



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the Inspector General

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December 15, 2017

Anne L. Weismann  
Chief FOIA Counsel  
Crew | Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington  
[aweismann@citizensforethics.org](mailto:aweismann@citizensforethics.org)

Subject: Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Request [18-OIG-069]

Dear Ms. Weismann:

This is a partial response to your request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) for access to records maintained by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). Specifically, your request seeks “all communications concerning the decision to invite reporters to DOJ on December 12, 2017, for the purpose of sharing with them private text messages sent during the 2016 presidential campaign by two former FBI investigators on Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s team.” We have located one document that is responsive to your request. It has been determined that this document is appropriate for release without excision and a copy is enclosed.

We will continue to review records responsive to your request and process your request as expeditiously as possible.

If you are not satisfied with my response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal by creating an account on the following web site: <https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within 90 days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked “Freedom of Information Act Appeal.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV 2010). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

You may contact our FOIA Public Liaison, Deborah Waller at (202) 616-0646 for any further assistance of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at (202) 741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448.

Sincerely,

*Jeanetta M. Howard*

Jeanetta M. Howard  
Government Information Specialist  
Office of the General Counsel

Enclosure



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the Inspector General

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December 15, 2017

The Honorable Jarrold Nadler  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2109 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jamie Raskin  
Vice Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
431 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1607 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Nadler, Vice Ranking Member Raskin, and Congressman Jeffries:

Thank you for your letter dated December 14, 2017, requesting information regarding whether the Department of Justice (the Department) consulted with the Office of Inspector General (OIG) before sharing text messages between FBI employees Peter Strzok and Lisa Page with Congress and the media. Our responses to the questions presented in your letter are set forth below.

1. A spokeswoman for the Department suggested that "career Justice officials evaluated the messages...to be sure that they could be released 'under both ethical and legal standards.'" Did the Department consult with your office prior to producing these text messages to Congress?

At a hearing on November 15, 2017, before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I testified that the OIG had no objection to the Department providing to Congress pre-existing Department records in its custody in response to a Congressional oversight request. I noted that the Department would need to determine whether there were any restrictions, such as those affecting grand jury information, that limited its ability to produce certain

records to Congress. I conveyed this position to the Department as well. The Department did not consult with the OIG in order to determine whether releasing the text messages met applicable ethical and legal standards before providing them to Congress.

2. Did the Department consult with your office prior to sharing these text messages with the press?

The Department did not consult with the OIG before sharing the text messages with the press.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Greg Sabina, my Advisor for Legislative Affairs, at (202) 514-3435.

Sincerely,



Michael E. Horowitz  
Inspector General

cc: The Honorable Robert Goodlatte  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Trey Gowdy  
Chairman, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

The Honorable Elijah Cummings  
Ranking Member, House Committee on Oversight and  
Government Reform

The Honorable John Culberson  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related  
Agencies, House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Jose Serrano  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and  
Related Agencies, House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on the Judiciary

**The Honorable Ron Johnson  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and  
Governmental Affairs**

**The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and  
Governmental Affairs**

**The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related  
Agencies, Senate Committee on Appropriations**

**The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and  
Related Agencies, Senate Committee on Appropriations**

**The Honorable Rod J. Rosenstein  
Deputy Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice**