



U. S. Department of Justice

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

The Deputy Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

January 7, 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACTORS

FROM: THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL 
SUBJECT: UPDATE CONCERNING LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS

When funding for the Department of Justice expired at midnight on December 21, we were required to implement our contingency plans for executing an orderly shutdown of activities affected by this lapse in appropriations. We are working with each Department component to give you accurate information about the impact on your paychecks. In addition to updates provided directly by your administrative office, you can find general shutdown information on the [internet](#).¹

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 without regard to the importance of their work, including employees working directly for the Acting Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney General. That is because federal law prohibits employees from working during a shutdown unless they are paid from a funding source that has not lapsed; occupy an excepted position; or perform excepted work. Each component is working to ensure that our staffing decisions comply with federal law.

The Acting Attorney General and I appreciate the significant contributions you make to our mission, and we are grateful for your hard work and professionalism.

For employees who are furloughed, we know that you want to be at work, and we hope to see you back on the job and advancing our Department's mission as soon as possible. For those who are at work performing excepted activities, we appreciate your assistance in navigating these circumstances and fulfilling our responsibilities to the American people.

Thank you for your service to the Department of Justice.

¹ <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/furlough-guidance/#url=Shutdown-Furlough>