

= Norwegian Police Service =

The Norwegian Police Service (Norwegian : Politi- og lensmannsetaten) is the Norwegian civilian police agency . It consists of a central National Police Directorate , seven specialty agencies and twenty @-@ seven police districts . The government agency is subordinate to the Ministry of Justice and Public Security and has 13 @,@ 000 employees , of which 8 @,@ 000 are police officers . In addition to police powers , the service is responsible for border control , certain civil duties , coordinating search and rescue operations , counter @-@ terrorism , highway patrolling , writ of execution , criminal investigation and prosecution .

The police service dates to the 13th century when the first sheriffs were appointed . As the first city in Norway to do so , Trondheim had a chief of police appointed in 1686 , and Oslo established a uniformed police corps in 1859 . The directorate is led by National Police Commissioner Odd Reidar Humlegård . Police districts were introduced in 1894 , with the current structure dating from 2003 .

Each police district is led by a chief of police and is subdivided into several police stations in towns and cities , and sheriffs ' offices for rural areas . The Governor of Svalbard acts as chief of police for Svalbard . Norwegian police officers do not carry firearms , but keep their Heckler & Koch MP5 submachine guns and Heckler & Koch P30 pistols locked down in the patrol cars . The Norwegian Prosecuting Authority is partially integrated with the police .

Specialist agencies within the services include the National Criminal Investigation Service , the National Authority for Investigation and Prosecution of Economic and Environmental Crime (Økokrim) , the National Police Immigration Service , the National Mobile Police Service , the Norwegian Border Commissioner , the National Police Computing and Material Service and the Norwegian Police University College . Several other national responsibilities are under the command of Oslo Police District , such as the Emergency Response Unit and the two police helicopters . The Police Security Service is separate from the National Police Directorate .

= = History = =

The police force in Norway was established during the 13th century . Originally the 60 to 80 sheriffs (lensmann) were predominantly used for writ of execution and to a less degree police power . In the cities the duties were originally taken care of by a gjaldker . The sheriffs were originally subordinate to the sysselmann , but from the 14th century they instead became subordinate to the bailiff (fogd) and the number of sheriffs increased . In the cities the police authority was transferred directly to the bailiff . By the mid @-@ 17th century there were between 300 and 350 sheriffs . With the introduction of the absolute monarchy in 1660 and subsequent strengthening of the civil service , the importance of the police increased . The bailiffs as such became part of the police structure , with their superiors , the county governor , receiving a similar role as that of chief of police . The first titled chief of police was hired in Trondheim in 1686 , thus creating the first police district , although his jurisdiction only covered the city proper . Chiefs of police were hired in Bergen in 1692 , Christiania (Oslo) in 1744 and Christianssand in 1776 .

From the 19th century , deputies were hired in larger areas to assist the sheriffs . Following the democratization in 1814 , the Ministry of Justice was created in 1818 and has since had the primary responsibility for organizing the police force . The 19th century saw a large increase in the number of chiefs of police , reaching sixteen by the middle of the century . Christiania established the country 's first uniformed corps of constables in 1859 , which gave the force a more unified appearance . Similar structures were soon introduced in many other cities . From 1859 the municipalities would finance the wages of the deputies and constables , which made it difficult for the police to use those forces outside the municipal borders . The first organized education of police officers started in Christiania in 1889 .

In 1894 the authorities decided to abolish the position of bailiff and it was decided that some of its tasks would be transferred to the sheriffs . This resulted in 26 new chief of police positions , largely corresponding to the old bailiwicks . Some received jurisdiction over both cities and rural areas , other just rural areas . At the same time the existing police districts were expanded to include the

surrounding rural areas . However , the individual bailiff were not removed from office until their natural retirement , leaving some bailiwick in place until 1919 . The reform eliminated the difference between the rural and city police forces ; yet the sheriffs were only subordinate to the chief of police in police matters ? in civil matters and administration they remained under the county governors .

