

LANZAROTE COMMITTEE

Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe
Convention on the protection of children against sexual
exploitation and sexual abuse

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Replies to the thematic questionnaire

“Screening of professionals, volunteers and other
persons in contact with children”

NORWAY

Replies received by the Secretariat on 30 June 2026

Main relevant provisions of the Lanzarote Convention and previous recommendations

Article 5 paragraph 3 of the Lanzarote Convention requires Parties to take the necessary legislative or other measures, in conformity with their internal law, to ensure that the conditions to accede to those professions whose exercise implies regular contacts with children ensure that the candidates to these professions have not been convicted of acts of sexual exploitation or sexual abuse of children. The Explanatory Report to the Lanzarote Convention indicates that this obligation can be also applied to voluntary activities (see paragraph 57).

In the 2nd implementation report of the 1st monitoring round (2018), the Lanzarote Committee urged those Parties that limited mandatory screening to certain professionals to extend it to the recruitment of all professionals (public or private) in regular contact with children (R19) and invited Parties to encourage continuous screening of all professionals (R20) and volunteers (R21) in regular contact with children.

Article 27 paragraph 3.b of the Lanzarote Convention requires Parties to take the necessary legislative or other measures to deny the perpetrator, temporarily or permanently, the exercise of professional or voluntary activity involving contact with children in the course of which the offence was committed.

Article 37 paragraph 3 of the Lanzarote Convention requires Parties to take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the information referred to in paragraph 1 (i.e. data related to the identity and to the genetic profile (DNA) of persons convicted of the offences established in accordance with the Convention) can be transmitted to the competent authority of another Party, in conformity with the conditions established in its internal law and the relevant international instruments.

Whenever the term “screening” is used in this questionnaire, this should be understood as “verification of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children”.

In all your answers, please provide details to the extent possible and refer to specific laws, policies, programmes, measures, etc.

Please describe the legislation, policy and practice which are in force on 27 March 2026 or are in the process of adoption (in this case, please specify the planned date of entry into force).

Please indicate:

a. State Party in respect of which the questionnaire is submitted

Norway

b. Entities and bodies which have been involved in responding to this questionnaire

Norwegian Ministries of Culture and Equality, Education and Research, Health and Care Services, Justice and Public Security, Labour and Social Inclusion in addition to the Ministry of Children and Families.

Persons concerned by screening requirements

- 1. Is the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children required as a pre-condition in order to accede to professions, employment or volunteer positions whose exercise implies regular contacts with children? Please specify whether such restrictions apply to professions, employment or volunteer positions in the following sectors or areas of activities (additional details to be inserted below the table):*

	Criminal conviction check for employment in public sector?	Criminal conviction check for voluntary activity?	Criminal conviction check for employment in private sector?	Criminal conviction check for self-employed professionals?	Please specify the professionals to whom this requirement applies
Education – Pre-school	Yes	May be required	Yes	May be required	The Kindergarten Act section 30: All staff working in pre-schools. In addition, the owner of the pre-school and the municipal authority may require a criminal conviction check for other persons who are regularly present on the premises or who have a substantial influence on the

					operation of the pre-school.
Education – Primary	Yes	May be required	Yes	May be required	The Education Act section 17-11: Teachers, teaching assistants, school leaders and substitutes. In addition, the municipal or county authority may require a criminal conviction check for volunteers, trainees, and external or self-employed professionals who carry out tasks at the school or have contact with pupils.
Education – Secondary	Yes	May be required	Yes	May be required	The Education Act section 17-11: Teachers, teaching assistants, school leaders and substitutes. In addition, the municipal or county authority may require a criminal conviction check for volunteers, trainees, and external or self-employed professionals who carry out tasks at the school or have contact with pupils.
Education – Tertiary	No	No	No	No	There is no general requirement for criminal conviction checks for employees or volunteers in tertiary education. However, under Section 12-2 of the Universities and University Colleges Act, students in programmes involving contact with minors may be

					required to present a police certificate pursuant to Section 39(1) of the Police Databases Act. Practice supervisors are employed in kindergartens or schools and are subject to the police certificate requirements in the Kindergarten Act § 30 and the Education Act § 17-11.
Education – Extracurricular (e.g. language schools)	May be required	May be required	May be required	May be required	Teachers, instructors and other personnel providing educational activities for children. Criminal conviction checks apply where required under sector specific rules or contractual arrangements.
Childcare (e.g. kindergartens, crèches, childminders)	Yes	May be required	Yes	May be required	The Kindergarten Act section 30: All staff working in pre-schools. In addition, the owner of the pre-school and the municipal authority may require a criminal conviction check for other persons who are regularly present on the premises or who have a substantial influence on the operation of the pre-school.
Institutional or residential care (e.g. foster homes, orphanages, closed residential facilities)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Section 12-11 of the Child Welfare Act requires a police certificate for anyone employed in or performing tasks for the Child Welfare Service, including support contacts, trusted persons, and supervisors.

