

November 30, 2015

The Honorable Gregg Harper
Chairman
Joint Committee on Printing
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with 44 U.S.C. 3903 and the relevant provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, I am transmitting to Congress the Semiannual Report of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) covering the 6-month period of April 1 through September 30, 2015, along with the following information as required by law. This letter meets my statutory obligation to provide comments on the OIG's report and highlights management actions taken on the OIG's recommendations, which may relate to more than one reporting period.

General Comments. The OIG continues to provide valuable assistance to management in ensuring the integrity and efficiency of GPO programs and operations, safeguarding taxpayer investments in those programs, and investigating anyone allegedly abusing GPO programs. As in previous reports, the Management Challenges identified by the OIG correspond to the strategic direction that GPO is following.

Current and Prior Period Outstanding Recommendations. During the reporting period, the OIG issued 9 audit and other reports addressing different GPO programs and activities, and containing a total of 53 recommendations.

Most of the reports produced during this period address cybersecurity at the GPO, as this issue achieved prominence in the wake of successful cyberattacks on Federal agencies. The OIG performed penetration testing of GPO's Citrix remote access system, GPO's Contractor Connection Web application, the Ben's Guide Web application, the Federal Depository Library Program Government Web application, and GPO's online bookstore. Additionally, the OIG evaluated selected information technology and cybersecurity areas at the request of the Committee on House Administration. In some instances, the OIG revealed that penetration testing revealed vulnerabilities to outsider and insider attacks. Management agreed to implement all recommendations to improved GPO's cybersecurity postures.

The OIG also issued reports on GPO's Federal Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) Compliance and Webtrust Certification Authority. These reports carried the opinion of an independent evaluator that GPO's practices conform in all material respects to the applicable policies and standards criteria.

At the request of the Committee on House Administration, the OIG also examined GPO's budget practices for bills, resolutions, and amendments' miscellaneous publications; and miscellaneous publishing services, all of which product categories funded by reimbursement for the annual Congressional publishing appropriation. The report recommended that management review and if necessary revise applicable standard operation procedures and the budget justification process to better reflect current activities performed, including the clarification of references to page rates, page counts, the calculation of actual costs, and if feasible automate the manual process used for page counts. Management agreed with the recommendation. The report did not identify any instance in which GPO transferred funds other than incurred costs from the Congressional Publishing Appropriation.

During the reporting period GPO management closed out 10 recommendations. There are currently 57 open recommendations that GPO management continues working on implementing, including 18 recommendations on which corrective action has not been completed for over one year.

Among the recommendations closed out during the reporting period were 2 included in a prior period report concerning GPO's program for producing secure credentials other than passports. Under this program, GPO produces secure credentials requisitioned from us by other Federal agencies us in a government-to-government transaction to help protect our borders and for other security purposes. A unique feature of our service to Federal agencies is that all of our secure credential activities are overseen by our OIG, with whom GPO management works "closely...to maintain a long-standing record of excellence in delivering a world-class service to our Nation" (Michael A. Raponi, GPO IG, to the Honorable Darrell Issa, Chairman, House Government Oversight and Reform Committee, June 28, 2013). Oversight by the OIG of this program, which recently was the subject of a hearing before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, is open and transparent, and it helps GPO to strengthen and improve its processes to the benefit of our secure credentials users and taxpayers alike. GPO management is continuing to implement 5 open OIG recommendations concerning secure credentials that date from earlier this year.

During the reporting period, the OIG's investigative work resulted in \$21.8 million in cost-efficiencies, restitutions, fines, penalties, and funds put to better use. Of this amount, \$21.1 million in funds put to better use resulted from a review of the *Medicare and You 2015 Handbook* print procurement contract requirements, which recommended that paper specifications in contracts be clearly defined to enhance GPO's ability to recover costs and/or take appropriate disciplinary action where vendors do not comply with contract requirements. Management agreed to all recommendations resulting from this report.

Where GPO's print procurement program is concerned, the OIG also conducted investigations into collusive behavior by 2 Illinois companies, personally identifiable information not being safeguarded by a Pennsylvania company, and a contract violation by a Georgia company. The OIG recommended appropriate disciplinary actions.

Other investigative work concerning Program and Operational Integrity resulted in a referral of findings for corrective action for an employee who misappropriated GPO property for personal use. Investigative findings concerning threatened workplace violence by an employee were referred for corrective action and well as criminal prosecution, and the case is currently pending trial. Finally, a plea agreement reached in March 2015 resulted in a June 2015 sentencing of an employee by a U.S. District Judge to 2 years probation and pay restitution for making false statements to obtain Federal employees' compensation.

Statistical Tables. Statistical tables as required by law are enclosed.

I deeply appreciate the efforts of the OIG's audits and investigative staffs to ensure the integrity and efficiency of GPO programs and operations, safeguard taxpayer assets in those programs, and investigate and bring to justice those who abuse the public's trust.

If you need additional information with respect to this report, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Andrew M. Sherman, GPO's Chief of Staff, on 202-512-1100, or by e-mail at asherman@gpo.gov.

Sincerely,



DAVITA VANCE-COOKS
Director
U.S. Government Publishing Office

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Roy Blunt, Vice Chairman, JCP
The Honorable Candice Miller
The Honorable Rodney Davis
The Honorable Robert Brady
The Honorable Juan Vargas
The Honorable Pat Roberts
The Honorable John Boozman
The Honorable Charles Schumer, Ranking Member, JCP
The Honorable Tom Udall

ENCLOSURE I

**AUDIT REPORTS ISSUED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD WITH
QUESTIONED COSTS, FUNDS PUT TO BETTER USE, AND OTHER MONETARY
IMPACT**

<u>Report Number</u>	<u>Number of Recommendations</u>	<u>Questioned Costs (\$)</u>	<u>Funds Put to Better Use (\$)</u>	<u>Other Monetary Impact (\$)</u>
15-12	18	0	0	0
15-13	8	0	0	0
15-14	9	0	0	0
15-15	9	0	0	0
15-16	6	0	0	0
15-17	2	0	0	0
15-19	1	0	0	0
15-20	0	0	0	0
15-21	0	0	0	0

ENCLOSURE II

AUDIT REPORTS WITH RECOMMENDATIONS THAT FUNDS BE PUT TO BETTER USE, QUESTIONED COSTS, AND OTHER MONETARY IMPACT

	<u>Number of Reports</u>	<u>Funds Put to Better Use and Other Monetary Impact</u>
Reports for which no management decisions were made by the beginning of the reporting period	0	0
Reports issued during reporting period:	9	
Audit Report No. 15-12		0
Audit Report No. 15-13		0
Audit Report No. 15-14		0
Audit Report No. 15-15		0
Audit Report No. 15-16		0
Audit Report No. 15-17		0
Audit Report No. 15-18		0
Audit Report No. 15-19		0
Audit Report No. 15-20		0
Audit Report No. 15-21		0
Reports for which a management decision was made during the report period:		
1. Dollar value of recommendations not agreed to by management		0
2. Dollar value of recommendations agreed to by management		0
Reports for which management decision was made by the end of the reporting period	9	0
Reports for which no management decision was made within 6 months of issuance	0	0