 11 of the Department's 17 dataset listings did not contain direct links to downloadable data; and
- 8 of the 17 dataset listings contained broken links to Data.gov.

These deficiencies reduce the usability and accessibility of the Department's GeoPlatform data and undermine the transparency and public access objectives of the GDA and GeoPlatform.

When we discussed these issues with JMD officials, they stated that their current efforts focus primarily on ensuring that the dataset upload process functions properly. JMD has not implemented procedures to routinely verify that uploaded dataset listings remain publicly accessible and contain functional links.

The Department should ensure all geospatial dataset listings uploaded to the GeoPlatform include metadata that comply with Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) endorsed standards and contains all required metadata elements.

GDA 759(a)(6) requires federal agencies to use the geospatial data standards, including metadata for geospatial data, and

make metadata available through the GeoPlatform.[3] Metadata is critical because it describes the content, quality, condition, and context of geospatial data. Consistent metadata standards support machine-readable discovery, interoperability, data sharing, and reuse across systems; and improve the usability of data published on the GeoPlatform.

Our review of the Department's 17 geospatial datasets listed on the GeoPlatform found that only 4 datasets contained publicly accessible metadata in a format that appeared to be an FGDC-endorsed format.[4] The 13 remaining datasets utilized the JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) metadata standard. This standard is easier for humans to read, but it does not offer the same consistency and shareability benefits of the metadata standards endorsed by the FGDC and does not comply with the GDA requirements for metadata.

Additionally, our review of the four metadata files that contained publicly accessible metadata in an FGDC-endorsed format identified other issues, specifically, missing mandatory metadata elements and other key descriptive information. For example, during our testing, two Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) metadata files were missing the "topic category" element and also contained the value "missing" for the dataset creation date and responsible party elements. As of September 2026, JMD told us these fields now contain the appropriate metadata elements and are working with technical staff to allow for public download. The absence of this information limits users' ability to understand, evaluate, and appropriately use the datasets.

When we discussed these issues with JMD officials, they stated that their job aid identifies the applicable metadata standards and that responsibility for metadata compliance rests with the individual components responsible for the datasets. Officials further stated that they have not implemented procedures to routinely verify that uploaded dataset listings comply with FGDC metadata requirements.

Ensuring compliance with metadata standards is essential to maintaining reliable, discoverable, and interoperable geospatial data. Incomplete or noncompliant metadata may reduce the usability of datasets, limit transparency, and hinder the effective sharing and integration of geospatial information across government systems and with the public.

Recommendations

We recommend that JMD:

1. Ensure that only listings of datasets meeting the Department's definition of geospatial data are uploaded to the GeoPlatform by implementing procedures to validate datasets prior to publication.
2. Implement controls to ensure GeoPlatform datasets are publicly accessible, contain functional links, and provide direct access to downloadable data where appropriate.
3. Implement controls that ensure GeoPlatform datasets contain metadata that comply with the applicable FGDC-endorsed metadata standards.

[3] The geospatial data standards are those endorsed by the FGDC. The FGDC endorses two sets of metadata standards. These include the ISO 191XX series of metadata standards and FGDC's own Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata (CSDGM) standard.

[4] These four datasets appeared to have metadata in an FGDC-endorsed format because the metadata itself included information stating that the metadata used a qualifying template. However, we were unable to determine whether the metadata for the Department's 17 GeoPlatform datasets in fact complied with all applicable FGDC metadata standard elements because JMD did not maintain or provide the underlying metadata standards. Consequently, our review was limited to assessing the metadata's format and identifying any obvious errors or omissions.

APPENDIX 1: Audit Scope and Methodology

Scope and Methodology

The objective of this audit was to assess the Department of Justice's (DOJ or Department) progress toward meeting the requirements for covered agencies established in the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (GDA) under Section 759(a).

Our audit covers the Department's efforts to implement the statutory requirements of the GDA for fiscal years 2025 and 2026. To accomplish our objective, we interviewed personnel from the Department's Justice Management Division (JMD) Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO). We evaluated the Department's policies governing geospatial data and reviewed the Department's Justice Data Catalog (JDC) and Justice Data Inventory (JDI). We also analyzed information in data.gov and the GeoPlatform for compliance with GDA requirements, including reviewing the metadata associated with the Department's 17 GeoPlatform datasets. However, because JMD did not maintain or provide the underlying FGDC metadata standards, we were unable to determine whether the metadata complied with all applicable FGDC metadata standard elements. Accordingly, our review was limited to assessing the metadata format and identifying any obvious errors or omissions.

