



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

**NOV 30 2018**

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Please find enclosed responses to questions arising from the appearance of then-Director James B. Comey before the Committee on May 3, 2017, at a hearing entitled "Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation."

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may be of additional assistance regarding this or any other matter. The Office of Management and Budget has advised us that from the perspective of the Administration's program, there is no objection to submission of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Prim Escalona".

Prim F. Escalona  
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member

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**(U) RESPONSES OF  
THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**TO QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD  
ARISING FROM A HEARING  
BEFORE THE  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
UNITED STATES SENATE**

**ENTITLED  
“OVERSIGHT OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION”**

**(U) MAY 3, 2017**

**(U) Questions from Senator Grassley:**

**(U) FBI’s Reported Arrangement with Christopher Steele**

(U) On February 28, 2017, the *Washington Post* reported that the FBI reached an agreement a few weeks before the Presidential election to pay the author of the unsubstantiated dossier alleging a conspiracy between President Trump and the Russians, Christopher Steele, to continue investigating Mr. Trump.<sup>1</sup> The article claimed that the FBI was aware Mr. Steele was creating these memos as part of work for an opposition research firm connected to Hillary Clinton. The idea that the FBI and associates of the Clinton campaign would pay Mr. Steele to investigate the Republican nominee for President in the run-up to the election raises further questions about the FBI’s independence from politics, as well as the Obama administration’s use of law enforcement and intelligence agencies for political ends. It is additionally troubling that the FBI reportedly agreed to such an arrangement given that, in January of 2017, then-Director Clapper issued a statement stating that “the IC has not made any judgment that the information in this document is reliable, and we did not rely upon it in any way for our conclusions.” According to the *Washington Post*, the FBI’s arrangement with Mr. Steele fell through when the media published his dossier and revealed his identity.

1. When did the FBI first communicate with Mr. Steele regarding allegations of connections between the Trump campaign and Russia? Who interacted with Mr. Steele, what was discussed, and how or where did the meeting occur? Was information received from [sic] Mr. Steele part of the basis for opening the investigation into allegations of the Trump campaign’s connections with Russia?
2. When did all subsequent FBI interactions with Mr. Steele occur regarding allegations of connections between the Trump campaign and Russia? Who interacted with Mr. Steele

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(U) <sup>1</sup>Tom Hamburger and Rosalind Helderman, *FBI Once Planned to Pay Former British Spy Who Authored Controversial Trump Dossier*, THE WASHINGTON POST (Feb. 28, 2017).

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