



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-21-0011-O

Page 1 of 1

We investigated an allegation that an unknown individual or individuals were perpetrating a fraud scheme by using the @nsfgov.org email domain to impersonate high ranking NSF officials seeking to purchase products from third-party vendors on behalf of NSF.

We referred the matter to the U.S. Attorney's Office, which opened a case to pursue criminal prosecution against the unknown individual or individuals.

We identified the company which owned the @nsfgov.org domain and obtained a search warrant for records associated with the fraudulent email addresses. Our review of the obtained emails did not find any instances of financial loss where a third-party vendor shipped any product. We found instances where discussions with third-party vendors advanced enough that a fraudulent NSF purchase order was provided. However, we contacted each of those vendors and confirmed that no product had been shipped.

According to the account holder information received from the warrant, the account was created in October 2020, but subsequently cancelled for "high fraud risk." We investigated the account holder personal information, but it appeared to be fraudulent. As the account holder used an @hotmail.com email address, we obtained a search warrant for that email address. The results showed the provided email address did not exist.

As there were no known victims to have suffered a financial loss and no further leads on the identity of the subject, the case was closed after discussion the U.S. Attorney's Office. NSF's Division of Information Services was notified to block the @nsfgov.org domain.

This case is **closed** with no further action taken.