



July 6, 2016

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Ellen Herbst  
Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration

**FROM:** Richard Bachman  
Assistant Inspector General for Financial  
and Intellectual Property Audits

**SUBJECT:** Review of the Department's Digital Accountability and  
Transparency Act of 2014 Implementation Readiness

We are initiating a review of the Department's Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA Act) implementation readiness. Our review objective is to determine how prepared the Department is to implement the DATA Act requirements.

The DATA Act was enacted on May 9, 2014, and requires that federal agencies report financial and payment data in accordance with data standards established by the Department of the Treasury and Office of Management and Budget. It also requires that agency offices of inspector general (OIGs) review statistical samples of the data submitted by the agency under the DATA Act and submit reports biannually (starting in November 2016) on the completeness, timeliness, quality, and accuracy of the data sampled and the use of the data standards by the agency.

Because agencies are not required to submit spending data in compliance with the Act until May 2017, OIG reports required by the DATA Act will be delayed by 1 year (until November 2017). Reviews will be conducted in 2016 to assess agencies' readiness in implementing the DATA Act requirements.

We have scheduled an entrance conference for July 12, 2016, at which time we will discuss our audit objectives and scope in more detail. If you have any additional questions regarding this review, please call me at (202) 482-2877 or Patricia McBarnette, Audit Director, at (202) 482-3391. We thank you in advance for your cooperation during this review.

cc: MaryAnn Mausser, Audit Liaison, Office of the Secretary  
Welton Lloyd, Audit Liaison, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office