For the purposes of our reporting, our observations related to JDC, JDI, data.gov, and the GeoPlatform are as of April 30, 2026.

Throughout the audit, we obtained from responsible officials their feedback on our preliminary audit results; as appropriate, these views are reflected in our report.

Statement on Compliance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards

We conducted this performance audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards (GAGAS). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objective. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objective.

Internal Controls

In this audit, we performed testing of internal controls significant within the context of our audit objectives. We did not evaluate the internal controls of the Department to provide assurance on its internal control structure as a whole. Department management is responsible for the establishment and maintenance of internal controls in accordance with OMB Circular A-123. Because we do not express an opinion on JMD's internal control structure as a whole, we offer this statement solely for the information and use of JMD.[5]

In planning and performing our audit, we identified internal control components and underlying internal control principles as significant to the audit objective. Specifically, we assessed the design, implementation, and operating effectiveness of the Department's written policies and process controls pertaining to geospatial data within our scope and did not identify any deficiencies for existing policies at the time of our audit. However, because our review was limited to those internal control components and underlying principles that we found significant to the objective of this audit, it may not have disclosed all internal control deficiencies that may have existed at the time of this audit.

Compliance with Laws and Regulations

In this audit we tested, as appropriate given our audit objectives and scope, selected transactions, records, procedures, and practices, to obtain reasonable assurance that the Department's management complied with federal laws and regulations for which noncompliance, in our judgment, could have a material effect on the results of our audit. Our audit included examining, on a test basis, the Department's compliance with Public Law 115-254, Subtitle F – Geospatial Data (Geospatial Data Act of 2018), which could have a material effect on Department's operations.

This testing included interviewing personnel from JMD OCIO; examining geospatial data policies, practices and procedures; analyzing geospatial data; and assessing internal controls.

We found that the Department has not fully complied with the GDA requirements established in subsection 759(a).

[5] This restriction is not intended to limit the distribution of this report, which is a matter of public record.

Specifically, the Department has not properly identified some of its geospatial data assets, many entries contained broken or missing links or were otherwise inaccessible to the public. In addition, metadata datasets were missing required elements or did not comply with Federal Geographic Data Committee metadata standards.

Computer-Processed Data

During our audit, we obtained information from Justice Data Catalog, Data.gov, and GeoPlatform.gov. We did not test the reliability of those systems as a whole; therefore, any findings identified involving information from those systems were verified with documentation from other sources.

We assessed the reliability of DOJ data on Justice Data Catalog, Data.gov, and GeoPlatform.gov by (1) performing electronic testing of required data elements, (2) reviewing existing information about the data and the system that produced it, and (3) interviewing auditee officials knowledgeable about the data. We determined that the data is sufficiently reliable for the purposes of this audit.

APPENDIX 2: Summary of OIG Findings Related to the Department's Geospatial Datasets Uploaded to GeoPlatform.gov

