



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
Department of Homeland Security

Washington, DC 20528 / www.oig.dhs.gov

November 17, 2020

Inspection and Evaluation External Peer Review Final Report

The Honorable Tammy Whitcomb
Inspector General
United States Postal Service
1735 North Lynn Street
Arlington, VA 22209-2020

Dear Inspector General Whitcomb:

We reviewed USPS OIG's compliance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) Quality Standards for *Inspection and Evaluation* (Blue Book), January 2012. We conducted this required external peer review in accordance with the CIGIE *Guide for Conducting Peer Reviews of Inspection and Evaluation Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General*.

The CIGIE External Peer Review Team (Review Team) was comprised of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Department of Interior, and U.S. Department of Labor Offices of Inspector General. We conducted this peer review from July 14, 2020 through November 17, 2020.

The Review Team assessed the extent to which the Research and Insights Solution Center and Office of Audit within USPS OIG met seven standards from the Blue Book, specifically: Quality Control; Planning; Data Collection and Analysis; Evidence; Records Maintenance; Reporting; and Follow-up. This assessment included a review of the USPS OIG's internal policies and procedures in effect between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020, and the extent to which it implemented the seven covered Blue Book standards. It also included a review of selected inspection and evaluation reports issued between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020 to determine whether the reports complied with the covered Blue Book standards and the USPS OIG's internal policies and procedures.

The Review Team determined the USPS OIG's policies and procedures generally met the seven Blue Book standards addressed in the external peer review. Of the four reports reviewed, all generally met the Blue Book standards and complied with USPS OIG's internal policies and procedures.



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
Department of Homeland Security

We issued a draft report dated October 8, 2020, notifying USPS OIG of our determination. At that time, we also made observations and suggestions to improve USPS OIG's documentation of its compliance with internal procedures and Blue Book standards. USPS OIG officials provided a response to our draft report in which they agreed with our observations and suggestions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph V. Cuffari".

Joseph V. Cuffari, Ph.D.
Inspector General

Enclosure



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
Department of Homeland Security

Washington, DC 20528 / www.oig.dhs.gov

ENCLOSURE: USPS OIG Comments to Draft Report



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

October 26, 2020

The Honorable Joseph V. Cuffari
Inspector General
Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane SW
Washington, DC 20528-0305

Dear Inspector General Cuffari:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft results of the peer review of reports issued by the Research and Insights Solution Center and the Office of Audit at the U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General (OIG). We are pleased that this external peer review has confirmed that our policies, procedures, and the four reports reviewed generally met the seven standards outlined in the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency *Quality Standards for Inspections and Evaluations* (Blue Book).

We concur with the observations and suggestions made by the peer review team. This was the first peer review of the OIG's reports in accordance with the Blue Book standards, and the process and the observations offered by the peer review team will help ensure that we continue to conduct high quality work.

We appreciate the professionalism the peer review team demonstrated during the review.

Sincerely,

TAMMY
WHITCOMB

Digitally signed by TAMMY
WHITCOMB
Date: 2020.10.26 15:27:06
-04'00'

Tammy L. Whitcomb
Inspector General