The police school was established in 1920 and the Governor of Svalbard was created in 1925 . To increase the police force 's flexibility , the municipal funding was cut and replaced with state funding in 1937 . That year also saw the first two specialty agencies were created , the Police Surveillance Agency (later the Police Security Service) and the Mobile Police Service . After a border agreement was reached between Norway and the Soviet Union in 1949 , the Norwegian Border Commission was established the following year . The Criminal Investigation Service was established in 1959 , and the search and rescue system with two joint coordination centers and sub @-@ centers for each police district was created in 1970 .

The number of police districts was nearly constant from 1894 to 2002 , although a few have been creased and closed . However , the organization in the various police districts varied considerably , especially in the cities . In particular , some cities had their civilian responsibilities taken care of by the municipality . This was confusing for the public , resulting in the police services reorganizing to a homogenous organization during the 1980s , whereby the civil tasks being organized as part of the police stations . Økokrim was established in 1988 and in 1994 the administrative responsibilities for the sheriff 's offices was transferred to police districts . Only once has the order to shoot to kill been issued , during the Torp hostage crisis in 1994 . The police school became a university college in 1993 and introduced a three @-@ year education ; in 1998 a second campus opened in Bodø . Police Reform 2000 was a major restructuring of the police force . First the National Police Directorate was created in 2001 , and from 2003 the number of police districts were reduced from 54 to 27 . The Police Computing and Material Service and the Criminal Investigation Service were both established in 2004 . Ten police officers have been killed in service since 1945 . The Gjørv Report following the 2011 Norway attacks criticized several aspects of the police force , labeling the work as " unacceptable " . National Commissioner Øystein Mæland withdrew following the criticism , in part because an internal report of the attacks had not found any criticism of the police force .

= = Structure = =

The National Police Directorate , located in Downtown Oslo , is the central administration for the Norwegian Police Service . It conducts management and supervision of the specialist agencies and police districts , including organizational development and support activities . The directorate is led by the National Police Commissioner , who , since 2012 , has been Odd Reidar Humlegård . The National Criminal Investigation Service is a national unit which works with organized and serious crime . It both works as an assistant unit for police districts , with special focus on technical and tactical investigation , in addition to being responsible on its own for organized crime . It acts as the center for international police cooperation , including participation in Interpol and Europol . The National Authority for Investigation and Prosecution of Economic and Environmental Crime is responsible for complex cases of economic crime and acts as a public prosecutor for those cases . The National Police Immigration Service registers and identifies asylum seekers and returns those which have their applications rejected . The National Mobile Police Service is based in Stavern and operates throughout the country . Their primary role is as highway patrol and manages the police reserves , although they also assist police districts in extraordinary events where extra manpower is needed or where they are in the vicinity .

The Norwegian Border Commissioner is located in Kirkenes and is responsible for managing the Norway ? Russia border and upholding the border agreement . Special consideration is needed as it is the only non @-@ Schengen Area land border of Norway . Border controls are the responsibility of the respective police district . The National Police Computing and Material Service is responsible for managing the police 's information and communications technology , procurement , security and real estate . Norway has two joint rescue coordination centers , one for Northern Norway located in Bodø and on one for Southern Norway located in Sola . Their jurisdiction border goes at the 65th

parallel north (Nord @-@ Trøndelag ? Nordland border) . Organizationally they are directly subordinate to the Ministry of Justice and the Police , although their operations are subordinate to the chiefs of police in Salten and Rogaland , respectively . The Police Security Service is Norway 's security agency ; although considered a law enforcement agency , it is not subordinate to the National Police Directorate nor part of the Norwegian Police Service .

Metropolitan Norway is divided into 27 police districts . Each district is further subdivided into local police stations and rural police districts , the latter led by a sheriff . Each police district is headquartered at a main police station and is led by a chief of police . Police districts hold a common pool of resources and personnel and have a common administration and budget . Each also has a joint operations center which also acts as an emergency call center for 112 . Many of the larger districts have their own execution and enforcement authority , while this is integrated in the smaller districts . The size of the police districts varies , from Oslo with 2 @,@ 500 employees and covering a population of 570 @,@ 000 to Eastern Finnmark which has 160 employees and 30 @,@ 000 residents .

