

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 3, 2023

**VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION**

The Honorable Christopher Wray  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Dear Director Wray:

Members of Congress have a constitutional duty to conduct vigorous oversight, especially when there are credible reports of waste, fraud, and abuse in resources funded by the taxpayers. As I have often said, executive branch officials also have a duty to fully and completely respond to congressional oversight requests. On January 27, I wrote you a letter about allegations related to FBI's movement of its private jet.<sup>1</sup> On March 23, the FBI responded and failed to answer whistleblower reports that you requested movement of the Bureau's private jet to a closer airport to avoid spending time in traffic.<sup>2</sup> The response, written by Acting Assistant Director Christopher Dunham, failed to meaningfully respond to any of my information requests, including my request for the full cost of these transfers and the justification for what was reported to be at least 140 instances of the FBI's private jet being commandeered from regional airports closer to FBI headquarters.<sup>3</sup>

Most of the FBI's failed March 23 response was spent explaining that the "FBI Director is a 'required use' traveler," and so must travel on government aircraft. This is something I am fully aware of and never questioned in my letter. Moreover, the response framed the issue as a "request[] for information related to FBI policies governing travel aboard government aircraft." As I made clear in my January letter, however, the purpose of my inquiry was to obtain information related to these reported transfers, when you were not on board the jet, not FBI policies related to your travel aboard the aircraft. Where I asked for information on your travel and itineraries, this was aimed at determining whether the additional costs for these transfers were ever incurred to accommodate your personal and vacation travel, which would have taken place after the jet was transferred to a closer departure airport.

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Senator Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, to Christopher Wray, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation (January 27, 2023), on file with Committee staff.

<sup>2</sup> Letter from Christopher Dunham, Acting Assistant Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Office of Congressional Affairs, to Senator Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on the Budget (March 23, 2023), on file with committee staff.

<sup>3</sup> Brandon Drey, "FBI Director Christopher Wray Summons Bureau's Jet To D.C.-Area Airport To Dodge Traffic: Whistleblower" *The Daily Wire* (January 26, 2023), <https://www.dailywire.com/news/fbi-director-christopher-wray-summons-bureaus-jet-to-d-c-area-airport-to-dodge-traffic-whistleblower>.

What little responsive information the FBI's failed March 23 letter provided was incomplete and left all of my original questions unanswered. For example, the letter notes that you do not "dictate the movement of aircraft related to [your] travel," and that you "never 'summoned' government aircraft to fly to a closer location to avoid traffic." This leaves open the question of whether you simply requested these transfers, or someone else requested them for you, even if technically the sign-off for the decision rests with someone else.

To be sure, if there are legitimate security reasons necessitating these transfers, as the FBI's March 23 letter implies, that would be one thing. If they are for mere convenience, that is yet another. This is the reason I made the record requests in my January letter, and FBI's letter failed to make the case that legitimate security reasons necessitated the transfers. If there were security assessments conducted before these expensive transfers were made that deemed them necessary, there should be a record of those determinations. I therefore reiterate the information requests made in my January letter.

So that Congress may conduct thorough and independent oversight concerning these allegations of waste, fraud, and abuse, please respond to the following requests for information that the FBI failed to address as well as new questions no later than April 17, 2023:

1. What was the full cost to taxpayers per flight for moving the FBI's jet from storage to other area airports? Please provide a list of all such flights, with dates, airports, and times of departure and arrival; a passenger list and your itinerary, whether for official business or personal use, for the travel that warranted movement of the jet; and for each flight, itemized costs to the Bureau or any other government agency, including costs related to pilots, crew, fuel, ground personnel, leasing, and fees charged by both the regional storage airport and the transfer airports. For instances where you commandeered or requested the plane for personal travel, please also provide the total amount you reimbursed the government for each flight;
2. How long has this inter-airport transfer been the FBI's practice? If this practice is longstanding, has the Bureau sought closer storage facilities for the jet? If not, please provide an explanation. Please provide all records related to the FBI's efforts to secure more efficient and economical storage as well as all DOJ and FBI policies regarding movement of the jet;
3. Has anyone at the Bureau ever raised concerns about your use of the FBI's jet, including these transfers? Please provide all records, whether within the FBI or from outside parties, referencing any such concerns. In addition, please provide all records approving your use of the jet; and
4. Please provide records of any security assessments dated before the transfers in question that concluded transfers of the jet from the regional airport to closer airports was needed for your protection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Grassley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "C" and "G".

Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Budget

cc: The Honorable Michael E. Horowitz  
Inspector General  
Department of Justice