



Homeland
Security

October 3, 2014

The Honorable Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Senate Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman McCaskill:

Thank you for your July 21, 2014 letter to Secretary Johnson regarding U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' (USCIS's) award of a contract to US Investigations Services (USIS), Professional Services Division, Inc. The contract, number HSSCCG-14-C-00010, is for five years and will provide administrative support to 78 USCIS offices across the country. The administrative support is in the areas of correspondence management, file operations and maintenance, data reviews and updates, interview scheduling, certificate production, ceremony support, interview preparation, and file retirement.

USIS Professional Services Division, Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of USIS, LLC, which is the entity that was investigated by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and that is now under investigation by the Department of Justice for alleged background investigation improprieties.

While USCIS's contract with USIS Professional Services Division, Inc. does not involve background investigation services or immigrant vetting services, we have learned facts and taken actions since your July 21 letter that are material to the concerns you expressed in your letter:

First and foremost, we have confirmed that USIS, LLC suffered a network intrusion that targeted the hardware and systems it uses to process and store information, including personally identifiable information (PII). The breach allowed unauthorized users to access the PII of some Department of Homeland Security (DHS) applicants, employees, and others. The data breach affected USIS Professional Services Division, Inc.

In response, DHS (1) stopped work on contracts that involved USIS, LLC storage of PII, (2) issued a policy alert to the DHS acquisition workforce affirming that concurrence from the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer and the Office of the Chief Information Officer will be required prior to awarding new contracts to any USIS corporate entity, and (3) instituted remediation measures for the benefit of DHS employees (those remediation measures continue to be the subject of dialogue between DHS and USIS, LLC).

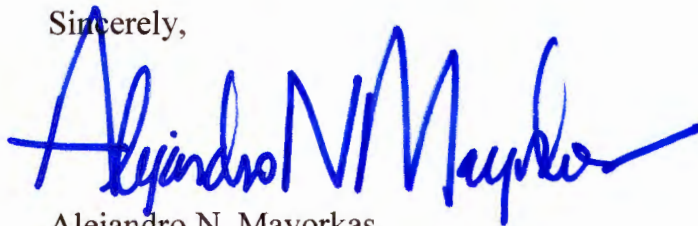
USCIS's award of its services contract to USIS Professional Services Division, Inc. was made on July 1, 2014. This contract award was protested and, therefore, performance under the contract has been halted until GAO issues an official protest decision, which is expected in December. In the meantime, please be assured that USCIS and all Components of DHS are being rigorous in their scrutiny of contracts with any companies affiliated with USIS, LLC, taking into consideration the Department's commitment to its employees and applicants, contracting best practices, operational needs, and legal obligations.

I know that DHS representatives are reaching out to your staff to provide you with relevant documents and a briefing. I am available to answer any questions or address any concerns you might have. I am available at (202) 282-8204.

I am transmitting to Chairman Carper a separate, identical response.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Alejandro N. Mayorkas