



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535-0001

May 2, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am responding to your January 25, 2018 letter and several requests therein.

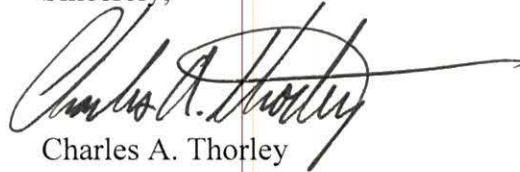
With respect to your questions regarding the FBI's consideration of the appointment of a special counsel for the investigation related to former Secretary Clinton's private email server, and the recusal of former Deputy Director Andrew McCabe, the FBI expects that the forthcoming report by the Department of Justice's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) will address these issues. Given that individuals previously employed by the FBI – including former Director Comey, former Deputy Director McCabe, and former Assistant Director of the Office of Integrity and Compliance Patrick Kelly – are the persons most knowledgeable about these issues, the FBI defers to those individuals and the OIG's forthcoming report.

In response to your requests related to text messages between Ms. Page and Mr. Strzok, as well as communications that may have occurred via their personal email accounts, the FBI provides the following information. Any communications described in your questions 6 and 7, if collected and retained, have been or will be produced as part of the ongoing production of documents in response to your previous request. Additionally, as explained in the OIG's January 25, 2018, letter, the OIG has apparently succeeded in using forensic tools to recover some number of text messages from FBI devices, including text messages between Mr. Strzok and Ms. Page sent and/or received between December 14, 2016 and May 17, 2017. Please note that FBI employees are required to adhere to record keeping policies in place where communications constitute records under the Federal Records Act (FRA), irrespective of transmission medium; however, the FBI is not otherwise obligated to collect and/or retain all communications between its employees. Thus, the FBI has not requested from Ms. Page or Mr. Strzok any information from their personal email accounts, nor has the FBI conducted searches of non-FBI-issued communications devices or non-FBI email accounts associated with Mr. Strzok or Ms. Page.

Honorable Charles E. Grassley

Thank you for your continued support of the FBI, its mission, and its people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles A. Thorley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Charles A. Thorley
Acting Assistant Director
Office of Congressional Affairs

1 - Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510