

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location

The Kingdom of Norway is a Nordic country that occupies the western part of the Scandinavian peninsula. On land, it borders Sweden (1,630km), Finland (736km) and Russia (196km) towards the east. The Svalbard archipelago is under Norwegian sovereignty, though subject to the limitations laid out in the Treaty of Svalbard, and thus part of the kingdom, as is Jan Mayen. The European mainland's northernmost spot is in Norway. The Norwegian coastline is 25,000km. Oslo is the capital of Norway and has a population of 839,423.

1.2 Area - Population – Language

- 338,000km²
- 4,753,373 (01.04.08)
- Norwegian

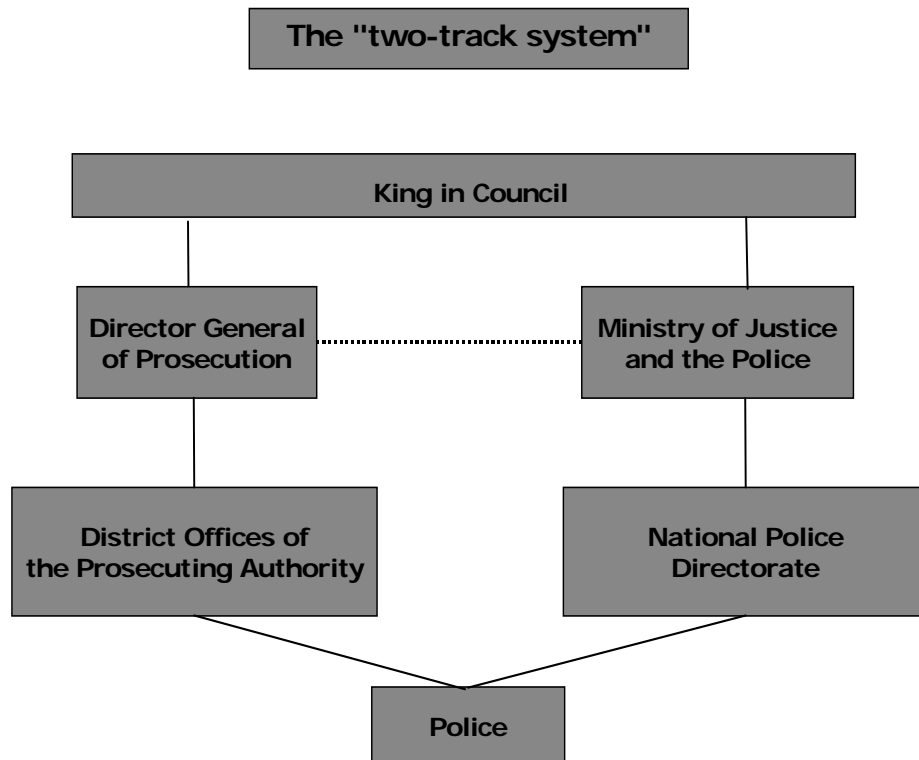
1.3 Government

Norway is a constitutional monarchy with governmental elections every four years. The Cabinet, headed by the Prime Minister holds executive power over the country. It's members, the Cabinet ministers, are appointed by the King. Since the introduction of parliamentary government in 1884, the cabinet depends on support from the national assembly.

2. POLICE SYSTEM (www.politiet.no)

2.1 Law enforcement bodies

The Norwegian police and prosecuting authority is organized in a two-track system. This means that responsibility for the combating of crime is shared between the Ministry of Justice and the Director General of Public Prosecutions. The Director General of Public Prosecutions has been assigned responsibility for the professional handling of criminal prosecutions. All other areas are the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice, although this responsibility has largely been delegated to the National Police Directorate. The principle is that the prosecuting authority shall make its own independent decisions. No other professional authority, not even the Minister of Justice, has the opportunity to instruct the prosecuting authority. Only The King in Council can instruct the prosecuting authority when it comes to decisions in criminal prosecution cases.