	Dataset Name	Component Owning Data	Description	Does the Data Comply with DOJ Geospatial Data Definition?	Are there Downloadable Links in GeoPlatform?	Metadata Format	Does the Data.gov Link Work?
1	Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program	Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)	Extraction of crime related data from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program.	No	Yes	JSON	Yes
2	DEA_Foreign_Division_e_Merge1	Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)	This dataset contains the boundaries of each of the DEA's 23 domestic field divisions.	Yes	No	ISO	Yes
3	Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA)	FBI	This collection provides data on officers feloniously or accidentally killed and officers that were assaulted while performing their duties.	No	Yes	JSON	No
4	The Office of Special Counsel for Immigration-Related Unfair Employment Practices Memoranda of Understanding	Civil Rights Division	This collection of documents consists of federal, state and local agency memoranda of understanding.	No data	No	JSON	Yes
5	National Use-of-Force Data Collection	FBI	This collection provides data on law enforcement uses of force that result in the death of a person, serious bodily injury of a person, or when law enforcement discharges a firearm at or in the direction of a person. In addition, law enforcement agencies can indicate months where no incidents meeting the above criteria occurred.	No	No	JSON	No
6	DEA Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) Drugs Analyzed Public Use File	DEA	Data on received drugs analyzed in DEA Office of Forensic Sciences laboratories. Data is reported by drug type, by state, and by month.	No	No	JSON	No
7	Agreements and Resolutions, Letters of Findings, and Federal Cases involving Title VI and/or Limited English Proficiency	Civil Rights Division	A list of the civil rights matters recently addresssed and the Federal Coordination and Compliance Section of the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division.	No data	No	JSON	Yes
8	ATF Office Locations	Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)	ATF office locations across the continental United States and territories, including satellite offices that cover one or several states.	Yes	No	ISO	Yes
9	Crime in the United States	FBI	An annual publication in which the FBI compiles the volume and rate of violent and property crime offenses for the nation and by state. Individual law enforcement agency data are also provided for those contributors supplying 12 months of complete offense data.	No	Yes	JSON	No
10	Hate Crime Statistics	FBI	This collection provides data on the number of incidents, offenses, victims, and offenders in reported crimes that were motivated in whole or in part by a bias against the victim as perceived race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, disability, and gender identity.	No	Yes	JSON	No
11	DEA_AOR_RFU_Merge3	DEA	This dataset contains the boundaries of each area of responsibility (AOR). An AOR is the inventory of counties/territories over which each domestic DEA office has primary enforcement responsibility. An AOR is assigned to each domestic DEA office larger than a post of duty (POD).The population of each AOR and its DEA field division is also included in this dataset.	Yes	No	ISO	Yes
12	National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS) Public Data Sets	DEA	NFLIS data provides the community with midyear and annual reports highlighting trends in seized drug data submitted to and analyzed in laboratories. The tables report results by frequently reported substances, by geography, and by year. The tables are publicly posted to provide easy access to the most frequently requested NFLIS data.	No	No	JSON	No
13	Americans with Disabilities Act Project Civic Access	Civil Rights Division	This collection of documents includes Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) settlement agreements with counties, cities, towns and villages.	No data	No	JSON	Yes
14	Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Enforcement Activities	Civil Rights Division	This collection of documents includes Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Briefs, Complaints, Consent Decrees, Settlement Agreements, and Letters of Findings.	No data	Yes	JSON	Yes
15	Federal Firearms Licensees	ATF	Complete listing of federal firearms licensees.	Yes	No	ISO	No
16	Immigration Court Operational Status Map	Executive Office for Immigration Review	List of immigration courts and operational statuses, with a map view and searchable by ZIP code.	No data	No	JSON	Yes
17	National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)	FBI	This collection provides data submitted to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program via the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) for one or more months of the calendar year. It presents an overview of the offense categories that show the diversity and complexity of the data collected via NIBRS. In addition, it includes detailed agency-level data by offense type.	No	Yes	JSON	No

APPENDIX 3: Prior Geospatial Data Act Compliance Reports Issued by the Office of the Inspector General

FYs 2019 and 2020	Audit of the Department of Justice's Compliance with the Geospatial Data Act of 2018, Audit Report 20-113 (September 2020), oig.justice.gov/reports/audit-department-justices-compliance-geospatial-data-act-2018.
FYs 2021 and 2022	Audit of the Department of Justice's Compliance with the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 for Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022, Audit Report 22-114 (September 2022), oig.justice.gov/reports/audit-department-justices-compliance-geospatial-data-act-2018-fiscal-years-2021-and-2022.
FYs 2023 and 2024	Audit of the Department of Justice's Compliance with the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 for Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024, Audit Report 24-101 (September 2024), oig.justice.gov/reports/audit-department-justices-compliance-geospatial-data-act-2018-fiscal-years-2023-and-2024.

APPENDIX 4: The Justice Management Division's Response to the Draft Audit Report

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the Chief Information Officer *Washington, D.C. 20530*

September 22, 2026

Cameron Walker
Director
Computer Security & Information
Technology Audit Officer
Office of the Inspector General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Walker:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft OIG Audit Report of the DOJ Compliance with the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 for the Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026. The report provided the following conclusion and recommendations. The Department's comments are in-line:

Conclusion:
The Department needs to take additional actions to improve its GDA compliance. Specifically, the Department should validate its geospatial data assets to ensure that only the listings of datasets meeting the Department's geospatial data criteria are uploaded to the GeoPlatform, and that those datasets are publicly accessible and contain functional links to the underlying data. Further, the Department should ensure all datasets have metadata created in accordance with FGDC standards. We make three recommendations in this report to assist the Department in ensuring that their geospatial information assets are appropriately and efficiently shared and useable across federal, state, and local entities, as well as by the public, in compliance with the GDA.