					The requirement also applies to work in child welfare institutions, parent–child centres, and care centres involving contact with children. Bufetat employees and contractors must provide a certificate if their work may involve direct child contact, including spokespersons and institutional supervisors. Foster parents, respite carers, and others providing home-based care must submit an extended certificate; this may also be required from household members. The chair of the Child Welfare Tribunal must also provide an exhaustive police certificate.
Detention	Yes, the Correctional Services carry out screening. An impeccable criminal record is required. Childcare certificate of conduct required for the Supervisory Board for the Correctional Service. Criminal convictions for sexual offences against	N/A	N/A	N/A	Employees and other persons performing work for the Correctional Service or in prisons as part of inter-agency cooperation, cf. Section 8 of the Execution of Sentences Act. Admission to the prison officer training programme at the Norwegian Correctional Service University College and Staff Academy and trainees in the Correctional Service, cf. Section 7 of the Regulation on Trainees in the Correctional Service.

	children lead to exclusion from the Board by law.				Leader and members of the Supervisory Board for the Correctional Service, cf. Section 9 b of the Execution of Sentences Act.
Migration facilities (e.g. reception centres)	Yes, childcare certificate of conduct required in reception centres. Criminal convictions for sexual offences against children lead to exclusion by law.	Yes. The requirement applies to everyone who perform tasks for the immigration authorities, and who are in direct contact with minors staying at an asylum reception centre, cf. Section 97 of the Immigration Act, including volunteers in reception centres.	The requirement applies both to municipal and private operators, including non-profit organizations.	N/A	Employees at state reception centres for asylum seekers and others who perform tasks for the immigration authorities, and who are in direct contact with minors staying at an asylum reception centre, cf. Section 97 of the Immigration Act.
Sport	N/A	May be required (a)	Sports organisations are legally classified as private entities and may employ staff (e.g. coaches and administrative personnel). However, requirements for criminal record certificates are not generally attached to employment in the private sector as such. In the	Yes (b)	a. Voluntary organizations may require the submission of a criminal record certificate, as referred to in section 39, first paragraph (childcare certificates of conduct), of the Police Databases Act, from a person who, whether paid or unpaid, performs or is to perform duties for the organization that involve a relationship of trust or responsibility towards minors or persons with intellectual disabilities.

			context of organised sport, such requirements are instead determined by the nature of the activities performed, particularly tasks involving responsibility for minors or persons with intellectual disabilities, and are primarily governed by specific provisions on voluntary activities and assignments.		b. Persons who are to work or carry out duties related to organized training activities for children (outside of voluntary organizations) are required to submit a criminal record certificate as referred to in Section 39, first paragraph of the Police Databases Act when the duties involve a position of trust or responsibility in relation to minors or persons with intellectual disabilities.
Culture institutions and leisure activities (organized by voluntary organizations, youth clubs, camps for children and youth)	May be required	May be required	May be required	N/A	The requirement to present a criminal record certificate applies to the following persons/cases: • Persons who are to work or carry out duties in youth clubs or in children's and youth camps • Persons who are to perform duties for public or private cultural institutions In both cases, a criminal record certificate may be required, as referred

					to in section 39, first paragraph of the Police Databases Act, when the work or duties involve a relationship of trust or responsibility towards minors or persons with intellectual disabilities. For leisure activities organized by voluntary organizations, the same provision applies as for sports activities: Voluntary organizations may require the submission of a criminal record certificate, as referred to in section 39, first paragraph, of the Police Databases Act, from a person who, whether paid or unpaid, performs or is to perform duties for the organization that involve a relationship of trust or responsibility towards minors or persons with intellectual disabilities.
Entertainment sector					No answers provided

