

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

June 15, 2017

CHRISTOPHER R. HIXON, STAFF DIRECTOR  
MARGARET E. DAUM, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

Kathleen McGettigan  
Acting Director  
United States Office of Personnel Management  
1900 E. St. NW  
Washington, DC 20415

Dear Acting Director McGettigan:

We are writing regarding the reported unauthorized disclosure of classified information by a National Security Agency (NSA) contractor and the federal government's process for the monitoring and reinvestigation of persons with security clearances.

On June 3, 2017, Reality Winner was arrested and accused of disclosing a classified NSA report to a media company.<sup>1</sup> The disclosed report detailed a Russian cyberattack on a supplier of U.S. voting software last year. Reports indicate that Ms. Winner served in the Air Force from 2010 to 2016, before being employed as a contractor for Pluribus International at an NSA facility in Augusta, Georgia.<sup>2</sup> In order to better understand the process by which the security clearances of military personnel are used for employment in the intelligence community and the impacts on continuous evaluation and reinvestigation, we request that you provide responses to the following questions on or before June 29, 2017:

1. Which agency conducted the initial clearance investigation and when did that occur? Was the investigation conducted by federal employees or contractors?
2. For what levels of clearance was Ms. Winner investigated?
3. Which agencies were responsible for Ms. Winner's security clearance adjudications during the entire duration of her active clearance? What were the results of those adjudications, including Seriousness Codes?

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<sup>1</sup> *What We Know About Reality Winner*, CNN Politics (June 7, 2017) ([www.cnn.com/2017/06/06/politics/reality-winner-who-is-accused-leaker/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2017/06/06/politics/reality-winner-who-is-accused-leaker/index.html)).

<sup>2</sup> *What We Know About Reality Winner, The Contractor Accused of Leaking an NSA Document*, Washington Post (June 6, 2017) ([www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2017/06/06/what-we-know-about-reality-winner-the-contractor-accused-of-leaking-an-nsa-document/?utm\\_term=.10692ed91fd3](http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2017/06/06/what-we-know-about-reality-winner-the-contractor-accused-of-leaking-an-nsa-document/?utm_term=.10692ed91fd3)).

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4. Please explain the process by which a member of the military has a clearance reactivated or transferred for the purpose of being employed in the intelligence community, and please explain whether there are any differences in the processes if the employment is as a federal employee or a contractor.
5. When was the last time Ms. Winner was reinvestigated as a part of holding an active security clearance? Did federal employees or contractors conduct the reinvestigation?
6. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 included a provision mandating a review of the effectiveness and fairness of the “Enhanced Security Clearance” program.<sup>3</sup> What is your agency doing to comply with this requirement?
7. What is the current backlog status of the security clearance reinvestigations for which you are the delegating agency? Of that number, how many are for military service members, civilian federal employees, and contractor employees? Additionally, please break out those numbers by intelligence community personnel.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please contact Melissa Egred with Chairman Johnson’s staff at (202) 224-4751 or Sarah Garcia with Ranking Member McCaskill’s Committee staff at (202) 224-2627 or Sarah\_Garcia@hsgac.senate.gov with any questions. Please send any official correspondence relating to this request to Melissa\_Egred@hsgac.senate.gov and Amanda\_Trosen@hsgac.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Ron Johnson  
Chairman



Claire McCaskill  
Ranking Member

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<sup>3</sup> Pub. L. No. 114-113 (2015).