

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 19, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Robert P. Storch
Inspector General
National Security Agency

Ms. Christine Ruppert
Acting Deputy Inspector General and Counsel
Office of the Inspector General
Central Intelligence Agency

Dear Inspector General Storch and Ms. Ruppert:

On May 6, 2019, we wrote to the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community (IC IG) about potential leaks of sensitive information by other agencies or entities to the media during the course of the FBI's Russia investigation.¹ The IC IG refused to confirm the existence of any investigation or referral to another entity, even though it has done so in the past, most notably when it informed Congress and the public of an 811(c) referral that started the Clinton investigation.² Due to the IC IG's lack of transparency about this recent matter, we write to you about our concerns about alleged leaks within the IC.

In our letter to the IC IG, we highlighted text messages between Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) employees Peter Strzok and Lisa Page discussing the FBI's apparent awareness of leaks. In a December 2016 text message, Mr. Strzok told Ms. Page:

Think our sisters have begun leaking like mad. Scorned and worried
and political, they're kicking in to overdrive.³

¹ Letter from Ron Johnson, S. Comm. on Homeland Security & Gov. Affairs, & Charles E. Grassley, S. Comm. on Finance, to Michael K. Atkinson, Inspector Gen. of the Intelligence Cmty. (May 6, 2019).

² Letter from Michael K. Atkinson, Inspector Gen. of the Intelligence Cmty., to Ron Johnson, S. Comm. on Homeland Security & Gov. Affairs, & Charles E. Grassley, S. Comm. on Finance (Jun. 4, 2019); Statement, Inspectors Gen. of the Intelligence Cmty. and the Dept. of State, Regarding the Review of Former Secretary Clinton's Emails (July 24, 2015) *available at* https://www.stateoig.gov/system/files/statement_of_the_icig_and_oig_regarding_review_of_clintons_emails_july_24_2015_0.pdf.

³ Text message from Peter Strzok, Fed. Bureau of Investigation, to Lisa Page, Fed. Bureau of Investigation (Dec. 15, 2016). Zeke J. Miller, "Officials: Classified Emails 'Should Never' Have Been on Hillary Clinton Server," TIME (July 24, 2015); *see also*, *Statement from the Inspectors General of the Intelligence Community and the Department of State Regarding the Review of Former Secretary Clinton's Emails*, I. Charles McCullough, III, Inspector Gen. of the Intelligence Cmty. and Steve Linick, Inspector Gen. of the Dep. of State, (July 24, 2015), *available at* https://www.stateoig.gov/system/files/statement_of_the_icig_and_oig_regarding_review_of_clintons_emails_july_24_2015_0.pdf; *see also* Letter from I. Charles McCullough, III, Inspector Gen. of the Intelligence Cmty., to Randall Coleman, Assistant Director, Counterintelligence Div., Fed. Bureau of Investigation (July 6, 2015).

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Then in April 2017, Strzok e-mailed FBI colleagues and once again discussed leaks by others to the press. Specifically, with regard to the publication of an article in *The Guardian* titled “British spies were first to spot Trump team’s links with Russia,” Strzok said:


I’m beginning to think the agency got info a lot earlier than we thought and hasn’t shared it completely with us. Might explain all these weird/seemingly incorrect leads all these media folks have. Would also highlight agency as source of some of the leaks.⁴


These texts and emails raise a number of serious questions and concerns. For example, who are the “sisters” and what does it mean to say that the “sisters have [been] leaking like mad”? What are they worried about, and what are they kicking into “overdrive”? Which “agency” is he referring to, and why does Strzok believe the referenced news article highlights that “agency as [a] source of some of the leaks”?

Accordingly, has your office initiated an investigation into these apparent leaks? Further, has your office coordinated with the IC IG about these issues? If not, please explain why not.

Should you have any questions, please contact Brian Downey of Chairman Johnson’s staff at (202) 224-4751, or Joshua Flynn-Brown of Chairman Grassley’s staff at (202) 224-4515.

Sincerely,


Ron Johnson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs


Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on Finance

⁴ E-mail from Peter Strzok, Fed. Bureau of Investigation, FBI_HJC_03_22_18_Req7_000376, 377 (Apr. 13, 2017).