

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>

November 20, 2018

The Honorable John F. Kelly
Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear General Kelly:

On September 25, 2017, the Committee requested documents and information from the White House related to compliance with federal recordkeeping laws, the use of private email accounts, and the use of text messaging and other phone-based applications and encryption software to conduct official business. In response to the request, the Counsel's office provided information in a bipartisan briefing on October 18, 2017.

During the briefing, the Counsel's office advised there was an ongoing review related to information requested by the Committee on September 25, and the review covered certain allegations of recordkeeping noncompliance. The Counsel's office committed to share the findings of the internal review with the Committee as soon as practicable.

Today, it was disclosed Assistant to the President Ivanka Trump used a personal email account to communicate about official White House business. According to a spokesman, Ms. Trump "sometimes used her personal account, almost always for logistics and scheduling concerning her family."¹ The spokesman also stated Ms. Trump turned over all her government-related emails months ago so they could be stored permanently with other White House records.²

Ms. Trump's use of a personal email account for official communications may implicate the Presidential Records Act and other security and recordkeeping requirements. In light of the importance and necessity of preserving the public record and doing so in a manner that is reflective of relevant statutory and regulatory requirements, the Committee must assess whether the White House took adequate steps to archive Ms. Trump's emails and prevent a recurrence. To assist the Committee, please provide the following documents and information:

¹ Carol Leonnig and Josh Dawsey, *Ivanka Trump used a personal email account to send hundreds of emails about government business last year*, WASH. POST, Nov. 20, 2018.

² *Id.*

1. Identify with specificity the number of emails to and from Ms. Trump's personal email account referring or relating to official business;
2. Certify whether and how each of those emails was preserved and archived in accordance with relevant recordkeeping statutes, including the Presidential Records Act;
3. Describe whether the emails in question contained sensitive or classified information; and
4. Provide documents sufficient to describe any regular updates and reminders to White House staff about prohibited use of private email.

Please provide a response to the above as soon as possible, but no later than December 5, 2018. Additionally, provide a briefing to update the Committee on the status of the internal review of the White House's recordkeeping practices, to include any interim findings related to Ms. Trump's use of a personal email account. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Steve Castor of my staff at (202) 225-5074.

Sincerely,



Trey Gowdy

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings

Mr. Abbe Lowell, Counsel to Ms. Trump