Faith and religion	No. Faith and religion is not a part of public sector	May be required	May be required	No. The religious Communities Act doesn't regulate self-employed professionals	Section 20 of the Religious Communities Act stipulates: « Religious and life stance communities may require that persons to be appointed, perform tasks, or hold positions of trust, whether paid or unpaid, involving the care of or tasks related to minors or persons with intellectual disabilities, present a criminal record certificate as mentioned in the Police Databases Act Section 39, first paragraph. »
Healthcare (including psychological and psychiatric services)	Yes	May be required	Yes	Yes	According to Section 20a of the Health Personnel Act, persons who are providing specialist health services and dental health services to children on a regular basis, are required to submit a criminal record certificate as referred to in Section 39 of the Police Databases Act when offering a position, entering into an agreement with the public health and care sector or establishing a private health care business. This requirement is not limited to authorized health personnel (such as psychologists and psychiatrists) but also includes assistants to health personnel, internships and positions such as

					summer temporary workers, extra shifts, students etc. who are providing health and care services. Persons who have adopted a fine or are convicted of sexual offenses against children, are excluded from providing health and care services to children (i.e. partial professional ban). Further, both the municipal and county municipal authorities and the state hospitals are, as employers or contracting parties, obliged to require a criminal conviction check for persons who are providing primary health care services, specialist health services and dental health services to children, cf. Section 5-4 of the Municipal Health and Care Act, Section 3-1 of the Dental Health Services Act and Section 3-17 of the Specialist Health Services Act, which refer to Section 20a of the Health Personnel Act.
Social protection services	The Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (Nav) is a statutory partnership between the Labour and Welfare Administration (state) and	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

	the services that municipalities have delegated to Nav offices. Nav does not have a legal basis to require applicants or employees to provide a police certificate. A cross-cutting initiative has been launched within Nav to assess this need. This applies to several functions, but is particularly relevant for employees who work with persons in prisons and those who have duties in upper secondary schools. The Norwegian Labour and Welfare Directorate report that municipally employed staff in Nav may be required to provide a police certificate under municipal legislation.				
Law enforcement	Yes, the police and the prosecuting	N/A	N/A	N/A	Students at the Norwegian Police University College, cf.

	authority carry out screening. An impeccable criminal record is required for admission to the Norwegian Police University College and is a prerequisite for employment in the police and prosecuting authority.				Section 24b of the Police Act. Police employees and persons performing work or services for the police or its service providers, cf. Section 18 of the Police Act. Persons to be assigned limited police powers, cf. Section 20 of the Police Act. Officials and employees of the prosecuting authority, as well as persons performing work or services for the prosecuting authority or its service providers, cf. Section 55a of the Criminal Procedure Act.
Judicial	Yes, the judicial authorities carry out screening. The recipient evaluates possible remarks against the applicable legal criteria for suitability. Criminal convictions for sexual offences against children lead to exclusion by law from the Mediation Services.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Judges, deputy judges (<i>dommerfullmektiger</i>), lay judges, cf. Sections 55, 73, and 77 of the Courts of Justice Act. Mediation council leaders, mediators, youth coordinators or other positions involving the handling of individual cases, cf. Section 6 of the Mediation Services Act (<i>"Konfliktrådsloven"</i>).
Lawyers	Yes, screening is	N/A	The requirements	The requirements	Lawyers and trainee lawyers

	carried out as part of the authorization of lawyers and trainee lawyers. Recipient evaluates remarks in relation to suitability, "good character" (<i>hederlig vandel</i>) is required.		apply to all lawyers and trainee lawyers, both in public and private sector.	apply to all lawyers and trainee lawyers, both in public and private sector.	(<i>advokatfullmektiger</i>), cf. Section 4 of the Lawyers Act.
Civil society organisations	May be required	May be required	May be required	May be required	Voluntary organizations may require the submission of a criminal record certificate, as referred to in section 39, first paragraph, of the Police Databases Act, from a person who, whether paid or unpaid, performs or is to perform duties for the organization that involve a relationship of trust or responsibility towards minors or persons with intellectual disabilities.

Victim services (including Barnahus, domestic violence services)	Yes, childcare certificate of conduct required for crisis centre and similar residential and day services and incest and sexual abuse support centres. Recipient evaluates remarks in relation to employment suitability. Persons working at Barnahus undergo criminal record checks in connection with employment in the police or health services (see above).	The requirements apply to volunteers at incest and sexual abuse support centres.	The requirements apply both to public and private operators.	N/A	Employees and other persons assigned duties involving contact with users of crisis centre or similar residential or day services, cf. Section 7 of the Crisis Centre Act. Persons performing tasks for incest and sexual abuse support centres involving positions of trust or responsibility towards minors, cf. Section 34-4 of the Police Databases Regulation.
Ombudsman for children	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	Any person to be employed by the Ombudsman for Children must present a police certificate of conduct as referred to in section 39 of the Police Databases Act. This requirement applies only to persons who are to perform duties involving a position of trust or responsibility in relation to minors.

