



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

JUL 13 2021

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

The Honorable Ron Johnson
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley and Senator Johnson:

This responds to your letter, dated June 29, 2021, regarding the employment of Susan Hennessey by the Department of Justice (Department) and the investigation being conducted by Special Counsel John Durham.

With respect to the employment of Susan Hennessey by the Department, Ms. Hennessey is a Schedule C political appointee in the Office of the Assistant Attorney General within the National Security Division. She is an experienced attorney with extensive national security expertise and holds the position of Senior Counsel. Attorney General Garland and Departmental leadership share your commitment to ensuring the fairness, independence, and impartiality of the Department and its employees. As such, Department of Justice appointees receive ethics and professional responsibility training as appropriate for incoming attorneys, sign a pledge to “restore and maintain public trust in government,” and are subject to the Department’s scrupulous ethics and recusals process.

Special Counsel Durham has been conducting his investigation with his own staff. Pursuant to the special counsel regulations, Mr. Durham is not “subject to the day-to-day supervision of any official of the Department.” 28 C.F.R. § 600.7(b).

In addition, you have asked about the status of Special Counsel John Durham’s investigation and when it will be completed. Because the Special Counsel’s investigation is ongoing, we cannot comment on the investigation or when it will be completed.

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Finally, you have asked whether the Department agrees with section (f) of former Attorney General Barr's order dated October 19, 2020, which states:

"In addition to the confidential report required by 28 C.F.R. § 608.8(c), the Special Counsel, to the maximum extent possible and consistent with the law and policies and practices of the Department of Justice, shall submit to the Attorney General a final report, and such interim reports as he deems appropriate, in a form that will permit public dissemination."

The Department agrees with this statement.

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,



Joe Gaeta
Deputy Assistant Attorney General