



U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of the Deputy Attorney General

The Deputy Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

January 22, 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EMPLOYEES AND  
CONTRACTORS

FROM: THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL 

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

When the annual funding for the government expired at midnight last Friday, the Department of Justice was required to implement its contingency plans for executing an orderly shutdown of activities that will be affected by this lapse in appropriations. We cannot predict how long we will be in this posture, but the Attorney General and I understand the importance of providing you with accurate information.

The determination about which employees continue to work during the shutdown *has nothing to do with whether your job is important*. We are required by law to furlough employees who are doing important work – including most employees who work directly on the staffs of the Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney General. That is because under federal law, employees are not allowed to work during the shutdown unless they are paid from a funding source that has not lapsed; are performing excepted work, which includes those doing emergency work involving the safety of human life or protection of property; or are serving in positions that are specifically excepted from the shutdown furlough.

Regardless of your status as “excepted” or “non-excepted” personnel for purposes of this shutdown, you are the lifeblood of the Department of Justice. Each of you makes significant contributions to our mission every day, and the Attorney General and I are grateful for your hard work and commitment. Our colleagues who are permitted to continue working during the shutdown will continue to meet our Department’s mission-critical priorities and fulfill our responsibilities to the American people.

We look forward to seeing all Department employees and contractors back at work soon.