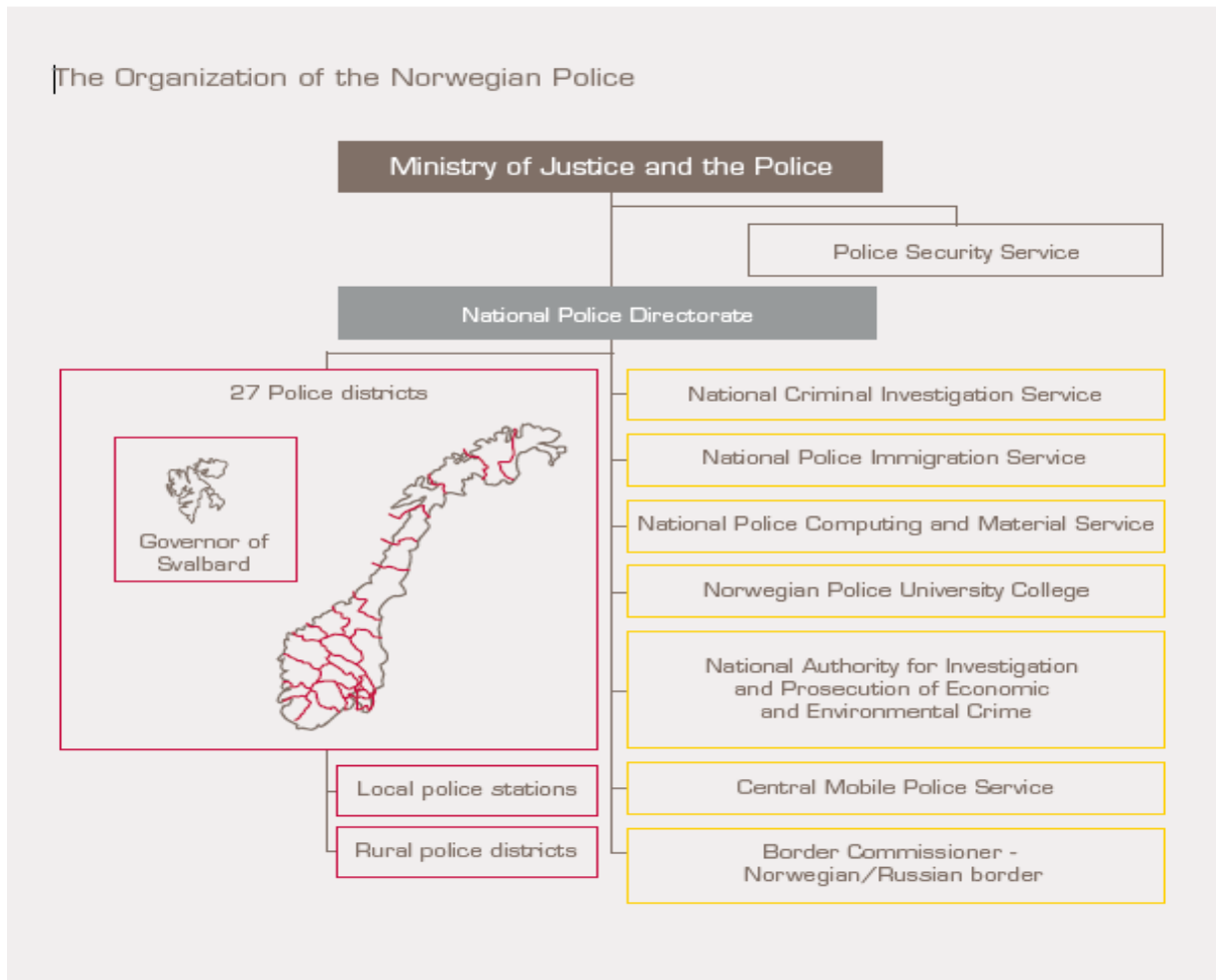
The national Police Directorate is organized under the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and the police act under the minister of Justice's constitutional responsibility

The main objective of the national Police Directorate is professional leadership, management and development of the Norwegian police service. The national Police Directorate is responsible for managing and follow-up the police districts and the special agencies, which employ a total of approximately 12,000 people.

