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January 25, 2018

The Honorable Ron Johnson  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security  
and Governmental Affairs  
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Johnson and Grassley:

Thank you for your letter dated January 23, 2018, in which you requested information regarding the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) preservation of text messages for FBI employees Lisa Page and Peter Strzok. You requested a response by January 29, 2018.


I understand that in its letter to you dated January 19, 2018, the Department of Justice (Department) reported that the FBI's technical system for retaining text messages sent from or to FBI-issued mobile devices failed to capture text messages between Ms. Page and Mr. Strzok during the period from December 14, 2016, to May 17, 2017. The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) had similarly been advised by the FBI that this failure prevented the FBI from producing to the OIG text messages between Ms. Page and Mr. Strzok during the period from December 14, 2016, to May 17, 2017.

The OIG has been investigating this matter and, this week, succeeded in using forensic tools to recover text messages from FBI devices, including text messages between Mr. Strzok and Ms. Page that were sent or received between December 14, 2016, and May 17, 2017. Our effort to recover any additional text messages is ongoing. We will provide copies of the text messages that we recover from these devices to the Department so that the Department's leadership can take any management action it deems appropriate. Proceeding in this manner is consistent with the OIG's process for handling Department information. As I have noted with respect to other Department information produced to the OIG

by the Department as part of our review, I would have no objection to the Department providing its own records to your Committees in response to a Congressional oversight request should Department leadership deem it appropriate to do so, and consistent with applicable law and Department policy.

I hope this information is helpful to the Committees and that it serves to clarify my letter to you dated December 13, 2017. Consistent with the OIG's practice, I look forward to providing the Department, Congress, and the public with a report detailing our findings, which will be responsive to additional questions in your letter, as soon as our work has been completed. We also would be pleased to discuss with your Committees whether the OIG has the necessary authorities, resources, and capabilities to obtain this type of evidentiary information.

Sincerely,



Michael E. Horowitz  
Inspector General

cc: The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security and  
Governmental Affairs

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary

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

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

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary

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

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

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

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

The Honorable Rod J. Rosenstein  
Deputy Attorney General

The Honorable Christopher A. Wray  
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation