



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

September 9, 2014

The Honorable Darrell Issa
Chairman
Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am responding to your August 8, 2014, letter to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regarding Inspectors General (IG). We appreciate your interest in the important role of IGs.

The IG community plays an integral role in enhancing transparency, financial stewardship, and accountability across the Federal Government. Through audits, investigations, evaluations, and inspections, the IG community provides critical analysis and oversight that strengthens program integrity, helps to eliminate waste, and holds our Federal projects and programs accountable to the public. In this era of fiscal constraints, the role of the IG is more important than ever in helping agency leadership identify and address management challenges and maximize the impact of our limited Federal resources.

As you are aware, IGs are required to report to Congress semi-annually about: (1) the audits, investigations, and inspections they have conducted; (2) the progress of their respective establishments in implementing recommendations to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse; and (3) any instances in which – in the IG's sole judgment – a Department or agency has unreasonably refused to provide access to information requested by an IG.¹ Overall the numbers reported by the IGs demonstrate that Federal Departments and Agencies in this Administration value the work of IG offices and are almost uniformly successful at getting them the information they need to perform their responsibilities.

In this Administration, IGs have been more productive than ever before – issuing more reports on audits, inspections, and evaluations each year since 2009 than in any of the three years prior to 2008.² Yet for all this increased activity, of the 337 semiannual reports submitted by the 31 Presidentially-appointed IGs during this Administration, just seven of those reports, include any complaints at all.

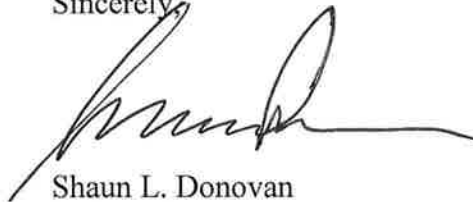
¹ 5 U.S.C. app. 3 §(5)(a)(5).

² Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, PROGRESS REPORTS TO THE PRESIDENT (Reports from 2000-2014) available at <https://www.ignet.gov/randp/arpt1.html>.

Although these numbers are informative, OMB shares your commitment to the mission and effectiveness of IGs and I agree there is more Federal Departments and Agencies can do to improve how they work with their respective IGs. OMB is currently working with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency to ensure that all agencies and their staffs are properly informed and trained on the requirements of the *Inspector General Act*, 5 U.S.C. app. 3 and other Federal statutes and rules approved by Congress concerning access and dissemination of information. OMB also will look for opportunities to raise this issue with appropriate agency officials.

I look forward to working with you, as well as other members of Congress, as we continue to implement the Inspector General Act. If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Tamara Fucile, Associate Director for Legislative Affairs, at 202-395-4790.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shaun L. Donovan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Shaun L. Donovan
Director

Identical Letter Sent to:

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
The Honorable Tom Coburn
The Honorable Darrell Issa
The Honorable Elijah Cummings