



External Peer Review Final Report

March 27, 2024

To: Tammy Hull, Inspector General
United States Postal Service

This required external peer review was conducted in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) Inspection and Evaluation Committee guidance as contained in the CIGIE *Guide for Conducting Peer Reviews of Inspection and Evaluation Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General* (December 2021). The peer review was conducted from October 19, 2023 through March 27, 2024. See Enclosure(s) for the Scope and Methodology and United States Postal Service (USPS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) comments.

The Reviewing OIG assessed the extent to which USPS OIG complied with the CIGIE *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*, December 2020 (Blue Book). This assessment included a review of the USPS OIG's internal policies and procedures (Research and Insights Solution Center's *Manual of Research Procedures*, Fall 2022) implementing the Blue Book standards. It also included a review of selected inspection and evaluation reports issued between October 2022 and September 2023 to determine whether the reports complied with the Blue Book standards and the USPS OIG's internal policies and procedures.

Overall Conclusion

The Reviewing OIG determined that the USPS OIG's policies and procedures generally were consistent with the Blue Book standards addressed in the external peer review. All three reports reviewed generally complied with the Blue Book standards.

We issued a Letter of Comment dated March 27, 2024 that describes findings that were not considered to significantly impact compliance with a Blue Book standard.

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. Fain
Inspector General

Enclosure(s)

cc: Paola Piscioneri, Acting Research Director, Research and Insights Solution Center, USPS OIG

ENCLOSURE 1: Scope and Methodology

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) Office of Inspector General (OIG) selected the following three reports for peer review. The peer review team (Review Team) limited the universe to reports issued since the publication of the Research and Insights Solution Center's *Manual of Research Procedures*, Fall 2022. Within this universe, we selected a report from each manager as well as a report that included the use of contractors.¹ The Review Team concluded that these three reports would be representative of USPS OIG's current inspection and evaluation activities.

1. RISC-WP-23-005, *Historical Analysis of USPS Retirement Fund Returns*, dated April 26, 2023;
2. RISC-RI-23-004, *The Paper Shortage and its Effects on Mail*, dated April 20, 2023; and
3. RISC-WP-23-001, *The Value of the Postal Service's Retail Network for Small Businesses*, dated October 11, 2022.

In November 2020, The Department of Homeland Security OIG issued an external peer review final report on the USPS OIG inspection function with no deficiencies or recommendations. As a result, there were no recommendations to review.

The Review Team completed the peer review [remotely] and did not conduct an onsite visit. We reviewed USPS OIG internal policies and procedures, training documentation, and recommendation follow-up documentation. For reports selected, the Review Team reviewed project documentation. In all areas, we interviewed USPS OIG personnel as appropriate to follow up on concerns and questions. There were no constraints on the Review Team's ability to exercise professional judgment nor were there limitations or impairments to their independence.

¹ Contractors provided support to the project; they did not run the entire project.

ENCLOSURE 2: Reviewed Organization Comments to the Draft Peer Review Report



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

March 18, 2024

The Honorable Jennifer L. Fain
Inspector General
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
3501 Fairfax Drive
Arlington, Virginia 22226

Dear Inspector General Fain:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft peer review of the the inspection and evaluation work of the U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General. We are pleased that this external peer review has confirmed that our policies and procedures and the three reports reviewed met the standards outlined in the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency *Quality Standards for Inspections and Evaluations* (Blue Book).

We appreciate the observations and suggestions made by the peer review team and will draw on this input in preparing the revised version of our *Manual of Research Procedures*.

We thank the peer review team for the professionalism it has demonstrated during this review.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tammy L. Hull", is positioned above the printed name.

Tammy L. Hull
Inspector General