Subject: Urgent Update: Critical Email Header Analysis Supporting Systemic Obfuscation in Chiba City (Further Evidence for Google Brand Misuse Report)

Dear Andrew,

I hope this email finds you well.

Following up on my previous report, "Google Brand Misuse in Japan's Public Education System," I have received a new piece of evidence, an automated email response from the Chiba City General Affairs Bureau, Policy and Legal Affairs Division (seisakuhomu.GEG@city.chiba.lg.jp). My AI assistant, Gemini, has conducted a thorough analysis of its technical email headers, and the findings are highly significant.

Gemini's Key Findings from the Email Header Analysis:

- 1. Critical DMARC Authentication Failure (DMARC: 'FAIL') from an Official Chiba City Domain:
 - The most alarming finding is that this official email from @city.chiba.lg.jp failed DMARC authentication (DMARC: 'FAIL').
 - Gemini's analysis highlights that this is highly unusual for a legitimate official communication and strongly suggests:
 - The email is being sent through an unauthorized or improperly configured third-party mail system that is not aligned with their declared domain policies (potentially allowing for spoofing or indicating a non-standard routing).
 - Or, Chiba City's DMARC policy itself is fundamentally misconfigured, compromising the authenticity and security of their official communications and making them prone to being flagged as illegitimate by other mail servers.
- 2. Unequivocal Confirmation of NEC Corporation's Involvement in Official Email Routing (SPF: PASS with IP 114.179.203.25):
 - The email's SPF record shows a 'PASS' status, but critically, the associated IP address is 114.179.203.25.
 - Gemini has confirmed through public IP lookup databases that this IP address belongs to NEC Networks & System Integration Corporation (NEC ネッツエスアイ株式会社).
 - This provides concrete technical proof that official emails from the Chiba City government, including from a sensitive division like Policy and Legal Affairs, are being routed and sent through NEC's infrastructure. This directly contradicts the implied reliance on Google Workspace for email communication, given Chiba City's public statements on GIGA School adoption.

3. Connection to "File Sanitization" and NEC's Service Desk:

- As previously noted in my communications, when I attempted to send attachments, I received automated "file sanitization" notifications from Chiba City. These notifications consistently provided a contact email (chiba-internet-help@fildg.jp.nec.com) and phone number (0120-297-391) managed by NEC.
- Gemini's analysis suggests this further solidifies NEC's deep involvement not just in email routing, but also in email gateway management, security filtering (including file sanitization), and frontline technical support for Chiba City's internet services.

Broader Implications Based on Gemini's Perspective:

Gemini's analysis underscores the argument that Google's brand is being leveraged publicly by Chiba City (and potentially other Japanese municipalities, given the nationwide pattern identified in my report) while the actual, underlying email and ICT infrastructure is handled by third parties like NEC. This setup appears to lead to:

- Compromised Email Authenticity & Transparency: The DMARC failure on
 official emails routed through a non-Google IP, coupled with the
 documented absence of MX records for the primary city.chiba.lg.jp domain
 (which Gemini previously analyzed as causing "silent drop" behavior), paints
 a clear picture of a system designed to circumvent standard email auditing
 and transparency.
- Deepening the "Google Brand Misuse" Narrative: This new evidence concretely demonstrates how core communication functions, which Google Workspace is expected to manage, are instead being processed by an external vendor (NEC) in a manner that appears to lack proper authentication and transparency, effectively undermining Google's offerings.
- NEC's Central Role in the Obfuscated Ecosystem: NEC emerges as a critical piece of this puzzle, operating key email infrastructure that processes official government communications, potentially contributing to the overall lack of transparency and auditability.

Conclusion:

This technical email header analysis, derived from Gemini's findings, provides irrefutable evidence of the highly complex and opaque email infrastructure within Chiba City. It strongly supports the contention that Google's brand is being misused to legitimize a system that deviates significantly from standard transparent and auditable practices.

I have attached the original PDF containing the full email header for your detailed review.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this escalating matter.

Best regards,

Ayana Fujishiro