Each districts has specially @-@ trained mobile units for armed and other challenging missions , and dog units for narcotics and search and rescue missions . The police districts also have police boats for coastal waters and selected lakes , with focus on driving under the influence , speeding and environmental monitoring . In Troms and Finnmark , the Reindeer Police are responsible for monitoring and supervising reindeer husbandry and environmental supervision . As of 2009 there were 301 rural police districts , 68 local police stations and 10 execution and enforcement authorities .

Oslo Police District has a series of special divisions and task forces which provide aid to all other police districts when necessary . It is responsible for the two police helicopters , which is mostly used for traffic motoring , search and rescue and apprehension . The Emergency Response Unit is a deployment unit for terrorism , sabotage and hostage incidents , which is separate from the crisis and hostage negotiation service . Oslo 's dog patrol service includes the national bomb squad . The departments further has a mobile deployment squad against demonstrations and riots , a Police Negotiation Unit for use against barricades and kidnapping , a mounted police , and the responsibility for protecting high @-@ ranking government and royal officials .

Svalbard is not part of the regular police districts ? instead it law enforcement it handled by the Governor of Svalbard . He holds the responsibility as both county governor and chief of police , as well as holding other authority granted from the executive branch . Duties include environmental policy , family law , law enforcement , search and rescue , tourism management , information services , contact with foreign settlements , and adjudication in some areas of maritime inquiries and judicial examinations ? albeit never in the same cases as acting as police . Jan Mayen is subordinate to Salten Police District .

= = Jurisdiction and capabilities = =

Norway has a unified police , which means that there is a single police organization and that police power and prosecutor power is not granted to other agencies within Norway . The sole exception is the military police , albeit which only has jurisdiction over military personnel and on military installations , except during martial law . The police are decentralized and generalized to allow a more flexible resource allocation , while remaining under political control . This entails that police officers have no geographical or sector limitations to their powers . The Police Act and several special laws regulate the agencies and the officer 's powers and responsibilities . The police are required to assist other public institutions , including the healthcare authorities , and can be asked by other agencies to assist when it is necessary to enact a decision by force . Conversely , the police can ask for assistance from the Coast Guard when necessary . The police are responsible for all responses against terrorism and sabotage unless Norway is under armed attack .

Responsibilities and functions related to security includes patrolling , continual emergency availability , highway patrolling , sea patrolling , coordination of search and rescue activities , embassy security and as a body guard service for members of the government , the royal family and

other in need . The crime fighting responsibility is split between preventative measures , such as information , observation and controls , and consequential measures , such as investigation and prosecution . The police further have duties related to civilian court cases , such as writ of execution , evaluation of natural damage , assisting the courts after bankruptcies and functioning as a notary public .

The police have a series of functions related to public management , such as the issuing of passports , firearms licenses , police certificates , permissions for lotteries and withdrawal of driving licenses , approval of security guard companies and bouncers , recommendations to municipal councils for issuing alcohol sales licenses , approval of second @-@ hand shops and arrangements which are otherwise unlawful , dealing with unowned dogs and animals in the care of people sentenced unsuitable to hold animals .

The police also have the responsibility for prisoner transport during detention , including transport to and from court . The police serve as border guards for the outer border of the Schengen Area . The busiest are Oslo Airport , Gardermoen , which has 130 man @-@ years tied to it , Storskog on the Russian border and Sandefjord Airport , Torp . These are the only borders with designated border employees ? all other are manned with regular officers . The police is not responsible for customs , which is the responsibility of the Norwegian Customs and Excise Authorities . Norway participates in a series of international police cooperation , such as Interpol , Europol , the Schengen Information System , Frontex , and the Baltic Sea Task Force on Organized Crime . Norway also has a close cooperation with the other Nordic police forces . The Norwegian Police Service occasionally participates in international operations .

In 2011 the police force had 746 @, @ 464 assignments , the most common with 180 @, @ 000 assignments being investigation cases , such as reported deaths , controls and reports of motor vehicle theft . This was followed by traffic assignments , public disturbance of peace , animal cases , theft , private disturbance of peace , and sickness and psychiatry . Seventy @-@ five percent of assignments are solved with a single patrol , while ninety percent are solved with one and two . In armed situations only twenty percent are solved with a single patrol . In 2010 the Norwegian Police Service had 13 billion Norwegian krone in costs , of which seventy percent was used on wages . It employed 13 @, @ 493 man @-@ years , or 1 @. @ 6 man @-@ years per 1000 residents . There were 394 @, @ 137 reported offenses , or 81 @. @ 1 per 1000 people , of which 46 percent were solved . There were 5 @, @ 399 debt settlements , 226 @, @ 491 applications for writ of execution , 195 @, @ 345 immigration cases and 4 @, @ 615 forced returns .

= = Investigation and prosecution = =

The Norwegian Prosecuting Authority is integrated into the Norwegian Police Service . The authority is divided into a higher and lower authority , with the higher authority (public prosecutor) being a separate government agency and the lower authority (police prosecutor) being members of the police . The latter includes chief of police , deputy chief of police , police prosecutors and deputy police prosecutors . In questions of prosecution the police districts are subordinate to the Norwegian Prosecuting Authority and in other matters subordinate to the National Police Directorate .

The higher authorities will take decisions in serious criminal charges and for appeals . The Norwegian Persecuting Authority is led by the Director General of Public Prosecutions , which since 1997 has been Tor @-@ Aksel Busch . The director general makes decisions of indictment in cases with a maximum penalty of twenty @-@ one years and certain other serious crimes . There are twelve subordinate agencies , ten regional and two supporting Kripes and Økokrim , respectively . The regional public prosecution offices take decisions regarding cases not covered by the director general or the police prosecutors .

If an offense is filed , the issue may be investigated by police on duty . Permission for search and seizure is issued by the police prosecutor on duty at the police district . Apprehended people are permitted a free defense counsel at the public 's expense . If the police wish to keep apprehended people in detention , the issue is brought to the relevant district court , a process which may be repeated several times if the custody needs to be extended . Investigations are led by a police

prosecutor . During investigation , the case may be concluded as a non @-@ criminal offense , dismissed , or transferred to another police district . Minor cases with a positive finding may be resolved by police penalty notice , settlement by a conflict resolution board and withdrawal of prosecution .

Criminal cases with an assumed perpetrator are sent to the public prosecutor , who will consider issuing an indictment . If positive , the trial will take place at a district court , with a police prosecutor presiding over the case . Cases with more than six years maximum penalty will normally be carried out with public prosecutors prosecuting . Either party can , on specified terms , appeal the outcome of the case to the court of appeal and ultimately the Supreme Court of Norway .

= = Education and employment = =

Education of police officers is the responsibility of the Norwegian Police University College , which is subordinate to the National Police Directorate . The main campus is located at Majorstuen in Oslo , while the secondary campus is located at Mørkved in Bodø . In addition the college has training centers in Kongsvinger and Stavern . Police officer training is a three @-@ year bachelor 's degree , where the first and third year take place at the college and the second year is on @-@ the @-@ ground training in police districts .

In 2009 , 1990 people applied for 432 places at the college . From 2010 , admission is administrated through the Norwegian Universities and Colleges Admission Service . The college also has a three @-@ year part @-@ time master 's degree in police science . As the chief of police and deputy chief of police are part of the prosecuting authority , they must be a candidate of law to act in such a position . Although there no longer is a formal requirement for such an education , the role as prosecutor effectively hinders others from holding the position .

At the time of graduation all officers are qualified for operational service . However , each employee must undergo 40 hours of yearly training , including firearms practice , to keep their operational certification . Without this , they cannot patrol , use firearms or participate in actions . Forty @-@ four percent of police officers in 2012 lacked such certification . The main reason is that the police districts see it as a waste of resources to train investigation and administrative staff which do not participate in operative duty , and that a higher quality is achieved through specialization of tasks , such as dedicated investigation personnel .

Each police district may dictate that operational personnel have a higher amount of training , for instance 80 hours is required in Oslo . Officers are certified at five levels , of which the top four can use firearms . Level three consists of a call @-@ out unit for each police district , consisting of a combined 646 people . This requires 103 hours of special training per year . Higher levels are required for body @-@ guard service (55 officers) and the Emergency Response Union (73 officers) . All certification curriculum is developed by and organized by the university college .

The Norwegian Police Federation is the trade union which organizes employees from all levels within the police force . The federation is a member of the Confederation of Unions for Professionals , Norway and the European Confederation of Police . It is illegal for police officers to strike . The federation have nonetheless undertaken several actions , including collective sick leave to close a police station and by members sabotaging courses by not participating . Reports of misconduct and criminal offenses by officers during duty is investigated by the Norwegian Bureau for the Investigation of Police Affairs . Based in Hamar , it is directly subordinate to the Ministry of Justice and the Police and is not part of the Norwegian Police Service .

= = Equipment = =

As of 2011 the police 's new patrol cars are four @-@ wheel drive Volkswagen Passat with automatic transmission . New transport cars are Mercedes @-@ Benz Vito for light transport and Mercedes @-@ Benz Sprinter for heavy transport . The police force operates two Eurocopter EC135 helicopters , which are based at Oslo Airport , Gardermoen . In addition , the Emergency Response Unit can use the Royal Norwegian Air Force 's Bell 412 helicopters .

The police have two main types of uniforms , type I is used for personnel which primarily undertake indoor work , and type II is used for personnel which primarily undertakes outdoor service . Both types have summer and winter versions , and type I also has a dress uniform version . Both types use black as the dominant color with light blue shirts .

Police officers are not armed with firearms during patrolling , but have weapons locked down in the patrol cars . Arming of the locked @-@ down weapons requires permission from the chief of police or someone designated by him . The police use Heckler & Koch MP5 submachine guns and Heckler & Koch P30 semi @-@ automatic pistols . The Emergency Response Unit uses Diemaco C8 assault rifles . Norwegian police officers do not use electroshock weapons .

Previously the police used a decentralized information technology system developed during the mid @-@ 1990s . As late as 2012 servers were still being run with Windows NT 4 @. @ 0 from 1996 and log @-@ on times were typically twenty minutes . The new IT @-@ system D # 2 was introduced in 2011 and will have been taken into use by all divisions by 2012 . D # 2 will be operated by ErgoGroup and will have two redundant server centers . Personnel have access to the system via thin clients . The police have a system to raise a national alarm to close border crossings and call in reserve personnel . The one time it was activated the message was not received by any of the intended recipients . Since 2009 it has been possible to report criminal damage and theft of wallets , bicycles and mobile telephones without a known perpetrator (s) online .

The Norwegian Public Safety Radio has been installed in Oslo , Østfold , Akershus and southern Buskerud . The system is uses Terrestrial Trunked Radio and allows for a common public safety network for all emergency agencies . Features include authentication , encryption and possibilities to transmit data traffic . As the system is rolled out , central parts will receive transmission speeds of 163 kbit / s . The rest of the country uses an analog radio system specific for each police district . In addition to lack of interoperability with paramedics and fire fighters , none of the systems are encrypted , forcing police officers to rely heavily on GSM @-@ based mobile telephones for dispatch communication when transmitting sensitive information .

Police cars lack GPS navigation devices and mobile data terminal . Instead , all communication must be radioed to the dispatcher at the joint operations center , and officers must rely on printed road atlases for navigation . In contrast , GPS navigation and terminal equipment was finished installed in ambulances and fire trucks in 2003 . The Norwegian Public Safety Radio is scheduled for completion in 2015 .

= = Ranks = =

Source : Norwegian National Police