



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