

THE NORWEGIAN CRIMINAL CASES REVIEW COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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The Chair's report



The Criminal Cases Review
Commission (the Commission)
was established in January 2004.
The objective was to create
increased confidence in the
treatment of convicted persons'
applications to have their criminal
cases reopened by removing

such decisions from the sphere of the courts that had ruled on these cases originally. The reason for this was several controversial cases in the 1980s and 1990s. The Commission was to provide guidance to convicted persons and investigate and decide on these cases. Through this reform, the prosecuting authority was also assigned a less prominent role.

During the Commission's first year, 232 applications to reopen cases were received. Since then, the Commission has received 150-170 applications each year. From the start in 2004 until the year-end 2018, the Commission has reviewed 1,945 cases on their merits.

The Commission is an important part of the criminal justice system and helps to create a state based on the rule of law. Our goal is for our proceedings to be objective, thorough and efficient. These are to ensure substantively correct decisions within a reasonable time. It is important to take an open and critical approach to the cases.

The Commission is a body with a wide range of expertise. The composition of the Commission changed in 2018. Solveig Klæbo Reitan deputised for alternate member Lavleen Kaur until the end of August. Anita Roarsen was appointed as a new alternate member in June 2018 but could not take up this post due to illness. Experienced and interested employees in the Commission's secretariat prepare the cases for the Commission. The Commission's members and employees are presented later on in this annual report.

For the 2018 budget year, the Commission had NOK 17,599,000 at its disposal and spent NOK 16,758,331. Most of this was spent on fixed expenses such as ICT costs, rent, secretariat employee salaries and remuneration to the Commission's members.

In 2018, the Commission received 164 applications to reopen cases, compared to 151 in 2017. A total of 133 cases were concluded, compared to 126 in 2017. The Commission has thus not achieved its goal that the number of decisions is not to be less than the number

of applications received.

The Commission held meetings on 13 days in 2018. The Commission reopened 24 cases (21%), while 21 applications were disallowed. Abbreviated versions of the reopened cases are included in this annual report. The Commission or the Chair/Vice Chair rejected 71 applications. There was an increase in the percentage of cases reopened, but the average for all the years is the same as before, around 15%.

The grounds for reopening a large percentage of these cases were that, following a legally enforceable conviction, the convicted person was proven not to have been responsible for his/her actions at the time of the offence so that he/she should not have been punished. In many cases, it has been revealed that the convicted person had a mild intellectual disability so that a less severe penalty should have been considered. This applied in 2018 too. Of the 24 cases, 18 were reopened on these grounds. Forensic psychiatry was the topic at the secretariat's seminar, which also included a visit to Ila Prison and Detention Centre.

Work was carried out in 2018 to adapt the Commission's routines and procedures to new regulations, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Stricter data protection rules and new technology raise new questions, and data protection will also have to be ensured in connection with the Commission's digitalisation process.

One of the main priorities in the draft 2018 budget for the Ministry of Justice and Public Security was "a more efficient criminal justice chain". Like others in the justice sector, we are interested in improving efficiency and in digitalisation. We have spent a lot of time and effort reviewing our work routines and digital solutions and considering the needs that the Commission will have in the near future.

Oslo, 11 February 2019

[Signature]

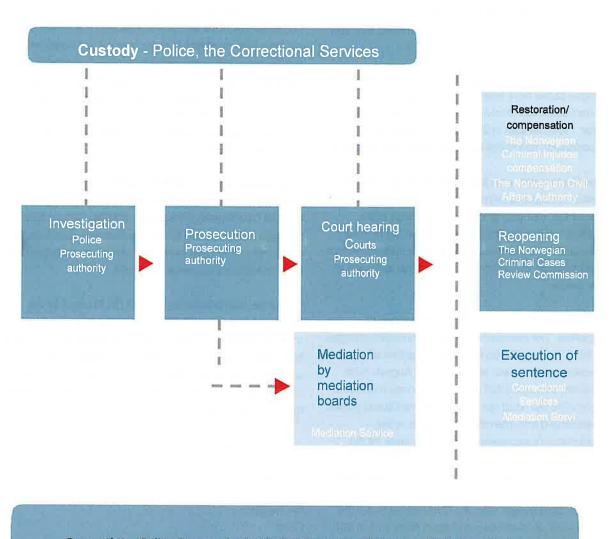
Siv Hallgren Chair

Introduction to the activities and main figures

The Norwegian Criminal Cases Review Commission's place in the criminal justice chain

The figure below is intended to be a simplified illustration of the Commission's place in the criminal justice chain. A new digital communication channel called Justishub (Justice Hub) is currently being established between key players in the criminal justice chain.

The Commission is in the process of linking itself to this channel and this will enable the safe, efficient transfer of criminal case documents to and from the Commission. The Commission's digitalisation project is described in further detail below, in the section headed "The Commission's other activities



Prevention - Police, Prosecuting Authority, Correctional Services, Mediation Service

Description of the activities and public service role

The Commission is an independent administrative body that is to deal with applications to reopen criminal cases which have been determined by the courts in legally enforceable convictions.

The Commission is administratively subject to the Ministry of Justice and Public Security. The Ministry cannot tell the Commission how to exercise its authority in individual cases.

The Commission must ensure it has plenty of information on the case before objectively assessing whether the statutory conditions for reopening have been met. The Commission's activities are regulated by chapter 27 of the Norwegian Criminal Procedure Act.

A convicted person may apply for the reopening of a legally enforceable conviction, for example, if:

- There is new evidence or a new circumstance that seems likely to lead to an acquittal, the application of a more lenient penal provision or a substantially more lenient sanction.
- In a case against Norway, an international court or the UN Human Rights Committee has concluded that the decision or proceedings conflict with a rule of international law, so that there are grounds for assuming that a retrial of the criminal case will lead to a different result.
- Someone who has had crucial dealings with the case (such as a judge, prosecutor, defence counsel, expert witness or court interpreter) has committed a criminal offence that may have affected the conviction to the detriment of the convicted person.
- A judge or jury member who dealt with the case was disqualified and there is reason to believe that this may have affected the decision.
- The Supreme Court has departed from a legal interpretation that it previously relied on and on which the conviction is based.
- There are special circumstances that cast doubt on the correctness of the conviction and weighty considerations indicate that the question of the guilt of the defendant should be re-examined.

The Commission is obliged to provide guidance to those who ask to have their cases reopened. Unless the convicted person is represented by a lawyer, he/she will be offered a guidance meeting. Such a meeting may take place by phone or as a physical meeting on the Commission's premises. If the convicted person is in prison, the meeting may take place there.

When there are special grounds for this, the party applying to reopen a case may have a defence counsel appointed at public expense.

The Commission ensures that the necessary investigation into the case's legal and factual issues is carried out and may gather information in any way it sees fit. This work can be resource-demanding but it was one of the key reasons for establishing the Commission. Since its formation in 2004, the Commission has dealt with several cases that have required major investigations.

If an application is not rejected and is investigated further, the convicted person and prosecuting authority are to be made aware of the Commission's investigation and given an opportunity to comment. Aggrieved persons and surviving next of kin are to be informed of the application. Aggrieved persons and surviving next of kin are entitled to examine documents and state their views on the application in writing, and they may ask to make a statement to the Commission. The Commission may appoint a counsel for an aggrieved person pursuant to the Criminal Procedure Act's normal rules in so far as these are applicable.

Applications are decided on by the Commission. The Commission's Chair/Vice Chair may reject applications to reopen decisions which, due to their nature, cannot be reopened by the Commission, applications which do not stipulate any grounds for reopening in accordance with the law or applications which obviously cannot succeed.

If the Commission decides that an application is to be allowed, the case is to be referred for retrial to a court of equal standing to that which made the original ruling. If the ruling was made by the Supreme Court, the case is to be retried by the Supreme Court.

The organisation

The Commission consists of five permanent members and three alternate members. The Chair, Vice Chair, one other member and two of the alternate members must have a master of laws or master of jurisprudence degree. The Chair is appointed by the King in Council for a seven-year period and the members and alternate members are appointed by the King in Council for a three-year period. The Commission's members and alternate members may be reappointed once for another three-year period.

Presentation of the Commission's members as at 31 December 2018

Siv Hallgren (2017 - 2024)

Chair of the Commission since April 2017. Work experience from the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, executive officer with the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority, police intendant II, prosecutions manager and acting head of the CID in Asker and Bærum Police, head-hunter with ISCO Group AS, trainee lawyer/lawyer with the law firm of Lea, Haavik & Helland and lawyer and partner with Advokatfirmaet Elden DA. She is a former head of the Norwegian Bar Association's Legal Counsel for Aggrieved Parties' Committee and was a member of the Work Group aiming to increase the use of the Mediation Service, the Criminal Responsibility Committee and the Special Courts Committee. She is currently a member of the Health Personnel Appeal Board.

Sven Ole Fagernæs (2015 - 2021, Vice Chair)

Lawyer, previously Attorney General

Fagernæs joined the Office of the Attorney General in 1976. He was appointed Attorney General in 1994 and held this position until he retired in April 2015. Fagernæs has previously worked in the Legislation Department of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security and was a deputy judge at Indre Sogn District Court. From 1998-2001, he was on leave from the Office of the Attorney General to take up the post of acting permanent undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Justice and Public Security. In 2005, he was the acting Governor of Svalbard.

Anne Britt Flemmen (2013 - 2019, member)

Professor of sociology at the Tromsø campus of the University of Tromsø Norway's Arctic University.

Flemmen obtained a doctorate from the University of Tromsø in 1999. She has conducted research into gender, migration, integration, equality and close relationships, as well as issues relating to minority and indigenous communities. She has conducted studies in Malaysia and Ethiopia as well as in Norway and Sápmi. She has been a member of the government-appointed Equality Committee (Skjeie Committee), the researchethics committee at the University of Tromsø and the board of Kvinnforsk (centre for research into women and gender) and editor of Tidsskrift for kjønnsforskning (a gender-research periodical). Flemmen is currently the head of the Department of Social Sciences (fixed-term position) and head of the national Sociology Council.

Dag Jodaa (2017 - 2020, member)

Rana District Court judge

Jodaa obtained a master of laws degree in 1996. He was a deputy judge from 1996-1999, an advisor to the Ministry of Justice and Public Security from 1999-2000 and a privately practising lawyer and partner with Advokathuset Helgeland DA from 2000-2015.

