



**U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION**  
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY  
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20814-4408

Alberta E. Mills, FOI Officer  
Office of the Secretariat  
Office of the General Counsel

Tel: 301-504-7479  
Fax: 301-504-0127  
Email: [amills@cpsc.gov](mailto:amills@cpsc.gov)

August 8, 2017

**VIA EMAIL – collinsreports@gmail.com**

Christopher Collins  
Investigative Journalist

**RE:** Freedom of Information Act Request (FOIA) #17-F-00522: CPSC Inspector General's reports of investigation bearing the following case numbers: 14-101, 15-001, 15-002, 15-003, 15-04, 16-001, 16-02, 16-03, 16-04, 16-05, 16-07

Dear Mr. Collins:

Thank you for your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request seeking the above referenced information from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission ("Commission").

In response to your request, please find enclosed copies of the requested investigation reports. We have withheld portions of the enclosed records pursuant to FOIA Exemption 6. FOIA exemption 6 provides for the withholding of personnel and medical files and similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Absent authorization to disclose the information from the person identified in the report or their representative, we believe that the records fall within the protection of the FOIA exemption to disclosure.

According to the FOIA, a denial of access to records may be appealed. If you are not satisfied with the response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing and addressed to **FOIA APPEAL, General Counsel, ATTN: Office of the Secretary, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814-4408.** Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted ([cpsc-foia@cpsc.gov](mailto:cpsc-foia@cpsc.gov)) within 90 days of the date of the date of the response to your request. You can also fax your appeal to 301-504-0127.

Mr. Christopher Collins  
Investigative Journalist  
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Before filing a formal appeal with the Commission, you may contact me by letter, telephone at 301-504-7479 or at [amills@cpsc.gov](mailto:amills@cpsc.gov) to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation service they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, email at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770, toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

This completes the processing of your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alberta E. Mills', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alberta E. Mills

10 October 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: Christopher J. Olson, Assistant Inspector General – Investigations

SUBJECT: Allegation of Misconduct by Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Employee

1. A preliminary investigation into alleged misconduct by [REDACTED] regarding the improper use of a government-issued BlackBerry determined the alleged misconduct did not fit the traditional method of “fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement” as applied to Office of Inspector General (OIG) operations.
2. In light of the above, OIG considers this matter closed, although we reserve the right to re-open the investigation either upon the discovery of additional evidence related to this matter or upon our own initiative.

[REDACTED]

CHRISTOPHER J. OLSON  
Office of the Inspector General

11 Dec 14

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: Christopher J. Olson, Assistant Inspector General – Investigations

SUBJECT: Allegations of Misconduct by Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)  
Employee

1. An investigation was opened into alleged mismanagement, based upon an allegation that agency management had mismanaged the CPSC's Voluntary Leave Transfer program. Preliminary investigation determined that the evidence available did not support the existence of a prima face case.
2. In light of the above, CPSC OIG considers this matter closed, although we reserve the right to re-open the investigation either upon the discovery of additional evidence related to this matter or upon our own initiative.



CHRISTOPHER J. OLSON  
Office of the Inspector General

3 February 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: Christopher J. Olson, Assistant Inspector General – Investigations

SUBJECT: Allegations of Misconduct by Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Employee

1. An investigation into alleged misconduct, based upon the non-selection of an employee for an open position, consisting of interviews with the complainant and members of the CPSC Office of Human Resources (EXRM), determined the alleged misconduct did not fit the traditional method of “fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement” as applied to Office of Inspector General (OIG) operations.
2. In light of the above, CPSC OIG considers this matter closed, although we reserve the right to re-open the investigation either upon the discovery of additional evidence related to this matter or upon our own initiative.



CHRISTOPHER J. OLSON  
Office of the Inspector General



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION  
BETHESDA, MD 20814

Christopher W. Dentel  
Inspector General

Tel: 301 504-7644  
Fax: 301 504-7004  
Email: cdentel@cpsc.gov

Date: March 30, 2015

TO : Elliot Kaye  
Chairman

FROM : Christopher W. Dentel  
Inspector General

SUBJECT : Transmittal of Complaint [REDACTED]

My office recently received the attached document (see attachment 1). The document was found on the photocopier at the junction of the hallways between the Office of General Counsel and the Office of Inspector General on the Seventh Floor of Building 4340 (South Tower). The document appears to be slides for a lecture on "Disclosure under the Federal Securities Laws." On the face of the first slide is the text, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has applied, and received permission, to engage in an "outside activity" consisting of [REDACTED]. Although 5 CFR 2635.704 and 705 prohibit the use of official time or resources to conduct outside activities, these prohibitions are not criminal in nature. Historically, matters of this type have been resolved administratively by agency management.

