

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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May 18, 2018

The Honorable Trey Gowdy
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to request that you issue a subpoena to compel the White House to produce documents it has been withholding regarding a rejected application for access to Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI) for Robin Townley, who served as one of the closest deputies to former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn, as well as for documents related to his removal from White House employment.

On March 6, 2018, I wrote to the White House to request information about why the Central Intelligence Agency reportedly had rejected Mr. Townley's SCI application. I noted that the denial of Mr. Townley's SCI application was particularly puzzling given that he was a former Marine intelligence officer who reportedly held a Top Secret security clearance. I also requested documents relating to whether Mr. Townley had been given an interim clearance prior to the denial of his application—and whether he continues to hold a clearance today.¹

To date, the White House has not responded to my letter. Nevertheless, I have confirmed that Mr. Townley apparently continues to hold an active Top Secret clearance, raising additional questions about whether the White House follows proper procedures when it learns of potentially derogatory information about an employee.

In order to investigate the circumstances surrounding the denial of Mr. Townley's security clearance application, I ask that you issue a subpoena to compel the White House to produce the following information by June 1, 2018:

- (1) Mr. Townley's application for a SCI-level security clearance;

¹ Letter from Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to John Kelly, White House Chief of Staff (Mar. 6, 2018) (online at <https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2018-03-06.EEC%20to%20Kelly-WH%20re%20Townley%20SCI%20Application.pdf>).

- (2) all documents and communications referring or relating to Mr. Townley's security clearance application;
- (3) all documents and communications received from any other agency referring or relating to Mr. Townley's application for an SCI clearance or his suitability for such a clearance;
- (4) all documents and communications referring or relating to classified information that Mr. Townley accessed since December 2016;
- (5) all documents and communications referring or relating to any investigations or national security concerns pertaining to Mr. Townley; and
- (6) all documents or communications referring or relating to Mr. Townley's vetting, hiring, employment, and termination, as well as all personnel actions relating to Mr. Townley.

If you decide not to issue this subpoena, then I ask you to place this matter on the agenda for our next regularly scheduled business meeting so all Committee Members will have the opportunity to debate and vote on this motion.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member