Tor Ketil Larsen (2015 - 2021, member)

Chief physician and head of section at Stavanger University
Hospital and associate professor at the University of Bergen
Larsen has had four three-year scholarship periods at the
University of Oslo, where he worked for the Department
of Basal Medicine and obtained a Dr. Med degree in
1989. He led the early intervention part of the so-called
TIPS project. He has been the academic head of the
Regional Centre for Clinical Psychosis Research at
Stavanger University Hospital and the head of research in
the department. Larsen has written around 130
articles/book chapters on the topic of psychoses, early
diagnosis, substance abuse, compulsory disorders,
ADHD, epilepsy and the long-term effects of psychoses.
He has lengthy experience as a forensic psychiatry
expert witness.

Hanne Helle Arnesen (2016 - 2019, alternate member)

Agder Court of Appeal judge

Arnesen obtained a master of laws degree in 1986.

She has previously worked as an executive officer/researcher with the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, a deputy judge at Larvik District Court and a lawyer. She has been a Court of Appeal judge since

2004.

Arne Gunnar Aas (2015 – 2021, alternate member)

Lawyer/partner with Advokatfirmaet Hjort DA

Aas obtained a master of laws degree in 1977. He was previously an executive officer with the Norwegian Maritime Authority, a deputy judge at Holt District Court and a police lawyer with Asker and Bærum Police. Aas was previously employed as an advisor by the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, focusing on human rights in Moldova. He has been a lawyer with the Hjort law firm since 1981. Aas is a permanent defence counsel at Oslo District Court, Borgarting Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court. He is also a member of the Norwegian Bar Association's Criminal Law Committee and Human Rights Committee.

Solveig Klæbo Reitan

(2017 - 2018, alternate member, deputy)

Chief physician and researcher at St. Olav's Hospital and associate professor at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology.

Reitan has experience as a forensic psychiatry expert witness. She has clinical experience from a regional security department, prison psychiatry, emergency psychiatry, psychosis departments and district psychiatric centres, both those providing in-patient care and polyclinics/mobile centres. Her research field is biological psychiatry, with a main focus on immunopsychiatry, psychosis disorders and forensic and high-security-patient psychiatry. She has held a number of posts on committees, panels and boards linked to this profession and is currently a member of the board of the Norwegian Psychiatry Association and head of this association's Forensic Psychiatry Committee. She is in charge of psychosis treatment at St Olav's Hospital and the Central Norway Regional Health Authority.

Lavleen Kaur

(2015 - 2018, alternate member – on a leave of absence since 2015) Criminologist, doctoral research fellow

Anita Roarsen

(September 2018 – December 2018, alternate member – leave of absence) State-authorised public accountant

The Commission's members 2018



In front, from the left: Solveig Klæbo Reitan, Hanne Helle Amesen, Siv Hallgren, Tor Ketil Larsen and Anne Britt Flemmen. Behind, from the left: Sven Ole Fagernæs, Arne Gunnar Aas and Dag Jodaa.

Presentation of the Commission's secretariat as at 31 December 2018

The Commission's secretariat is located in Oslo. The Commission's Chair is employed full-time as the head of the secretariat. The secretariat otherwise had 11 employees at the year-end-seven investigating officers with a legal background and two investigating officers with a police background, as well as an office manager and senior secretary.

Elisabeth Kjærheim

Administrative deputy head and senior advisor since 2004.

Master of laws degree from the University of Oslo 1987. Work experience from the Parliamentary Ombudsman's Office as a senior advisor and deputy head, and from Drammen District Court as a deputy judge and acting district court judge.

Lisbeth Wille-Sveum

Senior advisor since 2004.

Norwegian Police University College 1979. Work experience from Oslo police district and the National Criminal Investigation Service, university college lecturer at the Police University College, and project manager/researcher at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health.

Knut Jan Nielsen

Senior advisor since 2004

Norwegian Police University College 1979. Work experience as a policeman in Oslo police district, the National Criminal Investigation Service and the Ministry of Justice and Public Security. Police attaché at the Norwegian embassy in Madrid and advisor to the Document Access Committee.

Magne Svor

Senior advisor since 2004

Master of laws degree from the University of Oslo 1985. Work experience from the Police Department in the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, as a police lawyer with Oslo police headquarters and as a deputy judge and acting judge at Drammen District Court.

Hildegunn Sandhalla

Office manager since 2004

Work experience from Heidenreich AS, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security - the Document Access Committee, and Grohe AS.

Louise Olsrud

Senior advisor since 2005

Master of laws degree from the University of Oslo 1987. Work experience from the county governor, as a deputy judge, police intendant II and trainee lawyer, and of statute work in the Ministry of Justice and Public Security and for the Building Act Committee.

Sonny Folkenborg

Senior advisor since 2008.

Master of laws degree from the University of Oslo 2000. Work experience as a lawyer with Advokatfirmaet Staff and as a deputy judge at Sandefjord District Court.

Helene Cecilie Røer

Senior advisor since 2008

Master of laws degree from the University of Oslo 1988. Work experience from the Labour Inspection Authority, as a statute advisor with the Ministry of Finance, deputy judge at Trondenes District Court and senior advisor with the Directorate of Taxes.

Hilde Hermansen

Senior secretary since 2009

Secretarial education from Treider and the Mercantile Institute. Work experience as a secretary with Advokatfirmaet Schjødt AS and Advokatfirmaet Torkildsen, Tennøe & Co AS.

Lars Engdahl

Senior advisor since 2013

Master of jurisprudence degree from the University of Oslo 2007. Work experience as a lawyer with Advokatfirma Drevland & Grape DA.

Solveig Moe

Senior advisor since 2015

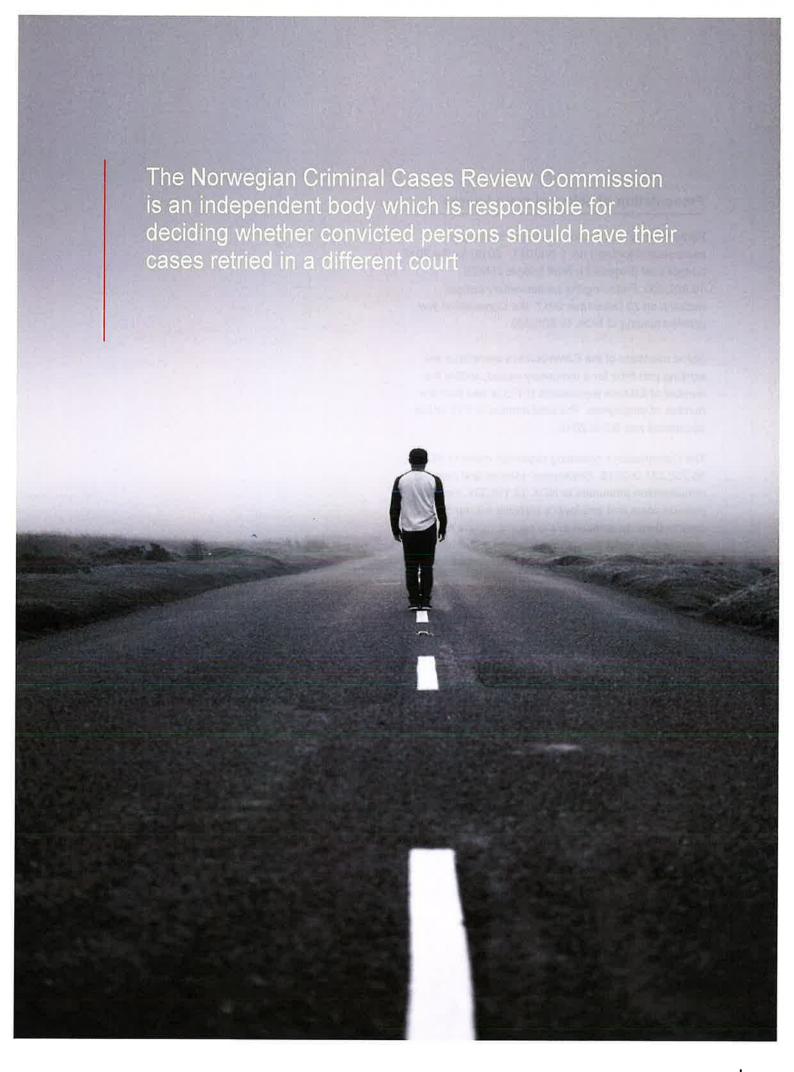
Master of jurisprudence degree from the University of Bergen 2007. LLM in international law from the University of Houston 2016. Work experience as a trainee lawyer, a deputy judge and a senior advisor to the Parliamentary Ombudsman.

Presentation of selected main figures

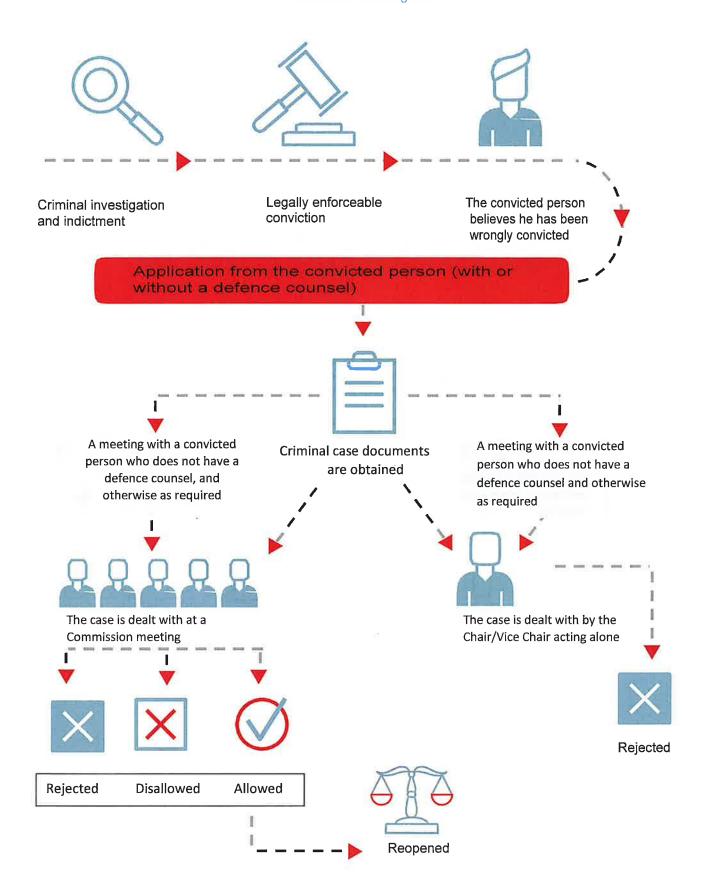
Parliamentary bill (Proposition to the Norwegian parliament (Storting)) no. 1 S (2017 - 2018) for the 2018 budget year proposed a draft budget of NOK 16,802,000. Following the parliamentary budget decision on 20 December 2017, the Commission was granted funding of NOK 16,802,000.

