

# About the Norwegian Communications Authority (Nkom)

25/09/2013

**Nkom is an autonomous agency of the Ministry of Transport and Communications. Nkom supervises providers of post and telecommunications services, manages frequencies and numbering resources, investigates ex ante competition problems in the electronic communications markets and makes decisions pursuant to the Electronic Communications Act and the Norwegian Postal Services Act. Nkom also manages the duty of confidentiality in electronic communications and works on security and readiness. Nkom is self-financed, primarily through fees and charges.**



Nkom has about 150 employees, of whom about 130 work at the Head Office in Lillesand.

In order to serve the whole country, employees are also located at offices in Lødingen, Trondheim, Bergen, Ski and Lillehammer.

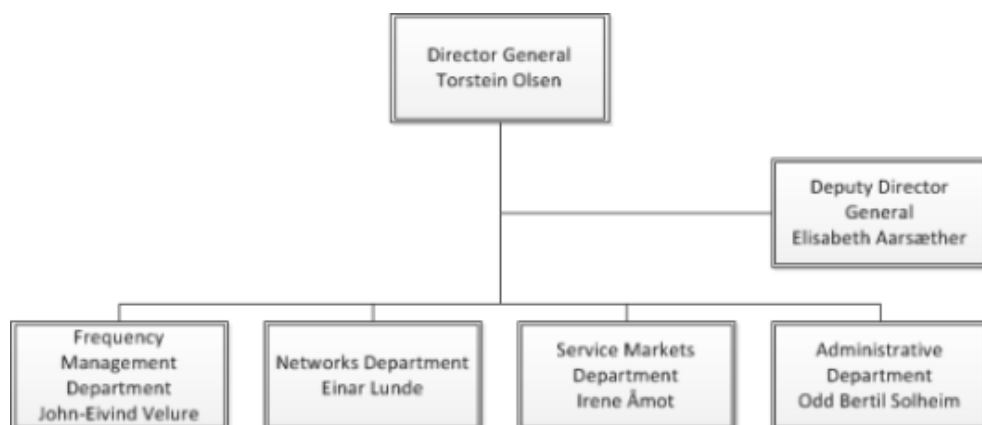
Nkom is organised into four Departments:

[Service Markets Department](#)

[Networks Department](#)

[Frequency Management Department](#)

[Administrative Department](#)



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**From section 1-1 of the Electronic Communications Act:**

*to secure good, reasonably priced and future-oriented electronic communications services for the users throughout the country through efficient use of society's resources by facilitating sustainable competition, as well as fostering industrial development and innovation.*

**From section 2 of the Norwegian Postal Services Act:**

*to ensure the provision of good-quality, universal postal services at a reasonable price.*

## Nkom's supervision of telecommunications providers

Nkom shall ensure that all operators are subject to the same terms of competition. The market is to be allowed to operate and develop sustainable competition where possible, but regulation is also necessary. The regulatory objective is to ensure that all providers of services compete on the same terms. In some subsidiary markets, it is necessary to provide stimulation so that small operators can develop their competitiveness.

Today there are more than 200 providers in mobile telephony, broadband, fixed-line telephony, etc. in the Norwegian telecommunication market.

## Nkom's supervision of Norway Post

Norway Post has its own licence, and Nkom monitors Norway Post's compliance with its obligations pursuant to this licence.

The licence requires that:

- mail must be delivered six days a week
- at least 85 per cent of first-class post ("A post") reach its destination overnight
- postal rates are the same across the country

To finance some of Norway Post's obligations, the company has exclusive rights to deliver sealed envelopes under 50 grams. There is free competition for other types of post (advertising, most packages, etc.).

## Numbering resources

Nkom plans and manages national numbering plans for electronic communications services and networks, for instance number range for mobile telephony, five-digit numbers and 800 numbers.

Nkom plans and manages more than 10 billion numbering resources and codes for electronic communications services and networks.

Nkom monitors the providers' use of the numbering resources to ensure that these are utilised in an effective and resource-conserving manner.

Nkom ensures that the providers have the necessary and equal access to resources that are significant inputs in the production of electronic communication services, such as telephone numbers and network addresses.

## Frequencies

Nkom manages frequencies for mobile networks, radio, television, etc.

Nkom auctions off frequencies on behalf of the government.

Nkom monitors parts of Norges Televisjon's licence; Norges Televisjon has constructed the digital television network in Norway. The construction was completed for the entire country in December 2009.

## Security

Nkom monitors the television companies' compliance with their obligation to ensure that the telecommunications networks are as sound as possible, and can resist data attacks and the effects of extreme weather.

Nkom provides subsidies for equipment and installations to improve the robustness of the networks.

Nkom requires owners of electronic communications networks to maintain, among other things, uptimes and functionality in the networks in exceptional circumstances

Nkom monitors compliance with the Electronic Signatures Act for issuers of qualified certificates

Nkom monitors issuers of certificates in accordance with the voluntary self-declaration scheme based on the requirement specification for PKI in the public sector

Nkom operates the Nettvett.no security portal, which provides advice about everyday online security

Nkom participates in extensive exercises for a more secure society, and works closely with the Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection (DSB)

## Nkom's international work

Nkom participates in a number of international forums and groups to contribute to the joint European approach to service regulation, market regulation, frequency and numbering management and technical regulation.