In Norway, there is only one police service. The organization of the Norwegian Police is largely based on the principle of an integrated police, meaning that all the functions of the police are collected in one organization. Today there are 27 police districts, each under the command of a Chief of Police. The chief of police has full responsibility for all kinds of policing in the district.

In addition to the local police, Norway has seven special agencies organized directly under the National Police Directorate. The special agencies are central agencies rendering expert assistance to the police districts, and in some cases act as prosecuting authority.

2.2 Police organization chart



2.3 NCB structure

NCB Oslo is situated at the National Criminal Investigation Service (NCIS). NCIS is a central agency whose core function is to prevent and combat organized crime and other forms of serious crime. In addition to providing specialist support to the Norwegian police districts, NCIS investigates and prosecutes major and complex cases related to serious organized crime. One of the NCB's main activities is International police cooperation – NCIS is the national contact point for operational international police cooperation. They are responsible for contact with Interpol, Europol, the Schengen Information System (SIS), and Frontex. In addition they are responsible for contact with the Baltic Sea Task Force, the Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation (BSRBCC) and the Nordic Police and Customs Cooperation as well as cases handled through liaison officers posted in countries around the world.

2.4 International investigations

In general, all requests for international police co-operation should be sent to NCB. Norway has a special agreement with the other Nordic countries enabling officers from local or specialised bodies to keep direct contacts with their counterpart in other Nordic countries.

2.5 Pre-trial police and judicial powers

	Police	Prosecutor	Magistrate/Judge
Identity check	X	-	-
Arrest	X	X	X
Questioning	X	-	-
Detention by police	X	X	-
Custody (on judicial order)	X	X	X
Search of person	X	X	X
Search of premises	X	X	X
Confiscation of property	X	X	X

3. JUDICIAL SYSTEM (www.domstol.no)

3.1. General

Ordinary courts of law in Norway are the Supreme Court, the Appeal Committee of the Supreme Court, the courts of appeal and the district courts. These courts adjudicate cases of both civil and criminal law.

The Supreme Court

The Supreme Court is Norway's highest court, and it serves as a court of appeal for judgments passed by lower courts. There is only one Supreme Court, and its seat is in Oslo. Decisions reached there are final and enforceable and cannot be appealed against unless in cases that may be brought before the European Court of Human Rights.

Three of the Supreme Court judges form the Appeal Committee of the Supreme Court, which is considered a court in its own right, and it can reach a final decision in a number of cases. Permission from the Appeal Committee is required for a case to be brought before the Supreme Court.

Courts of appeal

There are six courts of appeal in Norway, each of them serving a specific geographic jurisdiction. A court of appeal is headed by a senior presiding court of appeal judge, and has several courts of appeal judges.

District courts

First instance courts are called district courts, each of which serves a specific jurisdiction consisting of one or more municipalities.

3.2 Prosecution

The Director General of Public Prosecutions leads the prosecuting authority by means of comprehensive instructions issued in the form of an annual priority circular and a number of other circulars. In addition, the Director General of Public Prosecutions uses meetings with public prosecutors and chiefs of police to issue general enforcement and priority directives.

The Director General of Public Prosecution also deals with complaints about decisions made by the subordinate prosecuting authorities.

The Director General of Public Prosecutions decides whether to prefer an indictment in cases concerning:

- crimes punishable by imprisonment of up to 21 years
- crimes threatening the security of the realm, the constitution and civil rights
- incitement to criminal acts, blasphemy, and breaches of a duty of secrecy.