Any other sectors (please specify)	Yes, screening is required for the Family welfare services, and for the municipal crime prevention work involving one- to- one follow up of minors. Recipients evaluate remarks in relation to employment suitability.	N/A	Yes	Yes	Anyone who is to be employed at a family welfare office must present a police certificate as mentioned in Section 39 of the Police Databases Act. This only applies to persons who are to perform tasks that require a relationship of trust or responsibility towards minors. Anyone who is to be approved as a mediator or is to perform supervision during access must submit a police certificate as mentioned in Section 39 of the Police Databases Act. An expert appointed by the court shall submit a police certificate as referred to in Section 39 of the Police Databases Act. The same applies to lawyers or others appointed as representatives of the child. The above-mentioned requirements for a police certificate is stipulated in law (the Children Act and the Act relating to the Family Counselling Services). Mentors and others engaged in one-to-one follow-up of minors as part of the municipal crime prevention efforts, cf.
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					Section 34-15 of the Police Databases Regulation.
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Here you can insert additional details or specify any exceptions.

Individuals who are to be employed, either permanently or temporary, in kindergarten, pre-school, primary and secondary school are required to present a certificate of good conduct issued by the police. Individuals who have been convicted of, or who have accepted a penalty charge notice for sexual offences against minors shall not be employed or undergo practical training or programmes in kindergarten, pre-school, primary and secondary school. The employer may request a renewed background check (certificate of good conduct) if there is reason to suspect that something may be wrong.

Childcare certificates of conduct ("*barneomsorgsattester*") are required for most positions, businesses and assignments involving direct contact with minors. A childcare certificate of conduct is an expanded and partly exhaustive police certificate of conduct, and the information indicated on the certificate is determined by Section 39 of the Police Databases Act. The certificate is limited to certain criminal offences, please see question 8 for information on which criminal offences that are recorded on a childcare certificate of conduct. The certificate of conduct being expanded means that ongoing or pending criminal cases related to the listed criminal offences are indicated. Some of the offences are recorded pursuant to the rules on exhaustive police certificates of conduct and others in accordance with the rules on ordinary police certificates of conduct.

In certain sectors, additional or more extensive screening is required, often because the requirement to present a police certificate of conduct in these areas is not solely based on the need to protect minors. Some of these examples are indicated in the table above (i.e. detention, law enforcement and judicial, described as a requirement for screening). Typically, an exhaustive and expanded police certificate of conduct is required in these cases. One exception is the authorization of lawyers and trainee lawyers, where an ordinary extended police certificate of conduct is required.

A complete list of the different purposes that require the submission of a police certificate of conduct is listed by the Police [here](#).

In certain sectors, the law prohibits individuals convicted of specific criminal acts from being recruited. This may apply to serious offences in general, or especially to convictions for sexual offences against children. In other cases, the recipient is required to carry out an individual assessment of the candidate's suitability based on the information contained in the police certificate of conduct. These distinctions are also reflected in the table above.

Regarding the column on voluntary activity, such activities are normally carried out through voluntary organizations. All voluntary organizations may require the presentation of a childcare certificate of conduct from persons performing tasks for the organization that involve a position of trust or responsibility in relation to minors or persons with disabilities, cf. Section 34-1 of the Police Databases Regulations. The organization assesses any remarks in light of the person's suitability for the relevant tasks.

2. *In requiring the verification of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children in order to accede to the positions listed in question 1, does your State:*
 - a) *define the level or threshold of contact with children (one-off, regular, etc.) which necessitates such a verification*
 - b) *distinguish between direct, indirect or online contact with children?*

If yes, please provide details.

As noted above in response to question 1, the legislation establishes different requirements for police certificates of conduct for specific positions and functions across various sectors. These requirements reflect differing thresholds of contact with children, as illustrated in the table above. The requirement for childcare certificates of conduct applies to situations where exclusion may prevent individuals from committing abuse against, or exerting harmful influence over, minors, or where it contributes to increased trust that minors are cared for by suitable persons. In some cases, the requirement applies to all employees or persons present, even where the role does not involve a particular position of trust or responsibility in relation to children (for example in schools and employees at reception centres). In most cases, however, childcare certificates of conduct apply to persons who are to provide care for, or perform tasks related to, minors.

