



Homeland
Security

April 26, 2018

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Thompson:

Thank you for your January 19, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

As part of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) mission to safeguard and secure cyberspace, DHS prioritizes ensuring the integrity and security of federal information systems. After careful consideration of available information and consultation with interagency partners, Former Acting Secretary Duke issued a binding operational directive (BOD) on September 13, 2017, directing federal agencies to take certain actions related to Kaspersky Lab-branded products. The issuance of this BOD was based on the security risks to federal information systems presented by Kaspersky Lab-branded products.

At this time, all federal departments and agencies have removed Kaspersky Lab products as required by the BOD. Additionally, on February 23, 2018, DHS officials briefed staff of the Committee on Homeland Security, including your staff, on the current status of BOD implementation and the ongoing litigation that Kaspersky Lab has filed against DHS. Information in response to the questions raised in your letter was discussed during that briefing. In light of ongoing litigation, DHS respectfully declines to provide additional, non-public information related to Kaspersky Lab or the BOD at this time.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important matter. Should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Krebs".

Christopher C. Krebs
Senior Official Performing the Duties
of the Under Secretary