



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C. 20535-0001

APR 13 2018

Honorable Trey Gowdy
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Your letter dated February 14, 2018, to Director Christopher A. Wray, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), regarding your concerns about White House interim security clearances, was forwarded to me for a response.

The FBI is the Investigative Service Provider responsible for conducting thorough and comprehensive background investigations on behalf of the President, President-Elect and respective designees. These clients submit requests for background investigations for any newly assigned individuals to the transition team, other national security positions, and proposed cabinet level officials. As an Investigative Service Provider, the FBI provides the results of the background investigation to the respective client. The FBI does not grant, deny, or otherwise adjudicate security clearances for these individuals; nor does it make any security clearance recommendations. The background investigation is utilized in the respective agency's security clearance adjudication.

The procedures for granting an interim security clearance are outlined under section 3.3 of Executive Order 12968. The FBI is not involved in the issuance of interim security clearances for White House personnel. The FBI would respectfully refer you to the Executive Office of the President (EOP) regarding its processes pertaining to personnel holding interim security clearances at the White House.

As the Investigative Service Provider, the FBI completed a security clearance background investigation of former White House staff secretary Robert Porter. Outside of completing the background investigation, the FBI did not play any role in Mr. Porter's interim or final security clearance adjudication(s).

Honorable Trey Gowdy

Regarding your request for dates pertaining to Mr. Porter's background investigation, the following information is provided. On March 3, 2017, the FBI provided a partial report of investigation addressed to the Counsel to the President, Donald F. McGahn, which contained derogatory information. On July 21, 2017, the FBI submitted a completed background investigation addressed to the EOP Personnel Security Division. On August 17, 2017, the FBI received a request from the EOP Personnel Security Operations, requesting additional information, to include but not limited to, re-interviews of Mr. Porter, his ex-wives, and his girlfriend at the time. On November 1, 2017, the FBI submitted a completed investigative report addressed to the EOP Personnel Security Division, which contained additional derogatory information. On January 3, 2017, the FBI's investigative file was administratively closed. Following its closing of the background investigation, the FBI received additional information, which was provided in a memorandum addressed to the EOP Personnel Security Operations on February 7, 2018.

As the FBI did not adjudicate Mr. Porter's security clearance, we would respectfully refer you to the EOP regarding the security clearance adjudication dates for Mr. Porter.

Please know the FBI shares your commitment to protecting our national security. As always, thank you for your continuing support of the FBI and its mission.

Sincerely,



Gerald Roberts, Jr.
Assistant Director
Security Division

1 - Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515