

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074

MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<http://oversight.house.gov>

February 14, 2018

The Honorable John F. Kelly
Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Gen. Kelly:

Yesterday, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Christopher Wray testified the FBI completed its security clearance background investigation of former White House staff secretary Rob Porter last year.¹ This statement may contradict a statement by White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders on Monday in which she said the White House “learned the extent of the situation involving Rob Porter last Tuesday evening [February 6, 2018]” and at the time it “was ongoing, hadn’t been completed.”²

The Committee is investigating the policies and processes by which interim security clearances are investigated and adjudicated within the Executive Branch, and the extent to which any security clearance issued to Porter comported with those policies and processes. In particular, the Committee seeks to better understand the criteria and the scope of an investigation for determining whether to issue an interim security clearance generally; what information was available to the adjudicator of Porter’s interim clearance at the time it was adjudicated; who adjudicated his clearance; and what derogatory information was subsequently made available to the White House on Porter, when, and to whom.

To assist the Committee’s oversight of this matter, please provide information sufficient to show:

1. Policies, practices, and procedures relating to the investigation and issuance of interim security clearances, including interim clearances for White House personnel;
2. Whether the adjudications of Porter’s interim and final clearance were consistent with the policies, practices, and procedures identified in item (1);

¹ *Worldwide Threats: Hearing before the S. Select Comm. on Intelligence*, 115th Cong. (Feb. 13, 2018).

² Press Briefing by Sarah Sanders, Press Secretary, February 12, 2018, *available at* <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/press-briefing-by-press-secretary-sarah-sanders-021218/>.

The Honorable John F. Kelly

February 14, 2018

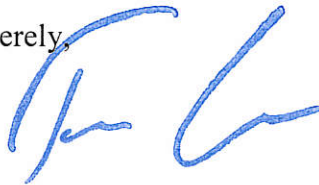
Page 2

3. The date on which any White House employee became aware of potential derogatory or disqualifying information on Porter from the date of his appointment to February 12, 2018, and which individual was so notified; and
4. The security clearance adjudication dates for Porter, including both interim and final clearance.

Provide the requested information as soon as possible, but no later than February 28, 2018. Under Rule X, clause 1(n) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has jurisdiction over the federal civil service, management of government operations, and government records, which include classification of those records, security clearances, and personnel background investigations.

Please contact Steve Castor of the majority staff at (202) 225-5074 with any questions about this request. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Trey Gowdy

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings