

Trump-Russia: new meeting revealed involving Donald Jr, Kushner and Manafort

Talks with Kremlin-linked lawyer in June 2016 appear to be the earliest known private meeting between key aides to US president and a Russian

Donald Trump Jr, Jared Kushner and Paul Manafort met with a Russian lawyer shortly after Donald Trump won the Republican nomination, it has emerged, in what appears to be the earliest known private meeting between key aides to the president and a Russian.

Representatives of Donald Trump's eldest son and son-in-law confirmed the June 2016 meeting after [the New York Times reported on Saturday on the gathering](#) of the men and Russian lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya at Trump Tower. Then-chairman of the campaign Manafort also attended, according to the statement from Donald Trump Jr.

He described it as a "short introductory meeting" during which the three discussed a disbanded program that used to allow US citizens to adopt Russian children.

Russia ended the adoptions in response to American sanctions brought against the nation following the 2009 death of an imprisoned lawyer who spoke about a corruption scandal. Trump Jr said he invited the other two Americans, was asked to attend by an acquaintance not named in the statement, and was not told beforehand with whom he would meet.

"It was not a campaign issue at that time and there was no follow up," he said.

Kushner lawyer Jamie Gorelick said her client already disclosed the meeting in a revised filing of a form that requires him to list meetings with foreign agents.

"Mr Kushner has submitted additional updates and included, out of an abundance of caution, this meeting with a Russian person, which he briefly attended at the request of his brother-in-law, [Donald Trump Jr](#). As Mr Kushner has consistently stated, he is eager to cooperate and share what he knows," she said.

Unlike Kushner, Trump Jr does not serve in the administration and is not required to disclose his foreign contacts. The newspaper reported on Saturday, citing unnamed people familiar with the matter, that Manafort disclosed the meeting to congressional investigators questioning his foreign contacts.

Manafort ran Trump's campaign for about five months until August and resigned from the campaign immediately after it emerged his firm ran a covert Washington lobbying operation on behalf of Ukraine's ruling political party. He is one of several people linked to the Trump campaign who are under scrutiny by a special counsel and congressional committees investigating Russian meddling in the 2016 campaign and possible coordination with Trump associates.

Manafort has denied any coordination with Russia and has said his work in Ukraine was not related to the campaign.

The newspaper said Veselnitskaya was known for her attempts to undercut the sanctions against Russian human rights abusers. The Times also said her clients included state-owned businesses and the son of a senior government official whose company was under investigation in the United States at the time of the meeting.

