



**U.S. Department of Justice**

Office of Legislative Affairs

---

*Office of the Assistant Attorney General*

*Washington, D.C. 20530*

November 13, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This responds to your letter to Deputy Attorney General Sally Quillian Yates, dated October 19, 2015, requesting the status of the Department of Justice's (Department) ongoing reviews to address the problems identified in the Office of the Inspector General March 2015 report entitled, "The Handling of Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Allegations by the Department's Law Enforcement Components" (OIG report).

As we have stated previously, the Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General share your concerns about the conduct detailed in the OIG report and, in some cases, the apparent inadequacy of the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) response to that conduct. The serious allegations and conduct outlined in the OIG report are reprehensible and inappropriate for any Department employee. The investigations that DEA conducted were lacking and the discipline imposed was insufficient.

As you are aware, following issuance of the OIG report, former Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr., directed two reviews. First, that the matter be referred to the Department of Justice Security Officer to conduct a review of DEA's policies and procedures for coordinating personnel security matters, with a focus on information sharing coordination between DEA's Office of Professional Responsibility (DEA OPR) and DEA's Office of Security Programs. This directive also included a review of the handling of misconduct allegations that may impact security clearance eligibility for relevant employees. The Department Security Officer recently completed this review and we are enclosing with this letter a copy of the final report, entitled "Review of DEA Policies and Procedures for Coordinating Personnel Security Matters."

Second, the former Attorney General directed the head of the Department's Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) to undertake a comprehensive review of DEA's processes and procedures for investigating allegations of misconduct, as well as for determining and effectuating disciplinary action where appropriate. The OPR review is ongoing and we expect it to be completed by the end of 2015.

It is important to note that during the pendency of the above noted Department reviews, DEA has taken several steps to address the OIG report's findings and recommendations. Some examples of these changes and improvements include: establishing routine case review meetings between DEA OPR and the Office of Security Programs regarding employees' eligibility to hold and maintain security clearances; filling vacant positions within the Office of Security Programs and DEA OPR; prioritizing and expediting the investigation of serious allegations; enhancing liaison with OIG; and improving DEA's favorable personnel action approval process to ensure prior disciplinary actions are taken into consideration for any promotion, award, or reassignment. DEA also established a third Deciding Official position and is working to shorten the overall timeline for completing disciplinary reviews and adjudications where feasible. In addition, DEA amended its Table of Offenses to conform to other Department components. Notably, DEA added a specific offense in its Personnel Manual for soliciting or engaging in prostitution and the penalty for a first offense is now removal.

The Department is committed to the highest standards of conduct for all of its employees, and we will continue to take all steps necessary to examine and remedy the issues raised in the OIG report. We look forward to working with you and your staff as we continue to assess and resolve these critical issues. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Kadzik  
Assistant Attorney General

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Ranking Member