



September 9, 2021

The Honorable Michael E. Horowitz  
Inspector General  
Office of the Inspector General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Horowitz:

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. The peer review was conducted from April 26, 2021, through September 9, 2021.

The U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General Review Team (Review Team) assessed the extent to which the U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General's Evaluation and Inspections Division (E&I Division) complied with the seven covered Blue Book standards, specifically: Quality Control; Planning; Data Collections and Analysis; Evidence; Records Maintenance; Reporting; and Follow-up. This assessment included a review of the E&I Division's internal policies and procedures implementing the seven covered CIGIE Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation (Blue Book), January 2012. It also included a review of three inspection and evaluation reports issued between April 1, 2018, and March 31, 2021, to determine whether the reports complied with the covered Blue Book standards and the E&I Division's internal policies and procedures. (See Enclosure 1 for an overview of the Review Team's Scope and Methodology).

The Review Team determined that the E&I Division's policies and procedures generally were consistent with the seven Blue Book standards addressed in the external peer review. Of the E&I Division reports reviewed, all three generally complied with the covered Blue Book standards and the E&I Division's policies and procedures.

U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General's management provided a response to our peer review report, which is enclosed.

On behalf of the Review Team, I want to thank you for the professionalism, assistance, and cooperation of your staff during this review.

Sincerely,

TAMMY  
WHITCOMB

Digitally signed by TAMMY  
WHITCOMB  
Date: 2021.09.09 08:51:29 -04'00'

Tammy L. Whitcomb  
Inspector General

Enclosures  
As stated



## ENCLOSURE 1: Scope and Methodology

The Review Team selected the following three reports conducted during the peer review period. The reports were representative of the types of inspection and evaluation reports historically produced and that have resulted in recommendations from DOJ OIG's E&I Division. In the year prior to the start of this peer review, the E&I Division issued 15 remote inspections of the COVID-19 pandemic response by DOJ facilities and DOJ contractor facilities. The Review Team excluded these reports from this peer review because, due to their limited scope and methodology, these remote inspections may not be necessarily representative of the E&I Division's reports. The reports selected were:

- ***Review of the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Pharmaceutical Drug Costs and Procurement***; Report Number: 20-027; Date issued: 2-20-20 ("BOP Pharmaceutical")
- ***Review of the Department of Justice's Preparedness to Respond to Critical Incidents Under Emergency Support Function (ESF) 13***; Report Number: 20-025; Date issued: 2-11-20 ("ESF-13")
- ***Review and Inspection of Metropolitan Detention Center Brooklyn Facilities Issues and Related Impacts on Inmates***; Report Number: 19-04; Date issued: 09-26-19 ("MDC Brooklyn")

The Review Team conducted the peer review virtually, which did not include any onsite visits. However, the Review Team met with E&I Division points of contact via video conference on several occasions, including project staff who worked on the selected reports.

There were no constraints on the Review Team's ability to exercise its professional judgment and thus no resulting impact on the peer review. Additionally, there were no limitations on or impairments to the Review Team's independence, thus no mitigating actions taken.



## ENCLOSURE 2: U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General's Comments to Draft Peer Review Report



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE | OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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August 31, 2021

The Honorable Tammy L. Whitcomb  
Inspector General  
Office of Inspector General  
U.S. Postal Service  
1735 North Lynn Street  
Arlington, Virginia 22209

Dear Ms. Whitcomb:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the peer review report. The U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General's Evaluation and Inspections Division (E&I) places the highest importance on the quality of our evaluation work and the peer review process. We are pleased that the peer review team's overall conclusion is that E&I met the seven Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation and complied with its own internal policies and procedures.

We appreciate the professionalism and thoroughness that the peer review team exhibited throughout the review and look forward to a continued exchange of best practices in the future. If you have any questions, please contact me or René Rocque Lee, Assistant Inspector General for Evaluation and Inspections, at (202) 616-4620.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael E. Horowitz".

Michael E. Horowitz  
Inspector General