Some members of the Commission's secretariat are working part-time for a temporary period, so that the number of full-time equivalents (FTE) is less than the number of employees. The total number of FTE in the secretariat was 9.9 in 2018.

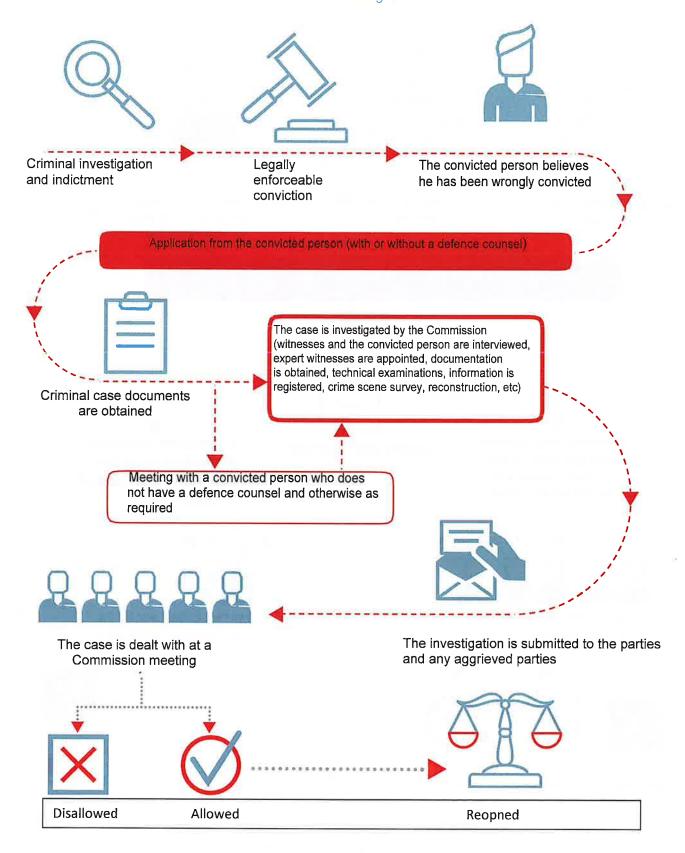
The Commission's operating expenses came to NOK 16,758,331 in 2018. Employees' salaries and members' remuneration amounted to NOK 12,115,383, including pension costs and employer's National Insurance contributions. In addition to the appropriations relating to chapter 468, some operating expenses are debited in relation to chapter 466 Special Criminal Case Expenses.



The procedure in a review case – without an investigation



The procedure in a review case – with an investigation



The year's activities and results

The Commission is to have objective, thorough and efficient procedures in order to reach substantively correct decisions within a reasonable time. The Commission's aim is for the number of decisions it makes to be not less than the number of applications it receives so that its backlog does not increase.

The cases and procedures

Applications received and cases concluded

During the year, the Commission held eight meetings lasting for a total of 13 days.

The Commission received 164 applications to reopen cases in 2018, compared to 151 in 2017. These figures represent the number of convictions the Commission has been asked to reopen, not the number of convicted persons who have applied to have their case reopened.

Of the convicted persons who applied for a reopening of their case in 2017, 12 were women and 141 were men. Of these, eight men had a total of 19 convictions.

A total of 133 cases were concluded in 2018, of which 116 were reviewed on their merits. Of these 116 applications, 24 cases were reopened.

Fourteen cases were reopened due to doubt about the convicted person's criminal accoountability for his/her acts at the time of the offence. In four cases, only the sentencing was reopened, and this was because the convicted person was later found to have a mild intellectual disability. Five cases were reopened on the basis of other new evidence or circumstances, and one case was reopened because there were special circumstances which made it doubtful that the conviction was correct.

Twenty-one applications were disallowed.

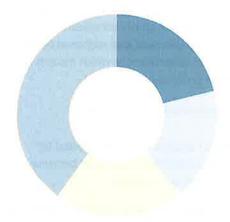
The remaining 71 applications were rejected by the Commission or the Chair/Vice Chair because they obviously could not succeed.

The other 17 cases that were concluded were not reviewed on their merits. These were, for example, applications to review civil cases or fines and applications that were withdrawn.

The table below provides a complete overview of the number of received applications and concluded cases in 2018:

	Received	Concluded	Reopened	Disallowed	Rejected by the Commission	Rejected by the Chair/Vice Chair	Not reviewed on their merits
General	9	10	2			1	7
Sexual offences	20	34	5	4	7	18	
Violence, threats	55	38	12	9	7	7	3
Drugs	10	14	1	2	3	7	1
Crimes of gain	27	16	4	2	5	4	1
Miscellaneous crimes	35	15		2	2	7	4
Miscellaneous minor offences	8	6		2	1	2	1
Discontinued prosecutions			N-Ha				
Interim rulings							
Seizures or annulments			7.5				
Inquiries							
Fines							
Civil cases							
Others concerning professional issues							
Total	164	133	24	21	25	46	17

The figure below shows the outcome of the cases reviewed on their merits in 2018:



Reopened 21%

Disallowed 18%

Rejected by the Commission 21%

Rejected by the Chair/Vice Chair 40%

2004 - 2018

Since being established on 1 January 2004, the Commission has received 2,449 applications and concluded 2,281 cases. In total, 303 cases have been reopened and 443 applications have been

disallowed. The Commission or the Chair/Vice Chair has rejected 1,199 of the applications because they obviously could not succeed, while the remainder, 336 cases, were rejected without being reviewed on their merits.

Table showing the total figures for the Commission's first 15 years in operation:

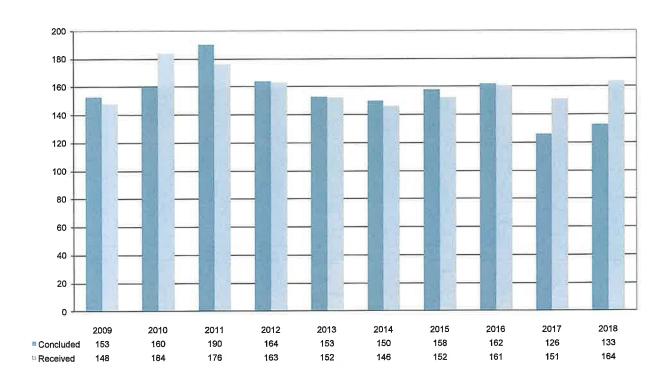
	Received	Concluded	Reopened	Disallowed	Rejected by the Commission	Rejected by the ChairVice Chair	Not reviewed on their merits
General	74	72	4	1	3	12	52
Sexual offences	434	415	38	84	55	212	26
Violence, threats	750	690	88	153	74	317	58
Drugs	247	236	37	56	24	105	14
Crimes of gain	421	394	87	87	44	133	43
Miscellaneous crimes	225	181	22	31	18	73	37
Miscellaneous minor offences	208	203	27	31	14	111	20
Discontinued prosecutions	13	13	- Flan				13
Interim rulings	1	1					1
Seizures or annulments	1	1				1	
Inquiries	31	31			1		30
Fines	6	6	100			1	5
Civil cases	31	31				1	30
Others concerning professional issues	7	7				1,51-1	7
Total	2449	2281	303	443	233	966	336

The figure below shows the outcome of the cases reviewed on their merits in the 2004-2018 period;



2009 - 2018

The number of applications received varied during the period from 146 (in 2014) to 184 (in 2010).



Appointment of a defence counsel

The law allows the Commission to appoint a defence counsel for a convicted person when there are special reasons for doing so. A specific assessment of whether or not a defence counsel is to be appointed is conducted in each case. The appointment is often limited to a specific number of hours, for example to provide more detailed arguments for the application's legal and factual grounds. The Commission always appoints a defence counsel when there is reason to assume that the convicted person may not have been criminally responsible for his/her acts at the time of the offence, see section 397 subsection 2 and section 96 last subsection of the Criminal Procedure Act.

In 2018, the Commission appointed a defence counsel for 30 convicted persons, compared to 20 in 2017, i.e. a defence counsel was appointed in around 20% of the cases.

Appointment of a counsel for the aggrieved person/next of kin – the rights of aggrieved persons and surviving next of kin

The Commission is authorised to appoint a counsel for an aggrieved person/surviving next of kin pursuant to the rules stated in sections 107a, et

seq, of the Criminal Procedure Act. This is particularly relevant in connection with interviewing aggrieved persons and witnesses in cases involving sexual assault and violence. The Commission appointed 13 counsel for aggrieved persons/surviving next of kin in 10 cases in 2018.

Appointment of expert witnesses

Pursuant to section 398b subsection 2 of the Criminal Procedure Act, the Commission is authorised to appoint expert witnesses in accordance with the rules stated in chapter 11. Since its formation, the Commission has appointed expert witnesses in the fields of forensic medicine, forensic psychiatry, forensic toxicology, economics, history, photo/film techniques, fire technicalities, vehicles and traditional forensic techniques, etc. In 2018, the Commission appointed 16 expert witnesses in cases concerning nine convicted persons. These were experts in the fields of forensic psychiatry, forensic psychology, forensic genetics (DNA) and IT.

Use of interpreters/translations

The Commission used an interpreter in two cases. These concerned interpretation from/to Italian and Romanian. The Commission required the use of a translator in four cases, relating to translations from/to Albanian, Sami and English.



The Commission at work

Relevant decisions by the Commission in 2018

A large percentage of cases are reopened by the Commission because it has been shown, following a legally enforceable judgment, that the convicted person was not responsible for his/her acts when the offence took place so that he/she could not be punished (section 44 of the General Civil Penal Code of 1902 and section 20 of the Penal Code of 2005) or that he/she had a mild intellectual disability so that a less severe penalty should have been considered (section 56c of the General Civil Penal Code of 1902 and section 80 of the Penal Code of 2005).

