



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney General dated February 23, 2022, regarding operations at the Federal Bureau of Prisons (Bureau). This is a partial response to address your concerns regarding recent reports at Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Dublin. A response providing additional information requested in your letter will be provided in a subsequent letter. We are sending an identical response to the other Senators who joined in your letter.

The Department of Justice (Department) takes allegations of staff misconduct seriously and appreciates the benefit of your views on this matter. Your letter references reports of misconduct at FCI Dublin; if true, these allegations of misconduct are abhorrent. The Bureau is taking a number of steps to assess and address these serious allegations.

First, the Director has appointed new leadership at FCI Dublin. Thahesha Jusino was appointed warden and began her tenure on February 28, 2022. Warden Jusino is focused intently on putting FCI Dublin on the right path by rebuilding a culture of trust and communication between inmates and staff, as well as the institution and the general public, and protecting those housed at FCI Dublin.

Second, the Bureau has referred the recent allegations of retaliation to the Department's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) for investigation. The Bureau will cooperate fully in any OIG investigation.

Third, the Bureau has launched a multidisciplinary Task Force to conduct an assessment, solicit feedback from staff and inmates, and serve in a supportive role to the institution's leadership, staff, and inmate population. This Task Force has already deployed to FCI Dublin for the week, starting on March 7, 2022, and is conducting a review to assess its operations; improve coordination among staff and communication between inmates and staff; identify root causes of operational disruptions; promote, where necessary, changes in existing processes to

facilitate the realization of the objectives; and enhance public confidence in the operation of the facility. Director Carvajal is taking a direct role in addressing concerns at this institution and has traveled to FCI Dublin with the Task Force to meet with the new warden and express directly to staff that she has his full support in implementing the changes necessary to protect those housed at FCI Dublin.

The Bureau is committed to operating safe, secure, and effective institutions. The Bureau prioritizes hiring qualified staff and training that staff to help ensure that they perform their duties consistent with the law and policy. If, despite the Bureau's efforts, a staff member fails to follow their conditions of employment, that staff member may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Bureau policy. *See* Program Statement 3420.11, Standards of Employee Conduct, *available at* https://www.bop.gov/policy/progstat/3420_011.pdf. Staff can not only be held accountable for failing to abide by policy, but also for failing to report violations of those policies or for retaliating against those who make such a report. Additionally, criminal misconduct by staff is reported to the appropriate authorities including, but not limited to, the OIG.

The Department has been—and will continue to be—clear that staff misconduct is unacceptable at any Bureau prison or office. As the Deputy Attorney General has stated with reference to allegations of misconduct at the Bureau: “[W]henver somebody abuses a position of trust and whenever that abuse of that position of trust particularly happens with somebody in their care... That is something that is unacceptable and...we are committed to doing everything we can to hold those people accountable.”

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

Peter S. Hyun
Acting Assistant Attorney General