Public Prosecutors

Public prosecutors have the competence to prosecute cases that do not fall under the superior or subordinate prosecuting authority. Public prosecutors are authorised to issue comprehensive instructions to the police. This primarily takes place in connection with the handling of a number of individual cases, but also more generally through annual prosecution meetings in the public prosecutor's district.

Public prosecutors also deal with a number of complaints about police decisions in individual cases.

The public prosecutors prosecute criminal cases carrying a penalty of imprisonment of more than six years as well as criminal cases heard in the court of appeal. Prosecution may be delegated to police prosecutors.

4. INVESTIGATION POSSIBILITIES AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

4.1 Possibilities

	Y/N	Remarks
1. Telephone tracing	Y	
2. Telephone tapping	Y	
3. Bugging public premises	Y	
4. Bugging other premises	Y	
5. Bugging homes	Y	
6. Electronic tracking	Y	
7. Surveillance	Y	
8. Pseudo-buying	Y	
9. Controlled delivery	Y	
10. Infiltration	Y	
11. Witness protection	Y	

4.2 Access to files (through NCB)

	Y/N	Response time	Remarks
Wanted persons	Y	< 2 hrs	On line
Missing persons	Y	< 2 hrs	On line
Stolen motor vehicles	Y	< 2 hrs	On line
Stolen property	Y	< 2 hrs	On line
Criminal records	Y	< 2 hrs	On line
Fingerprints	Y	< 2 hrs	On line Only during office hours
Photographs of criminals	Y	< 2 hrs	Centralized
Serving prisoners	Y	> 2 hrs	On line
Listed telephone subscribers	Y	< 2 hrs	
Unlisted telephone subscribers	Y	< 2 hrs	
Vehicle owners and registrations	Y	< 2 hrs	On line
Passports	Y	< 2 hrs	On line
Company registers	Y	< 2 hrs	
Driving licences	Y	< 2 hrs	On line
National register / Electoral roll	Y	< 2 hrs	On line
Bank accounts	Y&N	> 1 week	Possible in some cases
Tax information	N&N	> 1 week	Possible in some cases

4.3 Liaison officers

4.3.1. Norwegian liaison officers posted abroad

- Europol - Netherlands
- Interpol - France (as a seconded officer in the General Secretariat)

4.3.1. Nordic liaison officers posted abroad

Norway participates in the Nordic Liaison Project whereby each Nordic liaison officer posted abroad also represents the other Nordic countries.

- Albania (Denmark)
- Arab Emirates (Norway & Denmark)
- Bulgaria (Norway)
- China (Finland)
- Estonia (Finland & Sweden)
- Germany (Sweden)
- Latvia (Sweden)
- Lithuania (Sweden & Finland)
- Netherlands (Sweden)
- Morocco (Denmark)
- Pakistan (Norway)
- Poland (Sweden)
- Russia (Finland, Sweden, Denmark & Norway)
- Serbia (Sweden & Norway)
- Spain (Finland & Norway)
- Syria (Sweden)
- Thailand (Sweden & Denmark)

- Turkey (Denmark)
- Ukraine (Denmark)
- United Kingdom (Norway)
- Romania (Sweden)

4.3.3. Foreign liaison officers posted to Norway

- Romania

5. POLICE/CUSTOMS CO-OPERATION

The main objectives of the Norwegian Customs are:

- To prevent unlawful imports and exports of goods
- To ensure correct declarations and assessment and timely payment of customs and excise duties

The co-operation between the customs and the police in Norway is mainly on the basis of arrests for customs offences. The police are responsible for investigation and prosecution of cases initiated by the Customs.

At the National Criminal Investigation Service, we have a permanent customs liaison officer to enhance the cooperation between the two services.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

6.1 Public holidays

- New Year's Day (1st January)
- Maundy Thursday
- Good Friday
- Easter Monday
- Labour Day (1st May)
- Independence Day (17th May)
- Asencion Day
- With Monday
- Christmas (25th and 26th December).