In 2018, 18 of 24 cases were reopened on these grounds, while in 2017 this applied to 16 of 17 cases. These cases thus comprise a considerable percentage of the cases reopened by the Commission. The figures are illustrative of the cases reopened by the Commission over a number of years.

In many of the cases sent to the Commission, the convicted person has been convicted several times before and it is not until a new criminal case has arisen that his/her mental state has been questioned and a forensic psychiatry expert witness has been appointed. The result may be that the prosecuting authority discontinues the case or that the defendant is acquitted by the court. In such case, the defendant's mental state at the time of the offences covered by the previous convictions will be called into question and it may be relevant to apply for these cases to be reopened.

For the Commission, it is important to underline the importance of discovering offenders who are to be regarded as not responsible for their acts or as having a mild intellectual disability at an early stage so that the case can be followed up adequately both by the prosecuting authority and in the legal system.

Although it can be difficult to assess an offender's mental state, there may nonetheless be factors indicating that the person's mental health should be examined more closely - irrespective of the seriousness of the criminal act. This responsibility primarily rests with the police and prosecuting authority. These may be factors relating to the actual execution of the criminal act, factors that are revealed through interviews with suspects, etc, and possible information about the offender's state of health which may indicate that investigations should be initiated. A number of criminal cases could have been dropped, or court cases could have had a different outcome, if the state of the offender's mental health had been clarified earlier on. In addition to the offender being given the correct reaction and the opportunity for necessary treatment, such clarification will lead to fewer resources being used by the legal system and society at large.

Below are abbreviated versions of all the cases where the Commission has allowed an application to reopen a case. Lastly, information is provided on a case where the application was disallowed but where there was dissent within the Commission.

Abbreviated versions of all reopened cases are also published on the Commission's website, www.gjenopptakelse.no.

28.02.2018 (2017/97, etc.) Rape and actual bodily harm – section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act (new expert witness report, responsibility)



A man was convicted of rape by Frostating Court of Appeal in 2011. He was sentenced to imprisonment for a term of two years and six months, half of which was

suspended for a probation period of two years. In 2013, Oslo District Court sentenced him to imprisonment for one year for actual bodily harm. His sentence was combined with Frostating Court of Appeal's 2011 sentence.

In 2017, the convicted person applied to have these two convictions reopened, alleging there was doubt about his responsibility for his actions at the time of the offences. The Commission appointed two expert witnesses to conduct a forensic psychiatry examination of him. These experts concluded that the convicted person suffered from chronic schizophrenia and thus a psychotic disorder in a medical sense. They assumed that his schizophrenia started in 2006/2007, i.e. before the offences were committed. Under doubt, they concluded that the convicted person was not psychotic at the time of the offences, but that he suffered from a serious mental

disorder involving a much weaker ability to assess his relationship with the rest of society.

The Commission stated that, according to forensic medicine custom, the disorder or illness must be proven in order for psychiatrists to make a positive conclusion. If there is reasonable doubt about the offender's responsibility for his actions, however, he will be acquitted by the court in accordance with criminal law's general burden of proof rule, although with the modification that the evidence relating to the defendant's responsibility for his actions does not have to be as strong as for the other criminal liability conditions, see Supreme Court law reports (Rt.) 1979, page 143.

The Commission decided that the forensic psychiatry declaration was new evidence that raised doubt about the convicted person's responsibility for his actions at the time of the offences, see section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act.

The Commission unanimously decided to allow the application to reopen the case.

01.03.2018 (2017/47) Rape - section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act (new evidence)



In 2009, Nordhordland District Court convicted a male taxi driver of rape after he accompanied a female passenger into her home and had sex with her. With dissenting votes, he was sentenced to three years'

imprisonment. He was also ordered to pay the aggrieved party damages for non-pecuniary loss of NOK 100,000 and was deprived of the right to provide passenger transport in return for payment. Gulating Court of Appeal upheld the conviction, but increased the prison sentence by six months.

The convicted person asked the Commission to reopen his case in 2013, alleging that the aggrieved party had committed perjury. The Commission obtained an expert assessment of the aggrieved party's alleged loss of memory and found there were new circumstances.

Gulating Court of Appeal's conviction dated 22

September 2011 was reopened with reference to section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act.

Agder Court of Appeal heard the case with a jury, which found the convicted person not guilty.

However, the professional judges set aside the jury's decision and Agder Court of Appeal handed down a conviction as an enlarged composite court on 17 March 2016.

During the investigation of another criminal case, new information on the rape case emerged and was revealed to the convicted person's lawyer. Among other things, it appeared the aggrieved party had told several persons that the alleged rape had not taken place and other

information on the case also came to light and provided grounds for questioning the aggrieved party's credibility.

The convicted person once again asked the Commission to reopen his case on 9 March 2017, stating that the aggrieved party had committed perjury.

The Commission interviewed four witnesses. Based on the new witness statements, the Commission found there was new evidence that seemed likely to lead to an acquittal and that the conditions for reopening the case pursuant to section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act had been met.

The Commission unanimously decided to allow the application. After the case was reopened, the prosecuting authority asked for the convicted person to be acquitted and he was thereafter acquitted of the criminal offence without any new hearing.

During the investigation of another criminal case, new information on the rape case emerged and was revealed to the convicted person's lawyer. Among other things, it appeared the aggrieved party had told several persons that the alleged rape had not taken place and other information on the case also came to light and provided grounds for questioning the aggrieved party's credibility.

01.03.2018 (2016/111) Actual bodily harm - section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act (new circumstance, no lawful service of process)



In 2009, Aust-Agder District Court convicted a woman of actual bodily harm to two underage girls, see section 228 subsection 1 of the General Civil Penal Code of 1902. The court ordered her to

pay a fine and imposed a suspended sentence of 30 days' imprisonment. The Commission had been asked to reopen her case three times previously but these applications had not succeeded.

The convicted person once again asked the Commission to reopen her case and alleged, among other things, that there had been a procedural error in her case. The main hearing had been held without her being present and it was alleged that the conditions for such a court hearing had not been met, see section 281 of the Criminal Procedure Act, since she had not been lawfully served, see chapter 9 of the Courts of Justice Act. The notice of the main hearing had been attached to the door of the building where the police believed the convicted person lived, see section 176 subsection 2 of the Courts of Justice Act, and not at the convicted person's address in the National Population Register.

Service of process by attaching the notice to a door is to take place at the person in question's actual home. A temporary stay is not enough to state that someone has moved house. The move must entail a clear and objectively ascertainable departure, see Supreme Court law reports (Rt.) 2005, page 1149.

Based on the new information, the Commission decided it was doubtful that the notice of the main hearing had been lawfully served on the convicted party. Service of process is a mandatory procedural requirement for holding a court hearing without the presence of the defendant, see the Criminal Procedure Act section 281, and attaches to the conviction as a procedural error that is to be unconditionally deemed to have affected the conviction, see section 343 subsection 2 no. 6. The Commission found that if the new circumstance had been known to the District Court, it would have been likely to lead to the case being summarily dismissed, see section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act. The Commission unanimously decided to allow

Service of process by attaching the notice to a door is to take place at the person in question's actual home. A temporary stay is not enough to state that someone has moved house. The move must entail a clear and objectively ascertainable departure, see Supreme Court law reports (Rt.) 2005, page 1149.

the application to reopen the case.

Based on the new information, the Commission decided it was doubtful that the notice of the main hearing had been lawfully served on the convicted party.

25.04.2018 (2018/41) Attempted aggravated robbery etc - section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act (new expert witness report, responsibility). Application from the prosecuting authority



In 2013, Oslo District Court sentenced a man to nine months' imprisonment for attempted aggravated robbery, aggravated receiving, vandalism and petty theft. These offences were

committed in 2013. During an investigation into new criminal acts, the court appointed a forensic psychiatry expert witness who concluded in a report to the District Court on 1 October 2015 that the convicted person was suffering from paranoid schizophrenia at the time of the offences, and that psychotic symptoms had been described as early as in 2012. In the District Court judgment dated 20 June 2016, the convicted person was sentenced to compulsory mental health care.

The prosecuting authority asked for the 2013 conviction to be reopened in the convicted person's favour. It was alleged that the forensic psychiatry

report in 2015 was a new circumstance which raised doubts about whether the convicted person was responsible for his actions at the time of the offences for which he was sentenced in 2013. The Commission found that the report was a new circumstance which provided grounds for reopening the case pursuant to section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act.

The Commission unanimously decided to allow the application.

The prosecuting authority asked for the 2013 judgment to be reopened in the convicted person's favour. It was alleged that the forensic psychiatry report in 2015 was a new circumstance which raised doubts about whether the convicted person was responsible for his actions at the time of the offences for which he was sentenced in 2013.

25.04.2018 (2017/125, etc) Assault, drugs offences, theft, burglary, etc. Section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act (new expert witness report, responsibility)



Between 2006 and 2011, a man was convicted six times for a number of crimes, including assault, breaches of the drugs legislation, theft, burglary, etc. He

was convicted by Hammerfest District Court, Øst-Finnmark District Court and Hålogaland Court of Appeal.

The convicted person asked the Commission to reopen these convictions, alleging that he had been psychotic at the time of the offences. He referred to a forensic psychiatry report dated June 2014, which concluded that he was assumed to have been psychotic from 2006 until the end of 2014. This report had formed the basis for a Court of Appeal judgment in 2016 which found that the convicted person had to be regarded as not responsible for his actions. Reference was also made to a forensic psychiatry report submitted in a new criminal case in 2017, which concluded that the convicted person was

psychotic when examined and at the time of the offences, which was the autumn of 2016. This report thus supported the previous report in 2014. The prosecuting authority supported the application to reopen the criminal cases.

The Commission found there were new circumstances or evidence that created doubt about the convicted person's responsibility for his actions during the 2006-2014 period. The new expert report meant there was a reasonable likelihood that the convicted person would have been acquitted of these acts if the report had been presented to the adjudicating court in the six cases that the Commission had been asked to reopen. The Commission found that the conditions for reopening had been met according to section 392 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act.

The Commission unanimously decided to allow the application.

25.04.2018 (2017/56) Domestic violence – section 392 subsection 2 of the Criminal Procedure Act (special circumstances). Dissent about the grounds



In 2015, Indre Finnmark District Court sentenced a man to six years' imprisonment for the abusive treatment and rape of his spouse and ordered him to pay damages to his spouse.

