

House, Senate intel committees receive briefing from Google

October 19 2017, by Mary Clare Jalonick

Google has briefed the House and Senate intelligence committees ahead of two Nov. 1 hearings that will examine Russian efforts to influence U.S. elections through social media.

Officials from Google talked to investigators behind closed doors in recent weeks as part of the committees' probes into Russian meddling in last year's election, according to people familiar with the briefings. The people declined to be named because the meetings were private.

Google spokeswoman Andrea Faville said Wednesday that Google representatives will participate in the public hearings Nov. 1.

The panels have recently focused on the spread of false news stories and propaganda on [social media](#) and have pressured Google, along with Twitter and Facebook, to provide any evidence of Russian efforts to intervene on their platforms.

Facebook recently provided three congressional committees with more than 3,000 ads they had traced to a Russian internet agency and told investigators of their contents. Twitter also briefed Congress last month and handed over to Senate investigators the profile names, or "handles," of 201 accounts linked to Russians.

While both of those companies have made public statements about their efforts to discover those accounts, Google has declined to publicly confirm reports that it has also discovered Russia-linked ads on its

platforms, such as Google Search and YouTube, or whether ad-buying occurred on its ad networks DoubleClick and AdSense. It is unclear what Google discussed with the investigators, or whether the company turned over any information.

The Senate and House intelligence panels have invited Facebook, Twitter and Google to testify at separate hearings that day.

Republican Rep. Mike Conaway of Texas, the head of the House investigation, said last week that he expects all three companies to attend.

© 2017 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: House, Senate intel committees receive briefing from Google (2017, October 19) retrieved 30 June 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2017-10-house-senate-intel-committees-google.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.