Memorandum

Date: April 13, 2022

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Request Follow Up – Special Counsel’s FAA Whistleblower Complaint Referrals

From: Barry J. DeWeese
Principal Assistant Inspector General for Auditing and Evaluation

To: Deputy Secretary

On November 13, 2020, upon consideration of the nature of several whistleblower referrals from the Office of Special Counsel, your predecessor requested that we conduct a performance audit of the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) Flight Standards Service and its roles and responsibilities in ensuring aviation safety through its oversight of FAA-certificated operators. In our response dated December 21, 2020, we stated that we were developing plans for an audit to determine whether FAA’s policies and procedures for documenting and maintaining records are sufficient to facilitate effective oversight of the Nation’s air operators and would prioritize this work within our existing audit portfolio.

In late 2021, OIG’s Office of Investigations completed four investigations substantiating most of the underlying whistleblower complaints, and provided its findings to the Department. In response to these investigations, FAA committed to taking action—including software modifications, inspector training, and information sharing—to resolve the identified issues. Given the importance of these commitments, we plan to revisit FAA’s corrective actions once they are fully implemented. At that time, we will determine whether additional audit work is warranted.

We reiterate our commitment to supporting FAA and the Department in its mission to provide the safest and most efficient airspace system in the world. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 202-366-1302.

cc: The Secretary
    General Counsel

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