The indictment was for a breach of section 219 of the General Civil Penal Code (1902), the abusive treatment of a spouse. The District Court records show that the main hearing in the case started on 17 June 2015. The case was adjourned after two days to await further investigation into the possible rape of the spouse. The hearing then continued on 1 October 2015, with an additional indictment for a breach of section 192 of the General Civil Penal Code (1902) regarding rape. The defendant had a lawful reason for being unable to attend court, and the case was adjourned once again. The District Court continued with the hearing on 13 October 2015, following a total adjournment period of almost 17 weeks.

The convicted person appealed against the District Court judgment. After hearing the appeal, Hålogaland Court of Appeal set aside the District Court rape conviction due to a procedural error. The appeal against the question of guilt regarding the conviction for abusive treatment of the spouse was not allowed to be heard. For the offence for which the conviction remained in force, the Court of Appeal reduced the sentence to two years and six months. The defendant was later acquitted of the rape and also of the damages claim linked to this offence.

The convicted person asked the Commission to reopen the District Court conviction for abusive treatment. He alleged among other things that the aggrieved party had deliberately committed perjury, see section 391 no. 1 of the Criminal Procedure Act, and that there was new evidence pursuant to section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal

Procedure Act. He also alleged that, since the aggrieved person's testimony was incorrect, it was also doubtful whether the conviction was correct, see section 392 subsection 2 of the Criminal Procedure Act. The Commission investigated the case by, among other things, examining witnesses.

The Commission stated it was highly likely that the 17-week adjournment of the hearing could have weakened the court's memories of the specific testimonies and the immediate impressions.

The majority of the Commission, four members, believed that the long adjournment period, together with some other circumstances relating to the nature and quality of the evidence submitted, had to lead to the case being reopened pursuant to section 392 subsection 2 of the Criminal Procedure Act in that there were special circumstances which made it doubtful that the conviction was correct. A minority of one member believed that the long adjournment period in itself was enough to reopen the case pursuant to the provision.

The Commission unanimously decided to allow the application to reopen the case.

The Commission stated it was highly likely that the 17-week adjournment of the hearing could have weakened the court's memories of the specific testimonies and the immediate impressions.

30.08.2018 (2017/147) Rape and domestic violence - section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act (new evidence)



In 2017, Borgarting Court of Appeal sentenced a man to imprisonment for eight years for contravening section 192 (rape) and section 219 (domestic

violence) of the General Civil Penal Code of 1902, as well as section 282 (abuse in close relationships) of the Penal Code of 2005.

The convicted person asked the Commission to reopen the case in September 2017, referring to the fact that the aggrieved parties had changed their statements after the Court of Appeal conviction.

The aggrieved parties had contacted the police themselves and asked to make new statements. The police had conducted an extensive investigation since the summer of 2017 in an attempt to find out which statements were true and whether the aggrieved parties had been subjected to influence or pressure to change their statements. There were several new interviews with the aggrieved parties in which they withdrew the main parts of their accusations against the convicted party. In connection with this, one of the aggrieved parties had been charged with making a grossly incorrect accusation, something she admitted she was guilty of. The application to reopen the case was partly supported by the prosecuting authority.

Following an overall assessment, the Commission found, under doubt, that there was a reasonable chance that the new statements were new evidence that was likely to lead to an acquittal or a substantially more lenient sanction, see section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act. In its overall assessment, the Commission also took into consideration the fact that a minority of the Court of Appeal judges had found weaknesses in the aggrieved parties' statements when the case was heard by the court.

The application was allowed as regards the counts of rape and domestic violence. The count of abuse in close relationships was not reopened since nothing had been disclosed to shed significant new light on this part of the case.

The Commission unanimously decided to allow the application.

10.10.2018 (2018/12 etc) Actual bodily harm and threats, etc - section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act (new expert witness report, mild intellectual disability)



During the period from 1998 to 2010, a man was convicted five times for, among other things, actual bodily harm and threats. These convictions were handed down by Sandefjord District Court

and Larvik District Court. In connection with an investigation into new criminal acts, two forensic psychiatry experts were appointed in 2011 and concluded that the convicted party had had a mild intellectual disability at the time of the offences. With reference to this, the convicted person asked the Commission to reopen the five previous convictions.

The Commission appointed two forensic psychiatry experts to assess whether the convicted person could have had a severe or mild intellectual disability at the time of the offences that he was convicted of in 1998-2010. The experts submitted their report, which concluded that the convicted person had a mild intellectual disability. The Commission found that the experts' report was a new circumstance that could provide grounds for reopening the cases, but that this was only relevant for three of the convictions, see section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act.

Section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act stipulates that an application is to be allowed when there is new evidence that seems likely to result in the application of a "....substantially more lenient sanction". The Act's preparatory works state that it is not sufficient that "... the new evidence is likely to lead to the application of a more lenient sanction", see the recommendation by the Criminal Procedure Act Committee 1969, page 342.

In one of the District Court convictions, from 2002, the sentence was imprisonment for one year, six months of which were suspended. In the other conviction, from 2005, the sentence was imprisonment for 60 days, 30 of which were

suspended. In the third conviction, from 2006, the sentence was imprisonment for 45 days.

In the Commission's view, it was only in these three cases that a reopening could lead to the application of a "substantially more lenient sanction". For the other two convictions, the sentence was already so low that there was no reason to assume that any reopening would lead to an even more lenient sanction. The application was partly allowed, in that the three convictions handed down by the District Courts in 2002, 2005 and 2006 were reopened as regards the sentencing. The rest of the application was disallowed.

The Commission unanimously decided to allow the application to reopen the sentencing.

10.10.2018 (2017/191 etc) Domestic violence, actual bodily harm etcsection 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act (new expert witness report, mild intellectual disability)



Between 2009 and 2017, Bergen District Court convicted a man three times of, among other things, domestic violence and actual bodily harm, etc. He asked the Commission to reopen the convictions, alleging that the court had not taken his

level of ability into account when sentencing him. As regards the last conviction, from 2017, which concerned domestic violence, it was also alleged that there was new evidence that might be significant for the question of guilt. This conviction had been appealed against to the Court of Appeal, but leave to appeal was denied.

The Commission appointed two forensic psychiatry expert witnesses to assess whether the convicted person could have had a mild intellectual disability on the date of the offences for which he was convicted in the three convictions. The experts submitted their report, concluding that the convicted person had a mild intellectual disability. The Commission found that the experts' report was a new circumstance that might provide grounds for reopening but that this only applied to one conviction, see section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act.

Section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act states that an application to the Commission must be allowed when there is new evidence that seems likely to lead to the application of "... a substantially more lenient sanction". The Act's preparatory works stipulate that it is not enough that ".. the new evidence is likely to lead to the application of a more lenient sanction", see the recommendation by the Criminal Procedure Act Committee in 1969, page 342. In one of the District Court convictions, which was from 2017,

the sentence was two years and six months. In the Commission's view, this was the only one of the three convictions where reopening could lead to the application of "a substantially more lenient sanction". For the other two convictions, the sentence was already so low that there was no reason to assume that any reopening would lead to a substantially more lenient sanction.

As regards the application to reopen the question of guilt in the 2017 conviction, the convicted person alleged that the aggrieved party had lied and was not credible, see section 391 no. 1 of the Criminal Procedure Act. The convicted person also stated he had new witnesses that could testify to the aggrieved party's conduct, see section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act. The Commission found no evidence that the aggrieved party had deliberately committed perjury. Nor could it be seen that any new evidence or circumstances that were linked to the question of guilt and likely to lead to an acquittal had arisen after the District Court and Court of Appeal hearings.

The application was partially allowed in that the 2017 conviction was reopened as regards the sentencing. The rest of the application was disallowed.

The Commission unanimously decided to allow the application to reopen the sentencing.

15.10.2018 (2015/158 etc) Threats, breaches of the peace, domestic violence, etc – section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act (new expert witness report, responsibility). Dissenting vote



In 2014, Asker and Bærum
District Court convicted a man of
making various kinds of threats.
The conviction also covered various
types of breaches of the peace. The

sentence was imprisonment for one year and eight months, of which six months was suspended. In 2016, Eiker, Modum and Sigdal District Court convicted him of aggravated abuse in close relationships, breach of a restraining order and breach of the peace. He was sentenced to preventive detention for one year and three months. This conviction also covered various offences committed in the autumn of 2015 that he was acquitted of because he was found to be not responsible for his actions at the time of the offence. In a 2017 judgment, he was acquitted for the same reason of offences committed in 2016.

The convicted person asked the Commission to reopen the 2014 District Court conviction and the convictions in the 2016 District Court judgment because he had been found to be not responsible for his actions in the later periods. The Commission appointed expert witnesses who were in no doubt about the convicted person's responsibility for his actions in the relevant periods, while the Norwegian Board of Forensic Medicine believed that the expert

witnesses should have expressed more doubt. The expert witnesses had also obtained additional information from 2013 medical records in which the convicted person had been diagnosed as having paranoid schizophrenia.

The Commission unanimously found that the expert witness report and statements by the Norwegian Board of Forensic Medicine were a new circumstance that created such doubt about the convicted person's responsibility for his actions during the period after 2012 that it seemed likely to lead to an acquittal for the offences in the 2014 District Court conviction that had been committed after 2012, see section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act. A majority of three members believed that the conditions for reviewing the offences committed prior to 2012 had not been met. A minority of two members believed that there was doubt about the convicted person's responsibility for his actions on the date when these offences were committed too, and that this should lead to all the offences being reviewed.

The Commission decided, with the dissenting vote described above, to partially allow the application to reopen.

14.11.2018 (2017/158 etc) Rape, etc - section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act (new expert witness report, responsibility)



In 2005, Sarpsborg District Court convicted a man of rape. He was sentenced to imprisonment for two years and six months. He appealed

against the conviction to the Court of Appeal, which convicted him of rape and increased the sentence to imprisonment for three years. Leave to appeal to the Supreme Court was denied.

In a later case that same year, Sarpsborg District Court convicted the man of two counts of sexual acts with a child under the age of 16 years and of making threats. The District Court sentenced him to imprisonment for one year.

In 2017, the convicted person asked the Commission to reopen the two 2005 convictions. He referred to the fact that, in 2012, he had been subjected to a forensic psychiatry examination in connection with a new criminal case and that the experts had at that time concluded that he was psychotic.