As management has not yet had an opportunity to resolve this matter it does not currently fall within the jurisdiction of my office. As you are the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I am forwarding this matter to you for your review and, if you determine it to be appropriate, action

If you have any questions, you should feel free to contact me at 301-504-7644 or cdentel@cpsc.gov.

[REDACTED]  
Christopher W. Dentel  
Inspector General

Attached:

1. Slides
2. CPSC Form 241 & Approval and Ethics Guidance for Outside Activities

CPSC Hotline: 1-800-638-CPSC(2772) H CPSC's Web Site: <http://www.cpsc.gov>

20 November 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Allegation of Misconduct by Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Employee

1. The Director of EEO forwarded information to OGC regarding an agency FOIA response which was stored on cpsc.net in such a way that it was accessible (and searchable) by agency employees who did not have a need to know about the PII it contained. OGC forwarded the matter to OIG. A preliminary investigation determined that the pdf file did contain PII, that the method in which the PII was stored allowed it to be accessed by agency staff that did not have a legitimate reason to access the PII, and that this particular circumstance did not fit the traditional jurisdiction of "fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement" as applied to Office of Inspector General (OIG) operations.
2. In light of the above, OIG closed the investigation but worked with OGC to ensure that agency management took actions to ensure that the breach was appropriately reported and that the circumstances that led to the breach were addressed.



CHRISTOPHER W. Dentel  
Inspector General

1 Apr 16

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Allegation of EEO Violations

1. Complaint received alleging EEO violations by CPSC employee. Case closed due to lack of jurisdiction. Employee was briefed on the opportunity to file with EEO office.
2. In light of the above, OIG closed the investigation but maintains the right to reopen if additional evidence indicates this office has jurisdiction.



CHRISTOPHER W. Dentel  
Inspector General

20 Apr 16

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Allegation of Financial Liability

1. Complaint received alleging that CPSC was financially liable to local school district due to installation of unsafe padding under playground equipment. Claim for liability apparently rests on complainants belief that the CPSC has changed its position on the safety of the product in question. Case closed due to lack of jurisdiction. Complainant was briefed on the opportunity to file IAW FTCA with Office of General Counsel (OGC). Complaint was transferred to OGC.
2. In light of the above, OIG closed the investigation but maintains the right to reopen if additional evidence indicates this office has jurisdiction.



CHRISTOPHER W. Dentel  
Inspector General

8 Jul 16

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Allegation Involving Landlord Tenant Issues

1. Complaint received alleging that a senior CPSC employee had failed to comply with the conduct expected of a landlord. Complaint closed due to lack of jurisdiction (no nexus between alleged misconduct and government employment.)
2. In light of the above, OIG closed the investigation but maintains the right to reopen if additional evidence indicates this office has jurisdiction.



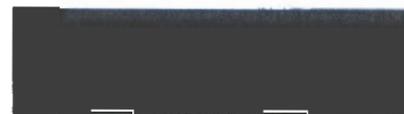
CHRISTOPHER W. Dentel  
Inspector General

14 Jul 16

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Allegation of EEO Violations

1. Complaint received alleging EEO violations regarding an agency vacancy announcement. Case closed due to lack of jurisdiction. Complaint was made anonymously so applicant could not be briefed on the opportunity to file with EEO office.
2. In light of the above, OIG closed the investigation but maintains the right to reopen if additional evidence indicates this office has jurisdiction.



CHRISTOPHER W. Dentel  
Inspector General

2 Sep 16

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Unsafe Manufacturing of Lighting

1. Complaint received alleging that a [REDACTED] was producing lighting in an unsafe manner. Complaint falls outside of the jurisdiction of this office, but potentially within the jurisdiction of the CPSC so complaint was transferred to agency management.
2. In light of the above, OIG closed the investigation but maintains the right to reopen if additional evidence indicates this office has jurisdiction.

[REDACTED]  
CHRISTOPHER W. Dentel  
Inspector General