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Records Show Strzok, Ohr Communications Justice Dept. Claimed It Couldn't Find

Judicial Watch received through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit 13 pages out of 42 responsive pages of communications between former FBI official Peter Strzok and Department of Justice official Bruce Ohr that the U.S. Department of Justice claimed previously it could not find.

Judicial Watch obtained the documents in an April 2019 FOIA lawsuit filed after submitting July 2018 FOIA requests to the Justice Department and the FBI. The FBI failed to respond, while the Justice Department claimed to find no records of communications between Strzok and Ohr (*Judicial Watch v. U.S. Department of Justice* (No. 1:19-cv-01082)). The lawsuit seeks:

All records of communications between FBI official Peter Strzok and Bruce Ohr, in either his role as



AP PHOTO/EVAN VUCCI



AP PHOTO/PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS

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Former FBI official Peter Strzok

DOJ official Bruce Ohr

JW Sues For Ukraine Records On China Firms Tied To Hunter Biden



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Hunter Biden

Judicial Watch filed Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuits against the U.S. Departments of State and Treasury on October 2, 2019 seeking documents related to consideration by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) of investments in the United States by two companies tied to Joe Biden's son, Hunter Biden — Ukraine's Burisma Holdings and China's Bohai Harvest RST (BHR).

The Judicial Watch lawsuits were filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia after the State and Treasury Departments failed to respond to June 24, 2019 FOIA requests for CFIUS records related to investments by the Ukrainian company Burisma Holdings LTD or any of its affiliated entities (*Judicial Watch v. U.S. Department of State* (No. 1:19-cv-02960)) and records related to investments by

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Associate Deputy Attorney General or Director of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDEF), including but not limited to emails (whether on .gov or non-.gov email accounts, and whether using their real names or aliases), text messages, encrypted app messages and/or instant chats.

In the lawsuit, Judicial Watch challenged the Justice Department's extraordinary claim that there were no records of communications between Strzok and Ohr in light of the preeminent role both individuals played in the anti-Trump collusion investigation. In addition, Ohr himself testified before Congress that he did, in fact, meet and communicate with Strzok.

The documents show contact between Ohr and Strzok in the weeks after the 2016 presidential election, during the presidential transition and in the days following President Donald Trump's inauguration.

- Former FBI lawyer Lisa Page arranges a November 21, 2016 meeting from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at FBI headquarters. "Required attendees" include Ohr, Strzok and FBI Deputy Assistant Director for Counterintelligence Jonathan Moffa.
- On November 29, 2016, Ohr attempts to arrange a meeting between Strzok, Page, himself, and Deputy Assistant Attorney General (Criminal Division) Bruce Swartz.
- Ohr writes to Strzok and Page under the subject Meeting with Bruce Swartz: "Thanks again for taking the time to chat today. As I mentioned, I would like to set up a short meeting for us with Bruce Swartz. Would next Monday at 5:30 p.m. work? Also, is there any

"Bruce Ohr and Peter Strzok clearly were working regularly with each other during the time the illicit Spygate operation heated up against President Trump."

*~Judicial Watch President
Tom Fitton*

chance you guys could come over to our building?"

Page responds: "Unfortunately, Pete is briefing HPSCI [House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence] from 5-6:30 on Monday. Just about any other time that day would work. And we're happy to come to you (especially because Bruce S. always has good snacks...)" [smile emoticon]

Ohr responds to Page: "No problem — is 6:30 (or later) that day too late? Otherwise we may be into the next week. I will ensure the snacks are up to snuff!"

Page writes to Ohr at 5:46 p.m.: "Unfortunately, it is. Have a flight later that night. Sorry about that."

Ohr responds at 6:32 p.m.: "Got it. I'll find a few dates/times for the week after and shoot them to you."

Finally, a meeting with importance classified as "high" is scheduled for December 5, 2016. Strzok, Ohr and Swartz are scheduled to meet from 5:30 to 6 p.m. at Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) 2213, and later it is canceled.

- On January 4, 2017, a Financial Crimes Enforcement Network

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Judicial Watch is a conservative, non-partisan American educational foundation that promotes transparency, accountability and integrity in government, politics and the law. Judicial Watch advocates high standards of ethics and morality in America's public life and seeks to ensure that public officials do not abuse the powers entrusted to them by the American people.

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1 (888) 593-8442

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Editor, The Judicial Watch *Verdict*®
c/o info@judicialwatch.org

Annual suggested donation is \$35.
Requests should be sent to:

The Judicial Watch *Verdict*®
Judicial Watch

425 Third Street, SW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20024

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Strzok

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(FinCEN) official in the Office of Special Measures [a unit within FinCEN set up to sanction foreign and domestic financial institutions] forwards to Ohr an unclassified but fully redacted FinCEN document, which Ohr then forwards to Strzok on February 1, 2017.

Ohr writes to Strzok: “Pete — As we discussed. I will forward the classified document as well, as well as one more unclassified document.”

January 30, 2017, FinCEN sent protected information and its password to [Redacted].

On February 1, 2017 at 2:11 p.m., Lisa Holtyn, Ohr’s assistant, sends to members of Bruce Ohr’s former team at Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OC-DETF) password-protected information from FinCEN, saying, “I’ll send the password separately.”

Minutes later, she sends the same email to Bruce Ohr. Seconds after that, Ohr forwards the email to Strzok, followed by the password.

“Ohr and Strzok clearly were working regularly with each other during the time the illicit Spygate operation heated up against President Trump,” said Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton. “It speaks volumes that Judicial Watch was forced to drag the Justice Department and FBI into court in order to force the agency to admit to documents they’ve obviously had all along.”

In March 2019, Judicial Watch released heavily redacted records from the Department of Justice that reveal Bruce Ohr remained in regular contact with former British spy and Fusion GPS contractor Christopher Steele after Steele was terminated by the FBI in November 2016 for revealing to the media his position as an FBI confidential informant.

In June 2019, Judicial Watch

made public Justice Department documents showing the removal of Bruce Ohr from the position of Associate Attorney General in 2017; his transfer from the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force to International Affairs in 2018; and that Ohr received a total of \$42,520 in performance bonuses during the Trump/Russia investigation. Ohr’s bonus nearly doubled from \$14,520 (received in November 2015) to \$28,000 in November 2016.

In August 2019, Judicial Watch uncovered 34 pages of “302” report material from FBI interviews with Bruce Ohr showing that, in November 2016, Ohr said that he made FBI officials aware that the information he was passing along on Russiagate had its origins with the group doing political research on Trump for the Clinton campaign. The documents also showed that Ohr knew that Fusion GPS’s Glenn Simpson and others were talking to Victoria Nuland at the U.S. Department of State. 



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