The Commission appointed two forensic psychiatry expert witnesses to assess the convicted person's mental health at the time of the offences which were the subject of the two 2005 convictions. The expert witnesses concluded that the convicted person had neither been psychotic nor suffered from a serious mental disorder leading to a considerably

weaker ability to realistically assess his relationship with the rest of society. However, they did express considerable uncertainty about their conclusion. Based on this and the medical information that had been revealed later, the Commission found there to be doubt about the convicted person's responsibility for his actions at the time of the offences and that there were new circumstances that seemed likely to

lead to an acquittal, see section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act.

The Commission unanimously decided to allow the application.

15.11.2018 (2017/138) Theft - section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act (new evidence)



In 2010, Frostating Court of Appeal convicted a woman of, among other things, the theft of NOK 800 from a handbag in a shop, see section 257 of the General Civil Penal Code of 1902. She was sentenced to imprisonment for 35

The theft had been recorded in a surveillance video taken in a grocery shop. The offence was reported immediately and the police looked at the surveillance video together with a shop employee. The police inspector believed he recognised the convicted person and she was arrested at her home that same evening.

The Court of Appeal judges had been divided into a majority and a minority view. The majority found it proven that it was the convicted person who was pictured in the surveillance video, while the minority did not find it sufficiently proven that the convicted person was the offender. The minority saw the resemblance between the woman in the video and the convicted person, but did not believe that the quality was good enough for the comparison to be certain in that it was also not known whether the convicted person had the same clothes and shoes as the woman in the video.

The convicted person asked the Commission to reopen her case and asserted, among other things, that there was new information in the case. After the Court of Appeal hearing, the convicted person had been made aware of the identity of the woman in the surveillance video.

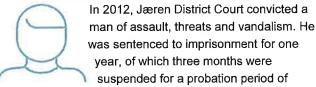
The Commission conducted a new witness examination and made some other investigations. The new witness confirmed that the person in the surveillance video was not the convicted person.

The Commission found that the new information was to be regarded as new evidence that seemed likely to lead to an acquittal, see section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act.

The Commission unanimously decided to allow the application to reopen the case.

The Commission conducted a new witness examination and made some other investigations. The new witness confirmed that the person in the surveillance video was not the convicted pers

15.11.2018 (2017/193) Violence, threats, vandalism and drink driving section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act (new expert witness report, responsibility)



three years. In 2014, the man was once again convicted by Jæren District Court, this time of violence, drink driving and road traffic law infringements. He was sentenced to imprisonment for eight months, as a combined sentence with the suspended part of the District Court's 2012 sentence.

The convicted person asked the Commission to reopen his case in 2017. The application was submitted after the convicted person had, in connection with an indictment for

new offences, been subjected to a forensic psychiatry examination and found not to be responsible for his actions. The Commission therefore appointed two forensic psychiatry expert witnesses to assess the convicted person's responsibility for his actions at the time of the offences that he was convicted of in 2012 and 2014. The expert witnesses concluded that the convicted person suffered from paranoid schizophrenia and was not responsible for his actions at the time of the offences he was convicted of by the District Court in 2012 and 2014. The convicted person's mental health had not been a topic of discussion when he was convicted of the offences. The Commission found that the forensic psychiatry report was a new

circumstance that raised doubt about the convicted person's responsibility for his actions when the offences took place and provided grounds for reopening the case pursuant to section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act.

The Commission unanimously decided to allow the application to reopen the case.

12.12.2018 (2018/150) Physical assault - section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act (new evidence). Application from the prosecuting authority



In 2018, Kristiansand District Court sentenced a man to imprisonment for 30 days for assaulting his former cohabitant, see section 271

subsection 1 of the Penal Code of 2005.

As evidence against the convicted person, the District Court placed emphasis on the aggrieved party's statement and a statement in an adapted judicial interview of the couple's seven-year-old daughter.

The prosecuting authority received new information in connection with another criminal case that had been brought against the aggrieved party. In this, the couple's daughter stated that she was subjected to assault by her mother. She also said that her mother had forced her to give a false statement about who had assaulted her and stating that her father had assaulted her mother. A new adapted judicial interview of the couple's daughter was conducted.

Based on the new information, the prosecuting authority, represented by the Office of the Director General of Public Prosecutions, asked the Commission to reopen the District Court conviction.

The Commission found that the new information seemed likely to lead to an acquittal, see section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act.

The Commission unanimously decided to allow the application to reopen the case.

The prosecuting authority received new information in connection with another criminal case that had been brought against the aggrieved party. In this, the couple's daughter stated that she was subjected to assault by her mother. She also said that her mother had forced her to give a false statement about who had assaulted her and stating that her father had assaulted her mother.

12.12.2018 (2017/116 etc) Threats, drugs, etc - section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act (new expert witness report, responsibility)



During the period from 2000 to 2015, a man was convicted five times, mainly for threats against civil servants and breaches of

drugs legislation. These convictions were handed down by Stavanger District Court, Ryfylke District Court and Haugaland District Court. He asked the Commission to reopen all the convictions, alleging, among other things, that a forensic psychiatry report prepared in 2009, collateral information and other medical information showed that the conditions for reopening had been met for all five convictions.

The Commission appointed two forensic psychiatry expert witnesses, who concluded in their report that the convicted person was psychotic at the time of the offences for which he was convicted in 2015. For the other convictions, the Commission found that the expert witnesses had not discovered any evidence that the convicted person had an underlying psychosis. The prosecuting authority alleged that the

conditions for reopening had been met for the 2015 conviction but not for the other convictions.

The Commission found that the conditions for reopening the 2015 conviction had been met, see section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act. As grounds for its decision not to reopen the other four convictions, the Commission referred to the assessments and conclusion in the expert witnesses' report. It was also stated that, for these offences, there was contemporary information on the state of the convicted person's mental health in the form of a pre-trial assessment conducted in 2002 and the fact that one of the experts had assessed the convicted person before and thus had a good basis for comparison. There was no new evidence or circumstances that seemed to provide grounds for reopening these convictions.

The Commission unanimously decided to allow the application to reopen one of the convictions.

14.06.2018 (2017/177) Rape, etc - section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act (new evidence). Dissenting vote



In 2013, Oslo District Court sentenced a man to imprisonment for five years for raping and committing a sexual act against a 13-year-old girl. The convicted

person appealed to Borgarting Court of Appeal, which found him not guilty. This ruling was set aside. In a new Court of Appeal hearing, the convicted person was again sentenced to imprisonment for five years for rape and committing a sexual act. Leave to appeal to the Supreme Court was denied.

While serving his sentence, the convicted person came into contact with the chair of a local mediation board. A meeting between the chair of the mediation board and the aggrieved party led to the chair of the mediation board understanding it to be the case that the convicted person was in prison for something he had not done. She found it correct to report this. The convicted person asked the Commission to reopen his case based on the information received from the chair of the mediation board.

In an interview with the Commission's investigator, the aggrieved party stated that she had not said what the chair of the mediation board reported she had said, while the chair of the mediation board maintained that her view was correct.

The majority of the Commission's members found that the conditions for reopening the case pursuant to section 391 no. 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act had not been met, and neither had the conditions pursuant to section 391 no. 1 or section 392 subsection 2. The minority believed that there was a reasonable likelihood that the Court of Appeal would have acquitted the convicted person of count 1 of the indictment if it had been aware of the new information.

The Commission decided not to allow the application. Dissenting vote (3-2).

While serving his sentence, the convicted person came into contact with the chair of a local mediation board. A meeting between the chair of the mediation board and the aggrieved party led to the chair of the mediation board understanding it to be the case that the convicted person was in prison for something he had not done. She found it correct to report this.

The Commission's other activities

The Commission's digitalisation project

In accordance with instructions stated in the Digitalisation Circular (H-7/17) issued by the Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation, the Commission prepared for an integrated digitalisation project in 2018. The Commission's website is out of date and does not meet universal design requirements. The form for applying to reopen a case can be filled in but must be printed out and sent to the Commission in paper form. The user thus does not have a digital first-choice. The Commission sends all documents in paper form, something which represents a risk of personal data going astray. This has not happened so far, but the Commission wants to minimise this risk in so far as possible. The digitalisation of the procedure is expected to lead to more efficient processing which can free-up time for the Commission's core activity, which is dealing with applications to reopen cases. A reduction in the processing period will benefit convicted persons, aggrieved parties and other people.

The project will among other things include an interactive user portal with universal design, the safe and efficient handling of criminal case documents through "Justishub" (the new channel for communication between key players in the criminal justice chain) and the acquisition of an efficient and expedient case and archive system for the secretariat, with an associated case-processing system for the Commission's members.

The costs linked to this exceed the amounts that the Commission has access to through its own budget and depend on the Commission being given additional funding. This has taken time and effort in 2018.

Provided there is satisfactory funding, the project will be rolled out over a two-year period starting in 2019.

The work to achieve a better utilisation of resources and increased productivity

The Commission and its secretariat is a small organisation that deals with relatively few cases and has a small budget. Most of its costs are fixed and relate to salaries, ICT costs and rent.



Lyderhorn Half-way House, Laksevåg, Bergen



National Forensic Centre (NFC), Linköping, Sweden. (Formerly the National Forensic Laboratory (SKL))

Like other government agencies, the Commission has annual ABE cuts (a budget cut resulting from the reform to reduce bureaucracy and improve efficiency). The sector goal, which also applies to the Commission, is to contribute to a more efficient criminal justice chain. The number of cases to be dealt with by the Commission increased in 2018.

As stated above, the Commission has started work on an integrated digitalisation project. This project is expected to contribute to the better utilisation of the Commission's resources and to increased productivity. By using "Justishub" as a communication channel, the Commission hopes to contribute to increased efficiency on the part of other players in the criminal justice chain too.

Contact with authorities

The Chair of the Commission attended the Ministry of
Justice and Public Security's annual conference for heads of
government departments in February and a departmentmanagement meeting with the administrative management of the
Ministry's Civil Affairs Department in April. The Chair attended the
Norwegian State Employer conference in September and a
dialogue meeting for the Norwegian State's Inclusive Efforts to get
more people in employment, both arranged by the Ministry of Local
Government and Modernisation. The Chair also took part in a
couple of professional benchmarking groups.

International contact

On the initiative of the Criminal Conviction Review Group (CCRG) of the Department of Justice Canada, the chair of the CCRG, the heads of the secretariats of the English and Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commissions and the chair of the Norwegian Criminal Cases Review Commission held a phone meeting on 1 August. The aim of this was to get to know each other better and to exchange experiences. These conversations were useful and a similar phone meeting is planned for 2019.

