



Report on cases of financial irregularities in 2018

Foreign Service Control Unit

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(<http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/ud/id833/>)

The Foreign Service Control Unit deals with cases involving breaches of Foreign Service rules, unless responsibility for following up a specific type of irregularity has been assigned to a different unit in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- [The annual report](#)
- [Zero tolerance of financial irregularities in practice](#)
(http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/ud/about_mfa/dealing_irregularities/id2638099/)
(http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/ud/about_mfa/zero_tolerance/id2623676/)
- [Guidelines for dealing with suspected financial irregularities](#)
(http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/ud/about_mfa/dealing_irregularities/id2638099/)

([The report in pdf-format](#)

(http://www.regjeringen.no/globalassets/departementene/ud/vedlegg/varsling/report_irregularities_2018.pdf



Clear warnings against corruption.

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1. Introduction

The Foreign Service Control Unit deals with cases involving breaches of Foreign Service rules, unless responsibility for following up a specific type of irregularity has been assigned to a different unit in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Foreign Service Control Unit also oversees cases involving breaches of rules in subordinate agencies.

2. Zero tolerance

The Ministry practises zero tolerance of financial irregularities and other misuse of Ministry funds. This principle must be observed by all Foreign Service employees, suppliers of goods and services, and organisations and others that manage funds allocated by the Ministry. For more details, see the policy memorandum Zero tolerance of financial irregularities in practice, which was updated in December 2018.

As a general rule, misused funds must be repaid to the Ministry. The same applies in cases where it cannot be documented that funds have been used in accordance with an agreement. The Ministry will consider reporting cases of this kind to the police if it is likely that a criminal offence has been committed.

3. Dealing with cases of suspected financial irregularities

In connection with the revision of the policy memorandum Zero tolerance of financial irregularities in practice, the Guidelines for dealing with suspected financial irregularities in the Foreign Service were also updated (see annexes).

Most of the cases dealt with by the Foreign Service Control Unit have to do with possible misuse of grant funds. Suspected financial irregularities are normally reported to the Foreign Service Control Unit by the relevant unit in the Foreign Service or by the organisation that has received the funds. If the Foreign Service Control Unit finds reason to investigate the matter more closely, it is registered as a case of suspected financial irregularities.

As a rule, further disbursements to the recipient will be suspended until the case has been investigated and adequate risk-reducing measures have been implemented.

Investigations are usually carried out by the Foreign Service Control Unit, in close cooperation with the affected units in the Foreign Service. In some cases, external experts are engaged to investigate a case or perform a forensic audit. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has framework agreements with five different companies that provide such services. In addition, the Foreign Service Control Unit engages external legal experts to follow up legally complex cases. If the organisation that has received the grant funds initiates its own investigation, the Foreign Service Control Unit usually waits until the results of this are available before considering its response.

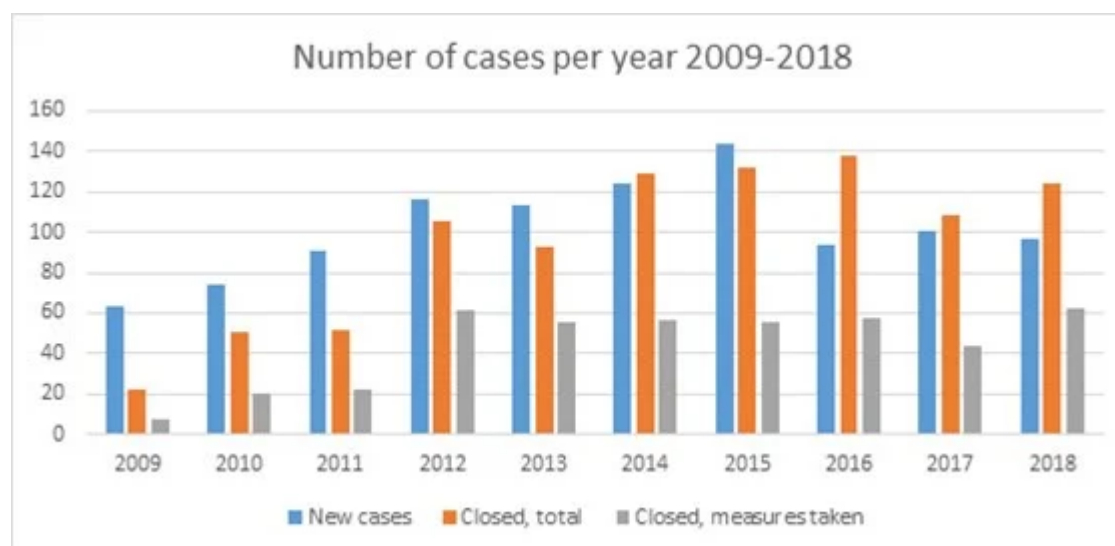
In most cases of financial irregularities, the grant recipient agrees to repay the misused funds. If, however, the Foreign Service Control Unit's claim for repayment is contested, legal proceedings may be initiated to recover the funds.

A case will be closed if the investigation concludes that a response from the Ministry is not required. In cases where the Ministry claims repayment, the case will not be closed until the funds have been repaid.

Information on cases that have required a response from the Ministry before being closed is published on a quarterly basis on the Government website (in Norwegian only).

4. Trends in the number of cases

Since the Foreign Service Control Unit was established in 2007, it has registered 1087 cases of financial irregularities and closed 975 cases. A response was required in 381 of the closed cases – most often a claim for the repayment of funds. A total of NOK 115.2 million has been repaid during this period. In addition to funds managed by the Ministry, the figures also include cases involving funds managed by Norad and Norec. ^[1]



Number of cases per year 2009-2018.