3. Is the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children required to become:

a) an adoptive parent

According to Section 5 of the Adoption Act, only those who are suitable to be good caregivers for children may apply for adoption. A person applying to adopt must submit an exhaustive police certificate of conduct, as mentioned in Section 41 of the Police Databases Act.

b) a foster parent

Foster parents, respite carers, and others providing home-based care must provide an extended and exhaustive police certificate, and certificates may also be required from others in the household.

c) a child's legal guardian (including for unaccompanied children)?

A police certificate of conduct equivalent to a childcare certificate of conduct, supplemented with annotations regarding financial offences, is required in connection with appointment of guardians, cf. Sections 26 and 28 of the Guardianship Act and Section 15 of the Guardianship Regulation. A police certificate of conduct is not required for guardians who are related to the person. "Related person" means the spouse, cohabitant, child, parent or sibling of the person under guardianship. However, the related person must also be suitable for the position, cf. Section 28 of the Guardianship Act. If offences that would have been included in a police certificate of conduct are known to the State Administrator, the person concerned may be considered unfit.

A childcare certificate of conduct is required for persons to be appointed as representatives for unaccompanied minor asylum seekers, cf. Section 98c of the Immigration Act, cf. Section 39 of the Police Databases Act. Information from the police certificate of conduct is included in the assessment of whether the person is suitable for the assignment. If, due to urgency, the appointment of the representative (guardian) is made before the police certificate of conduct has been submitted, it must be provided as soon as possible after the appointment.

4. Is the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children required for the household members of:

a) persons carrying out professional activity in their home who are in contact with children

No requirements.

b) persons carrying out volunteering activity in their home who are in contact with children

No requirements.

- c) persons wishing to become an adoptive parent, a foster parent, or a child's legal guardian?*

No specific requirements. However, when processing the application, the adoption authority must assess the family situation as a whole and provide a social background report according to the requirements in the Adoption law and regulation. This assessment will also involve other members of the household, but there are no specific requirements for a police certificate.

5. *Does the requirement to verify the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children also apply to:*

- a) children applying for professional or volunteer positions*

Yes, the requirement to present a police certificate of conduct also applies to minors applying for positions etc. for which such screening is required.

- b) adults in respect of criminal convictions received before the age of 18?*

Yes, information on most convictions for sexual offences against children committed before the age of 18 will remain recorded on a childcare certificate of conduct for the candidate's lifetime and may be taken into consideration by the recipient of the police certificate of conduct when assessing whether the person should be excluded from the recruitment process.

However, the Police Databases Act provides for certain exceptions whereby offences committed before the age of 18 may be recorded for a shorter period or not at all, please see the answer to Question 11 for further details.

6. *If a person legally changes their name, how does your State ensure that their criminal record remains linked to their new name?*

Police certificates of conduct are issued on the basis of the individual national identity number (or D number). Thus a change of name does not affect the issuance of police certificates of conduct.

7. *Is access to public funds for projects implying contact with children conditional on the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children for persons employed in or volunteering for such projects?*

No, it is not common for screening to be required as a condition for access to public project funding.

Information included in screening

8. *Does the criminal record check include criminal convictions for:*

- a) sexual abuse of a child (Article 18 of the Lanzarote Convention)*

Yes, the childcare certificate of conduct contains information on criminal offences as described in Article 18. The following provisions of the Penal Code of 2005 are covered (as well as the corresponding provisions in the previous Penal Code):

- Sections 291, 293 and 294: Sexual assault
- Section 295: Abuse of unequal power relationship, etc.
- Section 296: Sexual activity with inmates, etc. of an institution

- Sections 299, 301: Sexual assault on a child under 14 years of age
- Sections 302, 303: Sexual activity with a child between 14 and 16 years of age
- Section 304: Sexual act with a child under 16 years of age
- Sections 312 and 314: Incest and sexual activity between other closely connected persons (Section 313 on sibling incest is not included)

b) sexual exploitation of a child ("child prostitution" Article 19 of the Lanzarote Convention)

Yes, the childcare certificate of conduct contains information on violations of Sections 257, 258 and 310 of the Penal Code 2005 concerning human trafficking and showing of sexual abuse of a child or shows which sexualize children, as well as corresponding provisions in the previous Penal Code.

c) acts involving child sexual abuse material ("child pornography" Article 20 of the Lanzarote Convention)

Yes, the childcare certificate of conduct contains information on violations of Section 311 of the Penal Code 2005 concerning depiction of sexual abuse of children or depiction which sexualizes children, as well as corresponding provisions in the previous Penal Code.

d) offences related to the participation of children in pornographic performances (Article 21 of the Lanzarote Convention)

Yes, the childcare certificate of conduct contains information on violations of Sections 257, 258 and 309 of the Penal Code 2005 concerning human trafficking, and purchase of sexual services from minors, as well as corresponding provisions in the previous Penal Code.

e) corruption of a child (causing a child to witness sexual activities) (Article 22 of the Lanzarote Convention)

Yes, the childcare certificate of conduct contains information on violations of Section 305 of the Penal Code 2005 concerning sexually offensive conduct, etc. directed at a child under 16 years of age, as well as corresponding provisions in the previous Penal Code.

