

APR 25 2018

Office of the Director

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20536



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

The Honorable Kathleen M. Rice
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Rice:


Thank you for your April 5, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

Currently, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) uses law enforcement and analytical tools to support vetting processes that enable law enforcement personnel and analysts to make the most informed decisions. In June 2017, ICE issued a Request for Information (RFI), which included a draft Statement of Objectives, which sought input from industry about any possible improvements to the agency's current vetting process. Since then, ICE held two additional industry days to solicit further input. At this time, ICE is refining the acquisition strategy to best reflect its requirements, and intends to limit the scope of future procurement to focus on the existing Visa Security Program and the overstay enforcement mission, which utilize targeted rule-based screening. As a result of the RFI, industry days, and additional market research, ICE was able to streamline the requirements and refocus the Visa Lifecycle Vetting Initiative (VLVI) contract on labor and services to better address the needs of the mission.

Additionally, for clarification, the VLVI is limited to vetting foreign nationals, and all searches are conducted within the scope of the law. ICE's vetting practices, to include those performed with the help of contract support, adhere to all privacy requirements. Open-source, public-facing social media is only one resource utilized in the lifecycle process, along with various Department of Homeland Security and other U.S. Government systems. Any leads enhanced using analytical tools are thoroughly reviewed by senior analysts and agents before being sent to the field for possible investigation.

Thank you for your letter and your interest in this important matter. Representatives Thompson and Vela, who co-signed your letter, will receive a separate identical response.

Sincerely,



Thomas D. Homan
Deputy Director and Senior Official
Performing the Duties of the Director