



Archivist of the
United States

August 16, 2022

The Honorable Michael R. Turner
Ranking Member
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
By Email

Dear Ranking Member Turner:

I write in response to your letter of August 9, 2022, in regard to the Department of Justice (DOJ) investigation involving Presidential records recovered from former President Trump's Mar-a-Lago property in Florida.

As a general matter, the Presidential Records Act (PRA) mandates that all Presidential records must be properly preserved by each Administration so that a complete set of Presidential records is transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) at the end of the Administration. As former Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero stated in a press statement on February 7, 2022, "NARA pursues the return of records whenever we learn that records have been improperly removed or have not been appropriately transferred to official accounts." The same statement also explained that, in mid-January 2022, "NARA arranged for the transport from the Trump Mar-a-Lago property in Florida to the National Archives of 15 boxes that contained Presidential records, following discussions with President Trump's representatives in 2021."

When NARA identified items marked as classified national security information within the 15 boxes, NARA referred this issue to the DOJ. Since that time, the DOJ has been exclusively responsible for all aspects of this investigation, and NARA has not been involved in the DOJ investigation or any searches that it has conducted. Accordingly, NARA is unable to provide a briefing or any documents in response to your letter, and we refer you to the DOJ. Please note, however, that NARA is preserving all records related to this matter.

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Sincerely,

Debra Steidel Wall

Debra Steidel Wall
Acting Archivist of the United States

cc: The Honorable Adam Schiff, Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence