U.S. Department of Commerce U.S. Patent and Trademark Office



Privacy Impact Assessment for the Government Retirement & Benefits (GRB)

Reviewed by: Henry J. Holcombe, Bureau Chief Privacy Officer

- Concurrence of Senior Agency Official for Privacy/DOC Chief Privacy Officer
- □ Non-concurrence of Senior Agency Official for Privacy/DOC Chief Privacy Officer

CHARLES CUTSHALL Digitally signed by CHARLES CO. Date: 2025.02.27 14:16:33 -05'00'

Digitally signed by CHARLES CUTSHALL

Signature of Senior Agency Official for Privacy/DOC Chief Privacy Officer

U.S. Department of Commerce Privacy Impact Assessment USPTO Government Retirement & Benefits (GRB)

Unique Project Identifier: EBPL-PM-03-00

Introduction: System Description

Provide a brief description of the information system.

The Government Retirement & Benefits (GRB) Platform is a web application that allows Human Resources (HR) Benefits specialists to work under one framework to perform their day-to-day jobs. United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) uses the GRB platform to prepare service histories, create retirement estimate reports, and service computational dates. USPTO leverages the partial license, such that access to and use of the GRB platform is limited to USPTO HR Benefits Specialists.

Address the following elements:

- (a) Whether it is a general support system, major application, or other type of system GRB is a Major Application and is a web application, under the license model, Software-as-a Service.
- (b) System location

The GRB Platform's primary processing and storage site is located at: Washington, DC and Ashburn, VA. The GRB Platform's alternative storage site is located in Alexandria, VA.

- (c) Whether it is a standalone system or interconnects with other systems (identifying and describing any other systems to which it interconnects)

 Standalone system
- (d) The way the system operates to achieve the purpose(s) identified in Section 4
 The HR Benefits Specialist logs into the secure GRB website and enters the necessary information required to provide retirement benefit estimates, service history calculations, run "what-if" scenarios and provide the employee the desired benefit estimate or other desired result.
- (e) How information in the system is retrieved by the user USPTO HR Benefits Specialist logs into GRB via a web browser using Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS) with Transport Layer Security (TLS) 1.2 encryption.
- (f) How information is transmitted to and from the system USPTO HR Benefits Specialist manually enter the data into GRB referencing other HR systems that contain the information or by entering information directly provided by the employee. The employee may provide this information orally over the phone or in writing via email.

- (g) Any information sharing
- Upon the employee's request, HR is able to provide them their information related to their federal employment and retirement benefits. This is done through a manual process of extracting the data from GRB and sending it securely to the employee.
- (h) The specific programmatic authorities (statutes or Executive Orders) for collecting, maintaining, using, and disseminating the information
- 5 USC Subchapter III, Civil Service Retirement
- 5 USC Subpart G Insurance and Annuities
- 5 CFR Part 831 Retirement

SSNs are collected and used in accordance with Executive Order 9397, as amended by Executive Order 13478

(i) The Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) 199 security impact category for the system

Moderate

Section 1: Status of the Information System

1.1	Indicate whether the inf	ormatio	on system is a new or ex	xistin	g system.	
	☑ This is a new information	syster	n.			
☐ This is an existing information system with changes that create new privacy risks.						Check
	all that apply.)					
	Changes That Create New Pi	ivacy R	,			
	a. Conversions		d. Significant Merging		g. New Interagency Uses	
	b. Anonymous to Non-		e. New Public Access		h. Internal Flow or	
	Anonymous				Collection	
	c. Significant System		f. Commercial Sources		i. Alteration in Character	
	Management Changes				of Data	
	j. Other changes that create no	ew priva	cy risks (specify):		•	
	\square This is an existing inform	ation s	ystem in which change	s do 1	not create new privacy ris	sks,
	C				•	
			proved Privacy Impact			
	☐ This is an existing inform	ation s	ystem in which change	s do 1	not create new privacy ris	sks,
	and there is a SAOP	approv	ed Privacy Impact Ass	sessm	ent.	

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Section 2: Information in the System

2.1 Indicate what personally identifiable information (PII)/business identifiable information (BII) is collected, maintained, or disseminated. (Check all that apply.)

Identifying Numbers (IN)						
a. Social Security*	\boxtimes	f. Driver's License		j. Financial Account		
b. TaxpayerID		g. Passport		k. Financial Transaction		
c. EmployerID		h. Alien Registration		1. Vehicle Identifier		
d. Employee ID	\boxtimes	i. Credit Card		m. MedicalRecord		
e. File/Case ID						
n. Other identifying numbers	(specif	y): Spouse SSN				
truncated form:	s retirer	o collect, maintain, or disseminate or collect, and or co		Social Security number, including nave SSN. (The only consistent	,	
General Personal Data (GPI	<u>v)</u>					
a. Name		h. Date of Birth		o. Financial Information	П	
b. Maiden Name		i. Place of Birth		p. Medical Information	H	
c. Alias		j. Home Address		q. Military Service		
d. Gender		k. Telephone Number		r. Criminal Record		
e. Age		l. Email Address		s. Marital Status		
f. Race/Ethnicity		m. Education		t. Mother's Maiden Name		
g. Citizenship	\vdash	n. Religion				
u. Other general personal da and Last Name and Middle In	u. Other general personal data (specify): Spouse First and Last Name, Spouse Middle Initial. Beneficiaries First					
and East Name and Widdle III	ıtıaı.					
Work-Related Data (WRD)						
a. Occupation	\boxtimes	e. Work Email Address	\boxtimes	i. Business Associates		
b. Job Title	\boxtimes	f. Salary	\boxtimes	j. Proprietary or Business Information		
c. Work Address		g. Work History	\boxtimes	k. Procurement/contracting records		
d. Work Telephone Number		h. Employment Performance Ratings or other Performance Information				
l. Other work-related data (s	specify):				
Distinguishing Features/Bio		•				
a Fingarprints	1 — —	f Scare Marke Tattoos		k Signatures	I — —	

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b. Palm Prints	Ιп	g. Hair Color	Тп	l. Vascular Scans	П
c. Voice/Audio Recording		h. Eye Color	十一	m. DNA Sample or Profile	
d. Video Recording			╁╦	n. Retina/Iris Scans	H
e. Photographs		j. Weight	+	o. Dental Profile	
p. Other distinguishing feat	ures/bio	١٠			
F:		(- r - ,)			
System Administration/Aud					
a. User ID	\boxtimes	c. Date/Time of Access	\boxtimes	e. IDFiles Accessed	
b. IP Address		f. Queries Run		f. Contents of Files	
g. Other system a dministrati	ion/auc	dit data (specify):			
Other Information (specify)					
omer information (specify)					
		/BII in the system. <i>(Check</i>		at apply.)	
		/BII in the system. <i>(Check</i> hom the Information Pertains Hard Copy: Mail/Fax		at apply.) Online	
Directly from Individual abo	out WI	hom the Information Pertains			
Directly from Individual abo In Person		hom the Information Pertains Hard Copy: Mail/Fax			
Directly from Individual about In Person Telephone Other(specify):	out WI	hom the Information Pertains Hard Copy: Mail/Fax			
Directly from Individual about In Person Telephone Other(specify): Government Sources	out WI	hom the Information Pertains Hard Copy: Mail/Fax Email		Online	
Directly from Individual about In Person Telephone Other (specify): Government Sources Within the Bureau	out WI	hom the Information Pertains Hard Copy: Mail/Fax Email Other DOC Bureaus			
Directly from Individual about In Person Telephone Other (specify): Government Sources Within the Bureau State, Local, Tribal	out Wl	hom the Information Pertains Hard Copy: Mail/Fax Email		Online	
Directly from Individual about In Person Telephone Other (specify): Government Sources Within the Bureau	out Wl	hom the Information Pertains Hard Copy: Mail/Fax Email Other DOC Bureaus		Online	
Directly from Individual about In Person Telephone Other (specify): Government Sources Within the Bureau State, Local, Tribal	out Wl	hom the Information Pertains Hard Copy: Mail/Fax Email Other DOC Bureaus		Online	
Directly from Individual about In Person Telephone Other (specify): Government Sources Within the Bureau State, Local, Tribal Other (specify): Non-government Sources	out Wl	hom the Information Pertains Hard Copy: Mail/Fax Email Other DOC Bureaus Foreign		Online Other Federal Agencies	
Directly from Individual about In Person Telephone Other (specify): Government Sources Within the Bureau State, Local, Tribal Other (specify): Non-government Sources Public Organizations	out WI	hom the Information Pertains Hard Copy: Mail/Fax Email Other DOC Bureaus		Online	
Directly from Individual about In Person Telephone Other (specify): Government Sources Within the Bureau State, Local, Tribal Other (specify): Non-government Sources Public Organizations Third Party Website or Applic	out WI	hom the Information Pertains Hard Copy: Mail/Fax Email Other DOC Bureaus Foreign		Online Other Federal Agencies	
Directly from Individual about In Person Telephone Other (specify): Government Sources Within the Bureau State, Local, Tribal Other (specify): Non-government Sources Public Organizations	out WI	hom the Information Pertains Hard Copy: Mail/Fax Email Other DOC Bureaus Foreign		Online Other Federal Agencies	