- f) solicitation of a child for sexual purposes (“grooming”), including online (Article 23 of the Lanzarote Convention)*

Yes, the childcare certificate of conduct contains information on violations of Section 306 of the Penal Code 2005 concerning arranging a meeting to commit sexual abuse, as well as corresponding provisions in the previous Penal Code.

- g) aiding and abetting or attempting the above offences (Article 24 of the Lanzarote Convention)*

Yes, aiding and abetting, as well as attempts to commit the criminal offences referred to in this question 8 (a)–(f) and (g), are criminalized pursuant to Sections 15 and 16 of the Penal Code 2005, and such offences are recorded on the childcare certificate of conduct.

- h) any other convictions (please specify)?*

Please provide details.

The following additional provisions of the Penal Code of 2005 are recorded in the childcare certificate of conduct (as well as the corresponding provisions in the previous Penal Code):

- Section 275: Homicide
- Sections 231 and 232: Narcotic drugs offence
- Sections 282 and 283: Abuse in close relationships
- Section 274: Aggravated bodily harm
- Sections 327 and 328: Robbery

In addition, for certain positions, sectors and assignments, the required police certificates of conduct are more comprehensive (please see question 1). In all such cases, however, the information referred to in this response to question 8 will also be covered by the screening.

- 9. Does the screening of persons applying for roles or positions specified in questions 1 and 3 above extend beyond criminal convictions for sexual offences against children to:*

- a) relevant administrative or disciplinary sanctions*

The employer is responsible for conducting a background check on the person applying for the position, including any former relevant administrative or disciplinary sanctions or other relevant information. As regards the current status of a person's authorization or license as health personnel and any limitations in these, the employer can obtain information through searches in the Health Personnel Register (HPR).

No, screening for persons to be employed in kindergartens, pre-school, primary and secondary school is limited to the police certificate required under the Kindergarten Act § 30 and the Education Act § 17-11 and does not include administrative sanctions or other information.

The Child Welfare Act requires the organisation to request a police certificate, but the individual must obtain and submit it themselves.

- b) other information available to the authorities (e.g. judicial decisions in civil proceedings)?*

No, entries on childcare certificates of conduct are limited to criminal sanctions recorded in the police criminal records register. This register does not contain information concerning administrative sanctions or civil decisions.

Various forms of sanctions may be imposed as part of criminal proceedings. For example, disqualification ("*rettighetstap*") may be imposed pursuant to Section 56 of the Penal Code, cf. question 10. Disqualifications are noted in the childcare certificate of conduct.

10. If restrictions on the exercise of the relevant activities apply as a result of a criminal conviction for sexual offences against children, in line with Article 27 paragraph 3.b:

- a. are they life-long?*
- b. if they are not life-long, please specify the time-limits applicable*
- c. are they applied only to activities in the public sector?*

Disqualification entails that a person may be deprived of a position or of the right to hold a position or carry on a business or an activity in the future, Section 56 of the Penal Code ("*rettighetstap*"). Disqualification is imposed for a specified period of up to five years, or, where special grounds so indicate, for an indefinite period, cf. Section 58 of the Penal Code. Disqualification extends to both public and private positions.

Where legislation or regulations require exclusion from certain professions or positions on the basis of a criminal conviction ("*yrkesforbud*") for sexual offences against children, such exclusions are normally lifelong. Such exclusions are for example regulated in Section 5a-4 of the Health and Care Services Act, Section 17-11 of the Education Act and Section 30 of the Kindergarten Act.

11. Does the criminal record check verify the existence of an expunged or spent criminal conviction for sexual offences against children for persons applying for roles or positions specified in questions 1 and 3?

Yes, persons to be employed in positions in kindergarten, pre-school, primary and secondary school must present a "childcare certificate" under the Police Register Act § 39, which includes relevant sexual offences against children regardless of rules on spent convictions.

Most offences on a childcare certificate of conduct are recorded exhaustively in accordance with Section 41, cf. Section 39 of the Police Databases Act. This means that in the vast majority of the cases, convictions for sexual offences against children remain recorded on a childcare certificate of conduct for the candidate's lifetime.

