The interior ministry confessed the loss in an answer to a parliamentary question submitted by the Free Democrats (FDP), according to newsmagazine Der Spiegel.

The 332 files were considered top secret, but have been lost over the last ten years, with no clue as to where they have ended up. They were of 'considerable significance,' the Interior Ministry has admitted.

It was also revealed that nearly 3,200 secret files have been destroyed in this legislature period alone – rather than stored in the federal archive.

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