In September, the Chair had a meeting in Iceland with Professor Thordis Ingadottir, a member of the Icelandic Criminal Cases Review Commission.

Other activities

The Commission held a seminar for the secretariat in 2018 at which the topic was forensic psychiatry. The seminar was held at the Soria Moria Hotel in Oslo, with invited speakers, and at Ila Prison and Detention Centre. The visit to Ila Prison also



included a guided tour of Department G (the highsecurity department).

Psychiatrist Randi Rosenqvist and Siv Hallgren outside lla Prison and Detention Centre

An executive officer at the Norwegian Civil Affairs Authority worked temporarily for the Commission's secretariat from April until June.

Information activities

Requests for talks, etc, about the Commission's activities are complied with in so far as possible.

- In January, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission gave a talk to law students at the Wadahl seminar.
- In March, the Chair gave a talk to Rakkestad Rotary Club.
- In May, the Chair gave a talk to Gimle Rotary Club.
- In November, the Chair gave a talk to Mysen Rotary Club.

The Commission's secretariat assisted two master's degree students with statistics and decisions in 2018.

Media contact

The Commission is open to and available for questions and inquiries from journalists. The Commission and quite a few cases have been referred to in several media/newspapers. The Chair has among other things participated in a radio programme that was recorded in Bredtveit Prison and aired by Norwegian public broadcaster NRK. The Chair also took part in a live broadcast on the Orderud case on NRK social media, and has been interviewed a number of times in connection with radio reports, magazine articles and podcasts.

The Commission's media and information strategy is stated in a separate document.

The Commission's website www.gjenopptakelse.no contains information on the Commission and regulations, press releases, downloadable forms for applications to reopen cases, the Commission's annual reports, anonymised abbreviated versions of decisions to reopen cases, etc. The information is available in 12 languages in addition to Dano-Norwegian, New Norwegian and Sami.

The Commission's website has a press section where the full text of all the Commission's decisions is available to the media for three months.

All the Commission's decisions based on the merits of a case are published on the Lovdata website. These are decisions made both by the Commission and by the Commission's Chair or Vice Chair in accordance with section 397 subsection 3 sentence 3 of the Criminal Procedure Act.

The Commission uses its Twitter account to report decisions published on its website, press releases and information on vacant positions in the secretariat.

As stated above, the plan is to create a new website in order to improve electronic communication with users. Universal design and increased user-friendliness will also be aimed for.



Psychiatrist Karl Heinrik Melle (Chair of the Norwegian Board of Forensic Medicine), Siv Hallgren and psychiatrist Kjersti Narud at the Soria Moria Hotel

Management and control of the activities

Internal control and risk assessments

The Commission has efficient internal controls and did not identify any significant weaknesses in this in 2018. The last risk assessment was conducted on 21 August 2018.

Outsourcing of ICT services

The Commission pays the secretariat of the Norwegian Mediation Service to operate and maintain its ICT systems. The Commission works closely with the ICT department, which states that it complies with the recommendations of the Norwegian National Security Authority. The Commission also has internal information-security rules. In cooperation with the ICT department, the Commission analyses stable operations, information security, the handling of nonconformances, and risks. Data protection (including information security) is also part of the abovementioned risk assessment.

Comments by the Office of the Auditor General of Norway

The Commission did not receive any comments from the Office of the Auditor General in 2018 and has thus not had any need to prepare a plan for following up such comments.

Equality report

The Commission's aim is to ensure that it at all times has the correct staff and expertise.

The Commission's goal is to have a corporate culture based on equality, diversity and respect for the distinctive character of each individual, so that everyone has the opportunity to develop their abilities and use their expertise. Job adverts include a diversity declaration. The Commission's secretariat did not advertise any vacant positions in 2018.

The Commission has entered into an Inclusive Working Life (IA) agreement which aims to ensure that everyone who wants to and can will be allowed to contribute to working life. The Commission also has measures aimed at older employees.

The Commission's secretariat is led by a woman and otherwise consisted of eight women and three men in 2018. This means that the secretariat's gender distribution in 2018 was 75% women and 25% men. All the organisation's management positions are held by women. The secretariat has thus achieved the state's goal of a 40% share of female managers.

Measures to prevent discrimination, bullying and

harassment are stipulated in the Commission's HSE plan. The Commission has continued to determine more detailed procedures for whistleblowing cases.

The sickness absence rate in the Commission's secretariat is 2.75% so the Commission has not had any need to implement measures to reduce this rate.

Combatting work-related crime

The Commission has started to use the common agreements entered into by the State Procurement Centre/Agency for Public Management and eGovernment (Difi) and managed by the Centre on behalf of government agencies. The Commission uses approved cleaning companies and checks that these have approved HSE cards which are part of the approval scheme for cleaning companies.

Assessment of the outlook

The Commission's core activity is dealing with applications to reopen cases. The number of applications fluctuates from year to year. The Commission is obliged to deal with the applications it receives as long as these lie within the Commission's area of authority. To a large extent, it can be said that the Commission's workload is not very predictable. Factors that may generate several cases for the Commission are, for example, decisions of the Supreme Court or of international bodies that lead to a different interpretation of the law. Other factors may be cases or issues that have attracted a lot of media attention and can also be invoked in other finally determined criminal cases.

Efficiency and digitalisation will continue to require time, effort and a willingness to change on the part of the Commission's members and employees in the next few years. This will probably lead to the backlog increasing slightly in the short term but in the longer term these investments will result in more efficient proceedings.

Apart from this, the Commission cannot currently see that there are any special factors which should affect its ability to carry out its public service role during the next few years.

Annual accounts

The Chair's comments on the 2018 annual accounts

Objective

The Norwegian Criminal Cases Review Commission was established in 2004 and reports administratively to the Ministry of Justice and Public Security. The Commission is an independent government agency that keeps accounts in accordance with the cash accounting principle.

Confirmation

The annual accounts have been presented in accordance with regulations concerning financial management in central government, circular R-115, issued by the Ministry of Finance, and the requirements stipulated by the Ministry of Justice and Public Security in its main instructions to the enterprise. I believe the accounts provide a full picture of the Commission's available appropriations, recorded expenses, revenues, assets and liabilities.

Assessment of some important factors

The Commission was allocated a total of NOK 16,802,000 for 2018. In addition, the amount of NOK 521,000 in unused appropriations was transferred from 2017. The Commission was also allocated NOK 276,000 to compensate for the pay settlement in 2018. This means that the total funding allocated to the Commission for 2018 was NOK 17,599,000.

Of this, NOK 840,669 was not utilised. This equals 4.77% of the total available funding.

In addition to chapter 468 appropriations, appropriations according to chapter 414 Conciliation Board and Other Court Expenses and chapter 466 Special Criminal Case Expenses are made available to the Commission. This means that expenses relating to defence counsel, counsel for aggrieved parties, interpreters and expert witnesses appointed by the Commission are rule-governed and not debited to the Commission's budget.

Explanation of the under-utilisation

In 2018, the Commission received NOK 35,300 in refunds from the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Service. This is a result of sick leave. In addition, the Commission made savings because several full-time employees temporarily reduced their working hours

for various reasons. One Commission member did not attend the meetings in the second half of 2018.

The Commission's secretariat is small, so that refunds and savings like this are noticeable in the Commission's budget. At the same time, employees who have full-time jobs and temporarily reduced working hours will be entitled to work full-time again once the need for reduced working hours ends. The Commission cannot include the refunds and savings it had in 2018 in budgets for later years. We also calculate the costs of a Commission with all its members attending in 2019.

The Commission has a relatively small budget and many fixed expenses, of which salaries, ICT costs and rent are the largest items. The Commission's other expenditure depends, among other things, on the number of cases, which can be difficult to predict. If the Commission has to deal with complicated cases, it may have to increase the volume of investigative work and number of extraordinary meetings, and this in turn leads to higher costs.

Additional information

The Office of the Auditor General of Norway is the external auditor and certifies the enterprise's annual accounts. The audit of the annual accounts is not fully complete as at today's date.

Oslo, 11 February 2019 [Signature]

Siv Hallgren Chair

Accounting principles

The annual accounts of the Norwegian Criminal Cases Review Commission are prepared and presented in accordance with detailed guidelines stipulated in the regulations for financial management in central government ("the Regulations"). The annual accounts comply with item 3.4.1 of the Regulations, more detailed provisions stated in the Ministry of Finance circular R-115 of November 2016 and any additional requirements stipulated by the Ministry in charge.

The appropriation reporting statement and general ledger accounts reporting statement have been prepared on the basis of the provisions in item 3.4.2 of the Regulations – the fundamental principles for annual accounts:

- a) The accounts shall follow the calendar year
- b) The accounts shall contain all the reported expenses and revenues for the financial year
- Gross expenses and revenues shall be entered in the accounts
- d) The accounts shall be prepared in accordance with the cash accounting principle

The appropriation reporting statement and general ledger accounts reporting statement have been prepared in accordance with the same principles, but are grouped according to different charts of accounts. The principles comply with the requirements stated in item 3.5 of the Regulations regarding how enterprises are to report to the central government accounts. The total "Net amount reported to the appropriation accounts" is the same in both statements.

The enterprise is linked to the state's group account scheme with Norges Bank in accordance with the requirements stipulated in item 3.7.1 of the Regulations. Gross-budgeted enterprises are not given any funding during the year but are entitled to draw on their group account. At the year-end, the balance of the individual settlement account is set at zero.

Appropriation reporting statement

The appropriation reporting statement comprises an upper part containing the appropriation reporting and a lower part showing amounts the enterprise is stated to have in the capital accounts. The appropriation reporting statement shows the accounting figures that the enterprise has reported to the central government accounts. These are stated in accordance with the chapters and items in the appropriation accounts that the enterprise is authorised to utilise. The total allocations column shows the amount made available to the enterprise in a letter of allocation for each government account (chapter/item). The statement also shows all the financial assets and liabilities that the enterprise has in the government's capital accounts.

Authorisations received to debit another enterprise's chapter/item (debit authorisations) are not shown in the total allocations column but are referred to in note B to the appropriation reporting statement. The expenses relating to received debit authorisations are entered in the books, reported to the central government accounts and shown in the accounts column.

