# Federal employees face new activity summary request amid compliance efforts



Federal employees are expected to receive a follow-up email this Saturday requesting a bullet-point summary of their activities from the past week. This communication marks a shift implemented by the Trump administration, aimed at ensuring compliance among workers, as the initial request reportedly lacked significant authority. The new email will be dispatched from the human resources departments of various agencies, rather than the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), which could enhance its enforcement capability since agencies have more direct control over their staff.

Last weekend, an email was sent to federal employees from hr@opm.gov asking them to document what they had accomplished. However, many agencies advised their employees not to respond, attempting to mitigate the potential repercussions of the request, which raised concerns of classified information disclosure. Elon Musk, a billionaire and advisor to President Trump, implied on X, a social media platform, that failure to communicate the required information would be interpreted as a resignation. This assertion drew backlash, prompting a clarification from the White House that the initial directive was not mandatory.

Max Stier, president and chief executive of the Partnership for Public Service, remarked to The Washington Post that while the president is unable to dismiss career employees, agency heads possess significant discretion in enforcing directives. The extent to which the new email will reach federal employees remains uncertain, as does whether any agencies will be excluded from the request.

During a Cabinet meeting, Musk appeared in a casual T-shirt stating "TECH SUPPORT," signalling his presence amid discussions, although he does not officially serve in the Cabinet. He clarified that the intent behind the email was misunderstood, stating it was meant to function as a “pulse-check review” rather than a performance evaluation. He sought to assure the public that the initiative aimed to identify any “fake employees” on government payrolls, although he provided no evidence to substantiate this claim.

President Trump participated in the discussion, implying that employees who did not respond might soon find themselves at risk of termination, stating, “Those people are on the bubble. Maybe they’re going to be gone.” The White House indicated that almost 1 million employees had replied to the initial email, which is just under half of the 2.3 million civil servants currently employed across various federal agencies as of January.

The series of emails, combined with an offer for "deferred resignation" from the same OPM address, form part of Trump’s broader strategy to reduce the size of the federal government urgently. However, this initiative has faced legal challenges. A federal judge recently ordered OPM to retract provisions that enabled mass firings of probationary workers in multiple agencies, asserting that “the Office of Personnel Management does not have any authority whatsoever under any statute in the history of the universe to hire and fire employees at another agency.”

As this situation progresses, the implications for federal employees and the administration's plans to reshape the workforce remain to be seen.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/elon-musk-doge-email-federal-employees-opm-directive-accomplishments/> - This article supports the claim that federal employees received an email from the Office of Personnel Management asking them to document their accomplishments, and that Elon Musk suggested non-response could be seen as resignation. It also mentions that many agencies advised employees not to respond due to concerns about classified information.
* <https://www.opb.org/article/2025/02/24/trump-administration-backs-off-requiring-email-response/> - This article corroborates the confusion among federal agencies regarding the email directive and the voluntary nature of employee responses as clarified by the Office of Personnel Management. It highlights the mixed guidance from different agencies on whether to comply with the request.
* <https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/02/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-works-to-remake-americas-federal-workforce/> - This White House fact sheet explains President Trump's initiative to reform the federal workforce, including reducing its size and enhancing efficiency, which aligns with the broader context of the email directive aimed at reshaping the workforce.
* <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/elon-musk-doge-email-federal-employees-opm-directive-accomplishments/> - This article further supports the claim that President Trump backed the effort to document employee accomplishments and that there was a significant response from federal employees, with almost half of them replying to the initial email.
* <https://www.opb.org/article/2025/02/24/trump-administration-backs-off-requiring-email-response/> - This article provides additional context on the legal challenges faced by the Trump administration's workforce reduction initiatives, including a lawsuit to block certain actions against probationary employees.