



UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Washington, DC 20415

The Director

June 24, 2015

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Chaffetz:

I would like to address the confusion regarding the number of people affected by the two recent, related cyber incidents at the Office of Personnel Management.

First, it is my responsibility to provide as accurate information as I can to Congress, the public, and most importantly, the affected individuals. Second, because this information and its potential misuse concerns their lives, it is essential to identify the affected individuals as quickly as possible. Third, we face challenges in analyzing the data due to the form of the records and the way they are stored. As such, I have deployed a dedicated team to undertake this time-consuming analysis and instructed them to make sure their work is accurate and completed as quickly as possible. As much as I want to have all the answers today, I do not want to be in a position of providing you or the affected individuals with potentially inaccurate data.

With these considerations in mind, I want to clarify some of the reports that have appeared in the press. Some press accounts have suggested that the number of affected individuals has expanded from 4 million individuals to 18 million individuals. Other press accounts have asserted that 4 million individuals have been affected in the personnel file incident and 18 million individuals have been affected in the background investigation incident.

Therefore, I am providing the status as we know it today and reaffirming my commitment to providing more information as soon as we know it.

First, the two kinds of data I am addressing – personnel records and background investigations – were affected in two different systems in two recent incidents. Second, the number of individuals with data compromised from the personnel records incident is approximately 4.2 million, as we reported on June 4, 2015. This number has not changed, and we have notified these individuals. Third, as I have noted, we continue to analyze the background investigation

data as rapidly as possible to best understand what was compromised, and we are not at a point where we are able to provide a more definitive report on this issue.

That said, I want to address the figure of 18 million individuals that has been cited in the press. It is my understanding that the 18 million refers to a preliminary, unverified and approximate number of unique social security numbers in the background investigations data. It is not a number that I feel comfortable, at this time, represents the total number of affected individuals. The Social Security number portion of the analysis is still under active review, and we do not have a more definitive number. Also, there may be overlap between the individuals affected in the background investigation incident and the personnel file incident. Additionally, we are working deliberately to determine if individuals who have not had their Social Security numbers compromised, but may have other information exposed, should be considered individuals affected by this incident. For these reasons, I cannot yet provide a more definitive response on the number of individuals affected by the background investigations data intrusion, and it may well increase from these initial reports. My team is conducting this further analysis with all due speed and care, and again, I look forward to providing an accurate and complete response as soon as possible.

I look forward to addressing any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Katherine Archuleta  
Director