However, certain offences are recorded for a limited period in accordance with the rules on ordinary police certificates of conduct, as set out in Section 40 of the Police Databases Act. This is always the case for offences under Sections 257, 258 and 309 of the Penal Code 2005, concerning human trafficking and purchase of sexual services from minors, as well as corresponding provisions in the previous Penal Code, cf. Section 39 of the Police Databases Act.

In addition, the other offences listed on a childcare certificate of conduct may also be recorded in accordance with the rules on ordinary police certificates of conduct. This is the case for offences carrying a maximum penalty of up to three years' imprisonment committed before the age of 18, provided that the person concerned has not committed repeated or subsequent

offences, cf. Section 41 of the Police Databases Act and Section 30-3 of the Police Databases Regulation.

The period for which the entry is recorded in an ordinary police certificate of conduct varies depending, inter alia, on the type of sanction, the length of the sanction, and the offender's age at the time of the offence. As a general rule, criminal sanctions are not recorded on ordinary police certificates of conduct more than three years after conviction. However, several exceptions apply; in particular, the time limit is extended to ten years, calculated from release following an unconditional custodial sentence exceeding six months.

Furthermore, certain forms of criminal sanctions are not recorded in the childcare certificate of conduct, cf. Sections 40 paragraph 3 and Section 41 paragraph 1 no. a-c.

Screening procedure

12. How is the screening procedure set out in your legal framework (in a single piece of legislation, sector-specific legislation, or other)?

The Police Databases Act and the Police Databases Regulation establish a common framework for various types of screening, of which police certificates of conduct are the most commonly used.

The provisions of the Act apply across all sectors and establish common standards for the content and design of different types of police certificates of conduct and set out procedural rules for application.

With these common rules in mind, requirements for police certificates of conduct for different positions and functions are established in sector-specific legislation, please see question 1-3.

13. If screening is required, who is required to act?

- a. the employer, volunteer recruiter or child protection authority is expected to obtain the necessary information directly from the authorities*
- b. the candidate must provide proof of absence of convictions*
- c. another scenario. Please specify*

As a general rule, both the candidate and the recipient (e.g. an employer or a voluntary organisation) are required to contribute to the application for a police certificate of conduct. The candidate applies for the certificate and must provide documentation to substantiate that the conditions for issuing the certificate are fulfilled, e.g. a confirmation from the future employer.

14. If screening is required, who bears the costs of screening procedures?

A police certificate of conduct is issued without a fee.

15. How does your State monitor that employers, volunteer recruiters or child protection authorities comply with the relevant regulations on screening?

No specific monitoring has been established to ensure compliance with the requirement to present a police certificate of conduct. A high number of childcare certificates of conduct are issued annually, which indicates that the system is used.

The County Governor (and the Norwegian Board of Health Supervision) is responsible for supervising state and municipal child welfare services. This supervisory responsibility entails ensuring that, among other things, the child welfare service and child welfare institutions comply with their statutory obligations under the Child Welfare Act.

The requirement for a police certificate under Section 12-11 of the Child Welfare Act is included within the scope of this supervisory responsibility.

Municipalities monitor compliance with screening rules in kindergartens. The County Governor (Statsforvalteren) supervises whether municipalities fulfil these duties in the kindergarten sector.

In public schools, municipalities and county authorities are responsible for ensuring compliance with the screening rules. The County Governor supervises whether municipalities and county authorities fulfil these duties in public schools. In private schools, compliance with the screening rules is supervised by the Ministry of Education and Research, through the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training

16. If screening is required, are there sanctions foreseen for failure to comply with it? If yes, what type of sanctions?

There are no specific sanctions for failure to comply with the requirement to require a police certificate of conduct.

If the County Governor, through supervision, uncovers a missing police certificate, this constitutes a non-conformity / breach of the law. The County Governor may order the municipality, the institution (and Bufetat), to rectify the breach. For municipalities, this follows from Section 17-3, first paragraph, cf. the Local Government Act, Chapter 30. For Bufetat and the institutions, this follows from Section 17-5, second and third paragraphs.

The County Governor must not close the supervisory case until the non-conformity has been corrected.

17. Is regular screening, beyond the initial recruitment process, required, for:

- a) professionals in contact with children*
- b) volunteers in contact with children*
- c) foster parents and legal guardians?*

If regular screening is required, please specify its frequency and provide other details.

There are currently no arrangements for regular screening of persons in contact with children in Norway. It is under consideration whether such arrangements should be introduced.