2.3 Describe how the accuracy of the information in the system is ensured.

The accuracy of the information is ensured by coming directly from the HR personnel data that is manually extracted from various other HR personnel systems (no connection to GRB). Any employee can review their own HR personnel data in eOPF and HRConnect for accuracy. Employees can request updates to their information in GRB to ensure its accuracy

by contacting HR personnel and asking to review their data. Employees cannot access GRB to view or update information. Additionally, accuracy is ensured by regular updates provided by the agency HR department data manual input.

The system is secured using appropriate administrative physical and technical safeguards in accordance with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) security controls (encryption, access control, and auditing). Mandatory IT awareness and role-based training is required for staff who have access to the system and address how to handle, retain, and dispose of data. All access has role-based restrictions and individuals with privileges have undergone vetting and suitability screening. PII is provided to the system via manual input by an HR Benefits Specialist.

	ergone vetting and suitability screenin IR Benefits Specialist.	g. PII	is provided to the system via manual inpu	it by
2.4 Is	s the information covered by the Pape	rworl	k Reduction Act?	
	Yes, the information is covered by the Pape Provide the OMB control number and the a			
\boxtimes	No, the information is not covered by the Pa	aperwo	ork Reduction Act.	
de _l	dicate the technologies used that contain ployed. (Check all that apply.)		/BII in ways that have not been previously	7
	rt Cards		Biometrics	Тп
Caller-ID			Personal Identity Verification (PIV) Cards	╁
	r(specify):		1 Total Control of the Control of th	<u> </u>
⊠ Sectio	There are not any technologies used that co	ntain F	PII/BII in ways that have not been previously deplo	y ed.
	Indicate IT system supported activitie apply.)	s whi	ch raise privacy risks/concerns. (Check al	'l that
	vities			
	o recordings		Building entry readers	
Vide	o surveillance		Electronic purchase transactions	
Othe	r(specify): Click or tap here to enter text.			

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There are not any IT system supported activities which raise privacy risks/concerns.

Section 4: Purpose of the System

4.1 Indicate why the PII/BII in the IT system is being collected, maintained, or disseminated. (*Check all that apply.*)

Purpose			
For a Computer Matching Program		For a dm in istering human resources programs	\boxtimes
For a dm in istrative matters	\boxtimes	To promote information sharing initiatives	
For litigation		For criminal law enforcement activities	
For civil enforcement activities		For intelligence activities	
To improve Federal services online		For employee or customer satisfaction	
For web measurement and customization technologies (single-session)		For web measurement and customization technologies (multi-session)	
Other(specify):			

Section 5: Use of the Information

5.1 In the context of functional areas (business processes, missions, operations, etc.) supported by the IT system, describe how the PII/BII that is collected, maintained, or disseminated will be used. Indicate if the PII/BII identified in Section 2.1 of this document is in reference to a federal employee/contractor, member of the public, foreign national, visitor or other (specify).

USPTO employees provide their information upon employment with USPTO. Their information is stored in systems such as HRConnect, which they have access to and can update as needed. All PII indicated in section 2.1, except audit data is collected about USPTO employees and/or their spouse/beneficiary.

Audit data is collected from the USPTO employee and contractors that have access to GRB when they use the system.

