



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

---

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

**MAY 26 2017**

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This responds to your letter dated February 23, 2017, which requested copies of all of Acting Attorney General Sally Quillian Yates's email, correspondence, and call and meeting records for an 11-day period, from January 20, 2017 through January 31, 2017. We apologize for our delay in responding to your letter.

Based upon the nature of the Attorney General's position as head of the Department of Justice (the Department) and a Member of the President's Cabinet, these records would implicate important Executive Branch confidentiality interests, including deliberations about the many sensitive law enforcement, national security, and policy matters that require an Attorney General's attention. Our disclosure of such records would substantially inhibit the robust exchange of views and advice that we believe is essential to sound decision-making at the Department and in the Executive Branch. Complying with this request would also raise substantial separation of powers concerns and set an unacceptable precedent that when Members of Congress question an Attorney General's intent or motivation for a decision, a congressional committee may review the Attorney General's email and other records of her activities during the relevant time period. Under these circumstances, we are not prepared to disclose the requested records.

We hope that this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samuel R. Ramer".

Samuel R. Ramer  
Acting Assistant Attorney General

cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member