Instead, the recipient of a police certificate of conduct may request updated information from the police pursuant to Section 43 of the Police Databases Act. In such cases, the police will provide updated information on criminal offences that would appear in a new police certificate of conduct. Requests for updated information cannot be made as a matter of routine, but require a prior basis for suspicion of possible criminal conduct on the part of the individual concerned. However, the threshold for such suspicion is intended to be low.

18. *Where a person working or volunteering in contact with children is under investigation for a sexual offence against a child, are law enforcement or other authorities allowed to inform the employer or volunteer organisation about the ongoing investigation? If yes, what is the consequence?*

In situations where a person is under investigation for sexual offences against children, there may be several reasons why the police may seek to contact the individual's employer or others to whom the person has submitted a police certificate of conduct. Firstly, such contact may be necessitated by the ongoing investigation. Secondly, information held by the police may be of such a character that the conditions for disclosing information to avert or prevent criminal offences are met.

Pursuant to the Police Databases Act Section 27 first paragraph, the duty of confidentiality does not prevent the police from disclosing information where this is necessary to avert a criminal offence.

The Police Databases Act also permits the police to disclose information for the purpose of preventing crime. Pursuant to Section 27 second paragraph no. (2), the police may, notwithstanding the duty of confidentiality, disclose information to private parties if such disclosure is necessary to prevent criminal offences and other measures must be assumed to be insufficient. Section 9-3 of the Police Databases Regulation and the preparatory works clarify that this is to be understood as a strict necessity requirement, meaning that disclosure must constitute the only realistic means of achieving the preventive effect.

The impact of police-provided information on the employment relationship is governed by labour law.

Cross-border screening

19. *If the candidate for roles or positions specified in questions 1 and 3 has previously resided or worked in different countries, is it required to verify the absence of criminal convictions for sexual offences against children in each of those countries in respect of:*

- a) professionals*
- b) volunteers*
- c) persons wishing to become an adoptive parent, a foster parent or a child's legal guardian?*

There is no requirement to submit police certificates of conduct from other countries for candidates who have resided or worked abroad. If necessary for reasons of important public interest, the Police Databases Act provides that a minimum period of residence in Norway may be required by law in order to hold certain positions. Third-country nationals who do not meet the residency requirement are excluded from recruitment. However, EEA nationals may, instead of meeting the residency requirement, choose to submit a police certificate of conduct from their country of origin. This creates a framework that enables the use of police certificates of conduct from EEA countries in certain cases. The use of residency requirements is not very common in the legislation and has not been introduced for positions listed in question 1.

20. *Is there a mechanism to:*

- a) *request data about a person's criminal convictions for sexual offences against children from the competent authority of another State outside the context of criminal proceedings¹ (please specify)*

The entity in the Norwegian police responsible for issuing police certificates of conduct does not request data about the candidate's criminal convictions in other countries.

- b) *provide data about a person's criminal convictions for sexual offences against children to the competent authority of another State outside the context of criminal proceedings (please specify)?*

Disclosure of information from the criminal records register to foreign recipients is regulated by § 22 of the Police Databases Act and Regulations. Information may be disclosed from the criminal records register to foreign authorities or international organizations where this follows from law, or from a convention or agreement binding on Norway, or from an agreement concluded between Norwegian and other Nordic authorities. The Nordic Police Cooperation Agreement, the Information Exchange Directive (Directive (EU) 2023/977), and the rules governing Interpol cooperation are particularly relevant.

21. *Is there an obligation to provide data about a person's criminal convictions for sexual offences against children at the request of the competent authority of another State outside the context of criminal proceedings?*

The legal basis for disclosure sets the criteria for the assessment, see question 20.

Where the law of another country imposes a requirement to present a police certificate of conduct, the Norwegian police may issue a police certificate of conduct in accordance with those requirements to the *applicant/candidate*, cf. Section 38 of the Police Databases Act.

Additional details and reflections

22. *Please add any further details regarding the modalities of the screening procedures applicable in your State, if relevant.*

Please provide details.

¹ For purposes of recruitment, volunteering, adoption, foster care or guardianship.

23. *What challenges related to the screening for criminal convictions for sexual offences against children of professionals, volunteers and persons wishing to become adoptive parents, foster parents or a child's legal guardian exist in your State in practice (e.g. administrative costs, delays, cross-border co-operation)?*

Please provide details.

24. *What promising practices, if any, would your State like to highlight in the screening of professionals, volunteers and other persons in contact with children?*

Please provide details.