Debit authorisations granted to others are included in the total allocations column but are not entered in the books or reported to the central government accounts by the enterprise itself. Debit authorisations granted to others are entered in the books and reported by the enterprise that has received the debit authorisation and are therefore not shown in the accounts column. The authorisations granted to others are stated in note B to the appropriations reporting statement.

General ledger accounts reporting statement

The general ledger accounts reporting statement has an upper part showing amounts reported to the central government accounts in accordance with the standard chart of accounts for government agencies and a lower part showing assets and liabilities included in outstanding accounts with the public treasury.

The general ledger accounts reporting statement shows accounting figures that the enterprise has reported to the central government accounts in accordance with the standard chart of accounts for government agencies. The enterprise is entitled to draw on its group account with Norges Bank. The allocations are not taken to income and are therefore not shown as revenue in the statement.

Appropriation reporting statement 31.12.2018

Expense chapter	Chapter name	Item Item text	Note	Total allocation	Accounts 2018	Additional (-) 3 /reduced expense
0466	Special criminal case op, expenses	01		0	1562 293	-1 562 293
0468	Operating expenses	01	A, B	17 599 000	16 008 331	1590 669
1633	Net government VAT scheme	01		0	518 963	
Total amou	int charged to expenses			17 599 000	18 089 587	

Revenue chapter	Chapter name	Item Item text	Total allocation*	Accounts 2018	Additional /reduced revenue(-)
5309	Miscelianeous revenues	29	0	14 157	
5700	National Insurance revenues	72	0	1501 896	
Total amou	nt taken to income		0	1516 053	
Net reporte	ed to the appropriation accounts			16 573 534	
Capital acc	counts				
60087201	Norges Bank GA/payments received			104 024	
60087202	Norges Bank GA/payments made			-16 643 836	
704485	Change in outstanding account with the	public treasury		-33 722	
Total amou	nt reported			0	
Balances re	eported to the capital accounts (31.12	2)			
Account	Text		31.12.2018	31.12.2017	Change
704485	Outstanding account with the public trea	asury	-572 335	-538 613	-33 722

^{*} The total allocation shall not be reduced to take account of any debit authorisations granted to others. Refer to note B for a further explanation of this.

Notes to the appropriation reporting statement

Note A Explanation of the total allocations of expenses

Transferred from last year	The year's allocations	Total allocations
521 000	17 078 000	17 599 000
		0
		0
		0
	уеаг	year allocations

Note B Explanation of used authorisations and calculation of the amount possibly transferrable to next year

Chapter and item	Key words	Additional (-)/reduced expenditure	Charged to expenses by others pursuant to granted debit authorisations (-)	Additional (-)/reduced expenditure pursuant to granted debit authorisations	Additional/reduced (-) income pursuant to additional-income authorisations
0468 01		1 590 669	-750 000	840 669	
xxxx21				0	
xxxx21	"may be utilised under item 01"			0	
xxxx45				0	
xxxx45	"may be transferred"			0	
xxxx70				0	N/A
xxxx75	"estimated appropriation"			0	N/A

^{*} The maximum amount that can be transferred is 5% of the year's appropriations for operations items 01-29, apart from item 24, or the sum of the last two years' appropriations for items with the key words "may be transferred". Refer to annual circular R-2 for more detailed information on the transfer of unused appropriations.

Explanation of the use of budget authorisations

Granted debit authorisations (charged to expenses by other parties)

The Norwegian Criminal Cases Review Commission has granted a debit authorisation to the Secretariat for the Mediation Service equal to NOK 750,000 and registered to chapter 0468 item 01. The entire amount has been spent by the Secretariat for the Mediation Service.

Possibly transferrable amount

The Norwegian Criminal Cases Review Commission's unused appropriations relating to chapter 0468 item 1 amount to NOK 840,669.

Appropriations relating to other budget chapters

In addition to appropriations relating to chapter 0468 item 01, the Norwegian Criminal Cases Review Commission has appropriations at its disposal relating to chapter 0414 Conciliation Boards and Other Court Expenses and chapter 0466 Special Criminal Case Expenses, etc. These appropriations are utilised in accordance with the regulations applicable to the rule-governed scheme.

Reallocations from item 01 to 45 or to item 01/21 from next year's appropriations	Savings(-)	Total basis for transfer	Max. transferrable amount*	Possible transferrable amount calculated by the enterprise
		840 669	879 950	840 669
		0	[5% of the year's appropriations in note A]	
		0	[5% of the year's appropriations in note A]	
		0		
		0	[Total of this year's and last year's appropriations	
N/A	N/A	N/A		
N/A	N/A	N/A		

General ledger accounts reporting statement 31.12.2018

	Note	2018	2017
Operating revenues reported to the appropriation accounts			
Payments received from fees		0	(
Payments received from grants and transfers		0	C
Sales and rental payments received		0	C
Other payments received		0	C
Total payments received from operations		0	0
Operating expenses reported to the appropriation accounts			
Salary payments	1	12 115 383	12 183 151
Other operations-related payments	2	5 333 064	4 976 854
Total operations-related payments		17 448 448	17 160 005
Net reported operating expenses		17 448 448	17 160 005
Investment and financial income reported to the appropriation accounts			
Financial income received		0	
Total investment and financial income		0	С
Investment and financial expenses reported to the appropriation accounts			
Payments for investments	3	122 176	155 028
Payments to purchase shares		0	0
Payment of financial expenses		0	0
Total investment and financial expenses		122 176	155 028
Net reported investment and financial expenses		122 176	155 028
Debt-collection operations and other transfers to the state			
Taxes, fees, charges, etc received		0	0
Total debt-collection operations and other transfers to the state		0	0
Grant management and other transfers from the state			
Payments of grants and benefits		0	0
Total grant management and other transfers from the state		0	C
Revenues and expenses reported for common chapters*			
Group life insurance account 1985 (ref. chapter 5309, revenue)		14 157	13 959
Employer's NI contributions account 1986 (ref. chapter 5700, revenue)		1501 896	1508 798
Net bookkeeping scheme for VAT account 1987 (ref. chapter 1633, expense)		518 963	447 899
Net expenses reported to common chapters		-997 090	-1 074 859

Overview of outstanding accounts with the public treasury**

		2018	2017
Assets and liabilities			
Receivables		0	0
Cash		0	0
Bank accounts containing state funds outside Norges Bank		0	0
Withholding tax due		-572 335	-538 613
Public taxes due		0	0
Other liabilities		0	0
Total outstanding account with the public treasury	4	-572 335	-538 613

^{*} Any other revenues/expenses reported for common chapters are to be specified in separate lines if required.

** Specify and add lines if required.

Notes to the general ledger accounts reporting statement

Note 1 Salary payments

	31 12 2018	31.12.2017
Salaries	8 395 235	8 419 585
Employer's NI contributions	1501 896	1508 798
Pension expenses*	1006 443	1012 708
Sickness benefit and other refunds (-)	-35 300	-5 400
Other benefits	1247 110	1247 460
Total salary payments	12 115 383	12 183 151
* This line is to be used by enterprises that pay a pension premium to the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund.		
No. of FTE:	9.9	10.6

^{*}Further details on pension expenses

Pensions are entered as expenses in the profit and loss account based on the premium actually accrued for the financial year. The premium rate for 2018 is 14.0 per cent. The premium rate for 2017 was 14.0 per cent.

Note 2 Other payments relating to operations

	31 12.2018	31 12 2017
Rent	2 021 313	2 045 327
Maintenance of own buildings and facilities	0	0
Maintenance and modification of rented premises	9 828	825
Other expenses relating to the running of properties and premises	255 447	275 301
Repair and maintenance of machinery, equipment, etc	0	0
Minor equipment acquisitions	4 400	78 805
Rental of machinery, fixtures and fittings, etc	0	6 117
Purchase of services from external parties	2 046 611	1327 550
Travel and per diem allowances	408 958	426 147
Other operating expenses	586 508	816 783
Total other payments relating to operations	5 333 064	4 976 854

Note 3 Payments for investments and to buy shares

	31.12.2018	31.12.2017
Payments for investments		
Intangible assets, etc	O	0
Land, buildings and other real property	0	0
Emergency-preparedness acquisitions	0	0 0 0
Infrastructure assets Machinery and vehicles Operating equipment, fixtures, fittings, tools, etc	0	
	0	
	122 176	155 028
Total payments for investments	122 176	155 028
Payments to buy shares		
Contributions of capital	0	0
Bonds	0	0
Investments in shares and partnerships	0	0
Total payments to buy shares	0	0

Note 4 Link between the settlement with the public treasury and the outstanding account with the public treasury

Part A The difference between the settlement with the public treasury and the outstanding account with the public treasury

	31.12.2018	31 12 2018		
	Specification of the recorded settlement with the public treasury	Specification of the reported outstanding account with the public treasury	Difference	
Fixed-asset investments			-VNII	
Investments in shares and partnerships*	0	0	0	
Bonds	0	0	0	
Total	0	0	0	
Current assets				
Trade debtors	0	0	0	
Other receivables	0	0	0	
Cash in hand and at the bank, etc	0	0	0	
Total	0	0	0	
Long-term liabilities				
Other long-term liabilities	0	0	0	
Total	0	0	0	
Current liabilities				
Trade creditors	7 720	0	7 720	
Withholding tax due	-572 335	-572 335	0	
Public taxes due	0	0	0	
Other current liabilities	-3 318	0	-3 318	
Total	-567 933	-572 335	4 402	
Total	-567 933	-572 335	4 402	

^{*} Enterprises that own fixed-asset investments in the form of investments in shares and partnerships must also fill in note 8 B

Part B Specification of investments in shares and partnerships

	Acquisiti on date	No. of share s	Votin g share s	Firm' s profit/loss for the year	Firm's capitalise d equity	Capitalise d value in the account s*	
Shares							
Firm 1							
Firm 2							
Firm 3							
Capitalised value 31.12.2018							0

^{*} Investments in shares are recorded at their original cost. The capitalised value is the same in both the enterprise's account specification and the capital accounts.

The Norwegian Criminal Cases Review Commission is an independent body which is responsible for deciding whether convicted persons should have their cases retried in a different court

Postal address:

Postboks 2097 Vika, 0125 Oslo

Visiting address:

Tordenskioldsgate 6

Tel:

(+47) 22 40 44 00

Fax:

(+47) 22 40 44 01

Email:

post@gjenopptakelse.no

Internet:

www.gjenopptakelse.no