5.2 Describe any potential threats to privacy, such as insider threat, as a result of the bureau's/operating unit's use of the information, and controls that the bureau/operating unit has put into place to ensure that the information is handled, retained, and disposed appropriately. (For example: mandatory training for system users regarding appropriate handling of information, automatic purging of information in accordance with the retention schedule, etc.)

In the event of computer failure, insider threats, or attack against the system by adversarial or foreign entities, any potential PII data stored within the system could be exposed. To avoid a breach, the system has certain security controls in place to ensure the information is handled, retained, and disposed of appropriately. Access to individual's PII is controlled through the application, and all personnel who access the data must first authenticate to the system at which time an audit trail is generated when the database is accessed. These audit trails are based on application server out-of-the-box logging reports reviewed by the Information System Security Officer (ISSO) and System Auditor and any suspicious indicators such as browsing will be immediately investigated and appropriate action taken. Also, system users undergo annual mandatory training regarding appropriate handling of information.

NIST security controls are in place to ensure that information is handled, retained, and disposed of appropriately. For example, advanced encryption is used to secure the data both during transmission and while stored at rest. Access to individual's PII is controlled through the application and all personnel who access the data must first authenticate to the system at which time an audit trail is generated when the database is accessed. USPTO requires annual security role based training and annual mandatory security awareness procedure training for all employees. All offices adhere to the USPTO Records Management Office's Comprehensive Records Schedule or the General Records Schedule and the corresponding disposition authorities or citations.

Section 6: Information Sharing and Access

6.1 Indicate with whom the bureau intends to share the PII/BII in the IT system and how the PII/BII will be shared. *(Check all that apply.)*

Daniminut	How Information will be Shared				
Recipient	Case-by-Case	Bulk Transfer	Direct Access		
Within the bureau	\boxtimes		\boxtimes		
DOC bureaus					
Federalagencies					
State, local, tribal gov't agencies					
Public					
Private sector					
Foreign governments					
Foreign entities					
Other(specify):					

The PII/BII in the system will not be shared.

6.2 Does the DOC bureau/operating unit place a limitation on re-dissemination of PII/BII shared with external agencies/entities?

	Yes, the external a gency/entity is required dissemination of PII/BII.	l to verif	y with the DOC bureau/operating unit before re-			
	No, the external agency/entity is not required to verify with the DOC bureau/operating unit before redissemination of PII/BII.					
\boxtimes	No, the bureau/operating unit does not sha	are PH/B	II with external a gencies/entities.			
6.3	Indicate whether the IT system conn systems authorized to process PII an		th or receives information from any other I	IT		
	process PII and/or BII.		mation from a nother IT system(s) a uthorized to e technical controls which prevent PII/BII lea kage:	:		
\boxtimes	No, this IT system does not connect with process PII and/or BII.	or receiv	e information from a nother IT system(s) authorized	d to		
	all that apply.) ass of Users		cess to the IT system and the PII/BII. (Che			
	nera l Public		Government Employees	\boxtimes		
	ntractors	\boxtimes				
Otl	ner(specify):					
Secti 7.1	disseminated by the system. (Check	all tha	d if their PII/BII is collected, maintained, o t apply.) Fords notice published in the Federal Register and	or		
	Yes, notice is provided by a Privacy Act statement and/or privacy policy. The Privacy Act statement and/or privacy policy can be found at:					
			how: This PIA serves as a form of notice of how tion will be collected and disseminated.			

