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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 27, 2018

The Honorable Kirstjen Nielsen
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Nielsen:

We write regarding a recent news article detailing serious allegations against a senior career Department employee. We respectfully request your assistance with this matter.

On March 8, *the Washington Post* reported that an intelligence operations specialist at the Department, Lawrence Curran, was sentenced to 12 months in jail for misdemeanor assault against his then-spouse.¹ Mr. Curran stated on social media “that he oversaw the secretary’s morning ‘operations and intelligence brief’ while vetting, coordinating, screening, and assessing a ‘high volume’ of classified information.”² Mr. Curran directed media inquiries to the Department, leading to an inference that he remains a Department employee.³

This information raises concerns about Mr. Curran’s suitability for employment with the Department, his eligibility for holding a security clearance, and the Department’s knowledge about Mr. Curran’s arrest and further allegations of domestic violence. To better understand the Department’s handling of Mr. Curran’s arrest and the Department’s policies and procedures for such incidents, I request that you provide the following information:

1. Please provide regarding Mr. Curran:
 - a. His office, job title(s), security clearance status, and duties, including any briefing responsibilities since 2015 to the present;
 - b. His employment, pay, and leave status while serving jail time for his July 2016 arrest;
 - c. The date and manner by which the Department first learned of his July 2016 arrest and any disciplinary actions taken or change to his security clearance status made by the Department in response;

¹ Elise Viebeck, DHS official jailed over domestic violence case says he handles “high volume” of classified information, WASH. POST (Mar. 8, 2018), *available at* https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/dhs-official-jailed-over-domestic-violence-case-says-he-handles-high-volume-of-classified-information/2018/03/07/a0171e34-2221-11e8-86f6-54bfff693d2b_story.html?utm_term=.de11bea42880.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

2. For the Department, please provide:
 - a. The table of penalties and all related policies for disciplinary action against employees arrested, charged, or convicted for felony criminal violations, including domestic violence-related offenses, or issued a restraining order;
 - b. The policies, procedures, and office responsible for determining eligibility for access to classified information for new and current employees arrested, charged, or convicted for felony criminal violations, including domestic violence-related offenses, or issued a restraining order; and
 - c. An explanation of any statutes, regulations, or policies that impede the Department's ability to discipline or revoke security clearances of employees based on an arrest, indictment, or conviction for a felony criminal violation, including domestic violence-related offenses, or for the issuance of a restraining order.

3. Since fiscal year 2016, please provide:
 - a. The number of Department employees subject to an arrest, indictment, or conviction for a felony criminal violation, any domestic violence-related offenses, or an issuance of a restraining order, and any disciplinary action taken by the Department as a result; and
 - b. The number of those employees who had access to classified information;
 - c. The number of Department employees for whom access to classified information was denied, revoked, or reconsidered as a result of an arrest, indictment, or conviction for a felony criminal violation, including domestic violence-related offenses, or an issuance of a restraining order.

We request that you provide this information as soon as possible, but no later than April 10, 2018. If you have any questions regarding this request, please ask your staff to contact Courtney Allen with the majority staff at courtney_allen@hsgac.senate.gov and Jackson Eaton with the minority staff at jackson_eaton@hsgac.senate.gov. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Ron Johnson
Chairman


Claire McCaskill
Ranking Member

The Honorable Kirstjen Nielsen
March 27, 2018
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Enclosure