Request for public comments on the Board’s Oversight Project examining Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA)

The Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board is seeking public comments regarding questions it should explore, and recommendations it should consider making, in connection with its oversight project to examine the surveillance program operated pursuant to Section 702 of FISA, in anticipation of the December 2023 sunset date for Section 702 and the upcoming public and Congressional consideration of its reauthorization. The goals of the Oversight Project are to ensure that privacy and civil liberties are protected in the course of the Executive Branch’s use of its Section 702 authorities, and to ensure that Congress and the public are able appropriately to assess and consider the program’s value and efficacy in protection the nation’s security and producing useful intelligence.

The Board’s review will include an examination of significant changes to the operation of the 702 program since the Board’s Report on the Surveillance Program Operated Pursuant to Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (July 2, 2014) (“2014 Report”), investigation of U.S. Person queries of information collected under Section 702, investigation of ‘Upstream’ collection conducted pursuant to Section 702, and review of the program’s past and projected value and efficacy, as well as the adequacy of existing privacy and civil liberties safeguards.

Information regarding how to submit comments will be made available in coming days in the Federal Register as well as on the Board’s website and Twitter account. The deadline for comments to be submitted is October 31st. You can also reach out to Public and Legislative Affairs Officer Alan Silverleib at pao@pclob.gov for further details.