



**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
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**DHS Inspector General Releases Statement  
Supporting Inspectors General Access to Information**

Last week, the Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) issued a memorandum to the Deputy Attorney General concerning DOJ OIG's access to certain information. According to OLC, the Inspector General Act's language authorizing the IG to have "access to all records" does not apply to grand jury, wiretap, and credit information. Additionally, OLC's memorandum includes troubling language suggesting that other provisions of law may justify agencies withholding other information needed to conduct vigorous and independent oversight. DHS OIG fully supports DOJ Inspector General Michael Horowitz's recent statement in response to OLC's opinion.

"For an IG, independence is the coin of the realm. Unfortunately, the OLC opinion undermines IG independence and creates the conflict of putting the agency that is being overseen in the position of deciding whether the IG will have access to records needed to conduct oversight. This inherent conflict is not what Congress intended. While the DHS OIG has not had the systemic access issues that are faced by the DOJ OIG and other colleagues in the IG community, we will support legislative efforts ensuring that all OIGs will have independent access to all records."

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