

Summary: BIE Email Spoofed to Change Bank Account Information Affecting Employee's Paycheck

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The OIG investigated allegations that the Government email address of a former Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) employee was spoofed. The alleged spoofer changed the employee's direct deposit bank account information by contacting the school where the employee worked and requesting that the employee's paycheck be deposited into a different account.

We substantiated these allegations. The employee's direct deposit information was changed without confirming that the employee requested the change, and the employee's paycheck was deposited into a different bank account. The deposit was withdrawn the same day through purchases from online retail companies. The holder of the different bank account declined our requests for an interview, and we had no authority to compel an interview.

When we discussed the matter with the BIE Human Resources Office (HRO), we found that, prior to the incident involving the employee's direct deposit, there were no policies or procedures in place that specifically addressed how to process a change in an employee's direct deposit information. As a result of this incident, BIE HRO implemented additional layers of security when processing direct deposit changes.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania declined to prosecute the matter.

This is a summary of an investigative report we issued to the Director of BIE.

