



## Office of the Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

April 9, 2019

### MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF DEPARTMENT COMPONENTS AND UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

FROM: THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W.P. Barr".

SUBJECT: Lifting the Hiring Freeze

A freeze on Departmental hiring, with exceptions for certain law enforcement and national security positions, has been in place since January 23, 2017. The freeze on hiring was designed to keep the Department operating effectively within constrained funding levels and to allow leadership to redirect resources, while ensuring that the Department could continue to successfully carry out its primary national security and public safety responsibilities without disruption.

I am pleased to announce that, effective immediately, the Department will lift the hiring freeze that has been in place for just over two years. The Justice Management Division (JMD) has briefed me on current staffing and vacancy levels, and now that we have the recently enacted Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 budget, this is the appropriate time to lift the freeze. I want to ensure that we continue to fill our vacant agent and prosecutor positions, and that we fill critical support positions that are integral to our operations. It is also a priority for me to build up our correctional staffing. However, as we resume hiring in each of your components, I want to emphasize that all components must adhere strictly to their budgets and to approved staffing levels. Furthermore, it is important that you manage your budgets to maintain our flexibility to meet emerging needs and to focus resources on our priorities.

I have asked JMD to monitor staffing levels and spending through the established Quarterly Financial Review process. I want to continue our fiscal vigilance while protecting our mission-critical operations on behalf of the public. To this end, JMD will keep me apprised of the Department's efforts to keep hiring within budget and consistent with authorized staffing levels.

I am grateful for your support in ensuring that we can fulfill our responsibilities to the American people. Thank you for your continued hard work and leadership.