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	No, notice is not provided.	Specify why not:
7.2		als have an opportunity to decline to provide PII/BII.
	Yes, individuals have an opportunity to decline to provide PII/BII.	Specify how:
\boxtimes	No, individuals do not have an opportunity to decline to provide PII/BII.	Specify why not: Individuals do not have the opportunity to decline to provide their PII/BII as the information is required in order to process the benefits that this system is designed to serve.
7.3	Indicate whether and how individu their PII/BII.	als have an opportunity to consent to particular uses of
	Yes, individuals have an opportunity to consent to particular uses of their PII/BII.	Specify how:
\boxtimes	No, individuals do not have an opportunity to consent to particular uses of their PII/BII.	Specify why not: Individuals do not have an opportunity to consent to particular uses of their PII/BII as the information is utilized to perform necessary HR administrative matters, on behalf of employees.
7.4	Indicate whether and how individu pertaining to them.	als have an opportunity to review/update PII/BII
	Yes, individuals have an opportunity to review/update PII/BII pertaining to them.	Specify how:
\boxtimes	No, individuals do not have an opportunity to review/update PII/BII perta ining to them.	Specify why not: Employees do not have direct access to GRB. Individuals can submit a request to review and update their PII with the HR Benefits specialists.
<u>Sectio</u> 8.1	on 8: Administrative and Technol Indicate the administrative and tecl apply.)	ogical Controls nnological controls for the system. (Check all that
\boxtimes	All users signed a confidentiality a green	nent or non-disclosure agreement.
\boxtimes	All users are subject to a Code of Condu	act that includes the requirement for confidentiality.
\boxtimes	Staff(employees and contractors) receiv	ved training on privacy and confidentiality policies and practices.
\boxtimes	Access to the PII/BII is restricted to a utl	norized personnel only.
\boxtimes	Access to the PII/BII is being monitored Explanation: Physical and Logical Acceacess to the system.	l, tracked, or recorded. ss to the system components is a udited as well as end-user logical

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\boxtimes	The information is secured in a ccordance with the Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA) requirements.
	Provide date of most recent Assessment and Authorization (A&A): 7/26/2024
	☐ This is a new system. The A&A date will be provided when the A&A package is approved.
\boxtimes	The Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 199 security impact category for this system is a moderate or higher.
\boxtimes	NIST Special Publication (SP) 800-122 and NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5 recommended security controls
	for protecting PII/BII are in place and functioning as intended; or have an approved Plan of Action and Milestones (POA&M).
\boxtimes	A security assessment report has been reviewed for the information system and it has been determined that there are no additional privacy risks.
\boxtimes	Contractors that have access to the system are subject to information security provisions in their contracts required by DOC policy.
\boxtimes	Contracts with customers establish DOC ownership rights over data including PII/BII.
\boxtimes	Acceptance of lia bility for exposure of PII/BII is clearly defined in a greements with customers.
	Other(specify):

8.2 Provide a general description of the technologies used to protect PII/BII on the IT system. (*Include data encryption in transit and/or at rest, if applicable*).

PII within the system is secured using appropriate management, operational, and technical safeguards in accordance with NIST requirements. Such management controls include a review process to ensure that management controls are in place and documented in the System Security Privacy Plan (SSPP). The SSPP specifically addresses the management, operational, and technical controls that are in place and planned during the operation of the system. Operational safeguards include restricting access to PII/BII data to a small subset of users. All access has role-based restrictions and individuals with access privileges have undergone vetting and suitability screening. Data is maintained in areas accessible only to authorized personnel. The system maintains an audit trail and the appropriate personnel is alerted when there is suspicious activity. Data is encrypted in transit using HTTPS (TLS 1.2) and at rest. All requests and responses between the web browser and the web server are performed using HTTPS (TLS 1.2). The web server's application layer handles all data encryption and decryption by using Kernel Mode Cryptographic Primitives Library FIPS Cert #2936 algorithms. When the user provides PII protected data, that data is encrypted at the web server's application layer and pushed into the database. When the user requests PII protected data from the database, that data is decrypted by the web server's application layer.

Section 9: Privacy Act

9.1	Is the l	PII/BII searchable by a personal identifier (e.g, name or Social Security number)?
	\boxtimes	Yes, the PII/BII is searchable by a personal identifier.
		No, the PII/BII is not searchable by a personal identifier.

9.2 Indicate whether a system of records is being created under the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C.

§ 552a. (A new system of records notice (SORN) is required if the system is not covered by an existing SORN).

As per the Privacy Act of 1974, "the term 'system of records' means a group of any records under the control of any agency from which information is retrieved by the name of the individual or by some identifying number, symbol, or other identifying particular assigned to the individual."

\boxtimes	Yes, this system is covered by an existing system of records notice (SORN). Provide the SORN name, number, and link. (list all that apply):
	COMMERCE/DEPT-18 – Employees Personnel Files Not Covered by Notices of Other Agencies
	COMMERCE/DEPT-1 — Attendance, Leave, and Payroll Records of Employees and Certain Other Persons
	OPM/GOVT-1 – General Personnel Records
	Yes, a SORN has been submitted to the Department for approval on (date).
	No, this system is not a system of records and a SORN is not applicable.