DOJ Comments: As noted in the Office of the Inspector General draft report, the Department has made progress in implementing the provisions of the Geospatial Data Act, as well as provided evidence supporting our effort to satisfy the statute's provisions. We appreciate the efforts of the Audit Team and agree continued action to build on our progress will see the Department achieve further success in implementing these statutory provisions.

Recommendation 1. Ensure that only listings of datasets meeting the Department's definition of geospatial data are uploaded to the GeoPlatform by implementing procedures to validate datasets prior to publication.

DOJ Response: The Department agrees with the recommendation and is in the process of updating its Standard Operating Procedure to ensure data assets labeled as geospatial include the necessary attributes of DOJ's definition of geospatial data before they are ingested to data.gov and GeoPlatform. The Department aims to complete this effort by the end of Q1 FY2027.

Recommendation 2. Implement controls to ensure GeoPlatform datasets are publicly-accessible, contain functional links, and provide direct access to downloadable data where appropriate

DOJ Response: The Department agrees with the recommendation and is in the process of updating its Standard Operating Procedure to ensure geospatial data assets are publicly accessible on GeoPlatform, contain functional links, and provide direct access to downloadable data where appropriate data before they are ingested to data.gov and GeoPlatform. The Department aims to complete this effort by the end of Q1 FY2027.

Recommendation 3. Implement controls that ensure GeoPlatform datasets contain metadata that comply with the applicable FGDC endorsed metadata standards.

DOJ Response: The Department agrees with the recommendation and is in the process of updating its Standard Operating Procedure to ensure geospatial data assets contain metadata that comply with the applicable FGDC endorsed metadata standards. The Department aims to complete this effort by the end of Q1 FY2027.

Sincerely,

SHANTRELL COLLIER

Digitally signed by SHANTRELL COLLIER
Date: 2026.09.22 09:19:29 -04'00'

Dr. Shantrell N. Collier
Chief Information Officer
U.S. Department of Justice
Justice Management Division

APPENDIX 5: Office of the Inspector General Analysis and Summary of Actions Necessary to Close the Audit Report

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) provided a draft of this audit report to the Justice Management Division (JMD). JMD's response is incorporated in Appendix 4 of this final report. In its response to our audit report, JMD agreed with our recommendations and stated the corrective actions it would take to strengthen its compliance with the Geospatial Data Act of 2018. As a result, the audit report is resolved. The following provides the OIG analysis of the response and summary of additional actions necessary to close the report.

Recommendations for JMD:

1. **Ensure that only listings of datasets meeting the Department's definition of geospatial data are uploaded to the GeoPlatform by implementing procedures to validate datasets prior to publication.**

   Resolved. JMD agreed with our recommendation and stated it is in process of updating its Standard Operating Procedures to ensure data assets labeled as geospatial include necessary attributes of DOJ's definition of geospatial data before they are ingested to data.gov and the GeoPlatform.

   This recommendation is resolved and can be closed when we receive documentation demonstrating that JMD has implemented policy or other controls to ensure that only listings of datasets meeting the Department's definition of geospatial data are uploaded to the GeoPlatform by implementing procedures to validate datasets prior to publication.

2. **Implement controls to ensure GeoPlatform datasets are publicly accessible, contain functional links, and provide direct access to downloadable data where appropriate.**

   Resolved. JMD agreed with the recommendation and stated it is in the process of updating its Standard Operating Procedure to ensure geospatial data assets are publicly accessible on GeoPlatform, contain functional links, and provide direct access to downloadable data before they are ingested to data.gov and GeoPlatform, where appropriate.

   This recommendation is resolved and can be closed when we receive documentation demonstrating that JMD has implemented controls to ensure GeoPlatform datasets are publicly accessible, contain functional links, and provide direct access to downloadable data where appropriate.

3. **Implement controls that ensure GeoPlatform datasets contain metadata that comply with the applicable FGDC-endorsed metadata standards.**

   Resolved. JMD agreed with the recommendation and stated it is in the process of updating its Standard Operating Procedure to ensure geospatial data assets contain metadata that comply with the applicable FGDC-endorsed metadata standards.

   This recommendation is resolved and can be closed when we receive documentation demonstrating that JMD has implemented controls that ensure GeoPlatform datasets contain metadata that comply with the applicable FGDC-endorsed metadata standards.