Section 10: Retention of Information

10.1 Indicate whether these records are covered by an approved records control schedule and monitored for compliance. (Check all that apply.)

\boxtimes	GRS 2.4:050 Wage and Tax Statements GRS 2.2:050 Notifications of Personnel actions
	No, there is not an approved record control schedule. Provide the stage in which the project is in developing and submitting a records control schedule:
	Yes, retention is monitored for compliance to the schedule.
	No, retention is not monitored for compliance to the schedule. Provide explanation:

10.2 Indicate the disposal method of the PII/BII. (Check all that apply.)

Disposal		
Shredding	Overwriting	
Degaussing	Deleting	\boxtimes
Other(specify):		

Section 11: NIST Special Publication 800-122 PII Confidentiality Impact Level

11.1 Indicate the potential impact that could result to the subject individuals and/or the organization if PII were inappropriately accessed, used, or disclosed. (*The PII*

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Confidentiality Impact Level is not the same, and does not have to be the same, as the Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) 199 security impact category.)

	Low—the loss of confidentiality, integrity, or a vailability could be expected to have a limited adverse effect on organizational operations, organizational assets, or individuals.
\boxtimes	Moderate – the loss of confidentiality, integrity, or a vailability could be expected to have a serious adverse effect on organizational operations, organizational assets, or individuals.
	High—the loss of confidentiality, integrity, or a vailability could be expected to have a severe or catastrophic a dverse effect on organizational operations, organizational assets, or individuals.

11.2 Indicate which factors were used to determine the above PII confidentiality impact level. (*Check all that apply.*)

	Identifiability	Provide explanation: GRB has PII about USPTO employees, their spouse, and/or beneficiaries. The types of information collected, ma intained, used or disseminated by the system includes, first and last name, e-mail and SSN.
	Quantity of PII	Provide explanation: GRB has the PII data points in section 2.1 about all USPTO employees. At any one time this system would contain around 20k individuals and their spouse/beneficiaries PII.
	Data Field Sensitivity	Provide explanation: GRB has PII such as user SSN, Spouse SSN, and other retirement related information.
	Context of Use	Provide explanation: GRB has PII for the purpose of providing a variety of benefit estimates, calculations and "what if" scenarios at the request of the employee.
\boxtimes	Obligation to Protect Confidentiality	Provide explanation: In a ccordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, USPTO Privacy Policy requires the PII information collected within the system to be protected in a ccordance with NIST SP 800-122 and NIST SP 800-53 Rev5.
\boxtimes	Access to and Location of PII	Provide explanation: PII is stored and secured in the datacenter used by GRB minimal USPTO employees and contractors can access the system for the purpose of administering HR benefits.
	Other:	Provide explanation:

Section 12: Analysis

12.1 Identify and evaluate any potential threats to privacy that exist in light of the information collected or the sources from which the information is collected. Also, describe the choices that the bureau/operating unit made with regard to the type or quantity of information collected and the sources providing the information in order to prevent or mitigate threats to privacy. (For example: If a decision was made to collect less data, include a discussion of this decision; if it is necessary to obtain information from sources other than the individual, explain why.)

The PII in this system poses a risk if exposed. System users undergo annual mandatory training regarding appropriate handling of information. Physical access to servers is restricted to only a few authorized individuals. The servers storing the potential PII are located in a highly sensitive zone within the cloud and logical access is segregated with network firewalls and switches through an Access Control list that limits access to only a few approved and authorized accounts. USPTO monitors, in real-time, all activities and events within the servers storing the potential PII data and personnel review audit logs received on a regular bases and alert the appropriate personnel when inappropriate or unusual activity is identified.

1	2.2	Indicate whether the conduct of this PIA results in any required business process changes.
		Yes, the conduct of this PIA results in required business process changes. Explanation:
	\boxtimes	No, the conduct of this PIA does not result in any required business process changes.
1	2.3	Indicate whether the conduct of this PIA results in any required technology changes.
		Yes, the conduct of this PIA results in required technology changes. Explanation:
	\boxtimes	No, the conduct of this PIA does not result in any required technology changes.