



**Ministry of Finance**  
Division for Public Administration  
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## Answers to the commissions' targeted questions regarding the anti-corruption action plan

### **Could you elaborate on the new national anti-corruption action plan 2021-2023 that was presented on 10 December 2020, including on the scope, targets, milestones and the time-frame to achieve the set goals?**

A summary of the anti-corruption action-plan has been sent before (input from Sweden).

In the action-plan the government concludes that the responsibility to prevent corruption rests ultimately with the director general of each agency and is embedded in Swedish and international law.

In Sweden there are laws and regulations concerning corruption in place, where requirements and obligations that the agencies must adhere to are laid down. The challenge for the agencies is to find tools, working methods and best practice to enable the preventive work against corruption in an efficient and structured way and in accordance with the legislation.

Since the responsibility rests on each agency there are no milestones and timeframes for implementation. Instead the action-plan provides the agencies with working methods and best practise.

However, as a part of the commission, the Swedish Agency for Public Management should, on two occasions, present data on how the preventive

work of the agencies is conducted and set up a forum for collaboration between agencies and other organisations with special expertise in the area.

The Agency is required to present a summary results report, including recommendations for further measures, to the Government by the end of 2023.

The conclusions and experiences gained from the commission will form the foundation for the continuing work of the government.

**Who is the coordinating body and who will do the oversight over the implementation?**

The Swedish Agency for Public Management is tasked with promoting and facilitating the preventive work of agencies in different ways and thus plays an essential role in the action plan.

The Agency has no supervising role but will be a support and promote the preventing work at the different agencies. The responsibility to prevent corruption rests ultimately with the director general of each agency.

The agencies' compliance with Swedish law in general is evaluated by the Swedish National Audit Office.

**Could you elaborate on the role of the Ministry of Finance vis-à-vis the new action plan?**

The action-plan covers questions that fall under different ministries. However, the Minister for Public Administration, at the Ministry of Finance, is in charge of the government policy regarding the central Government agencies in general. The summary report, including any recommendations for further measures, will be taken under consideration by the Ministry of Finance and form the basis for possible new measures by the Government.

**Could you provide us with more details on how the Agency for Public Management will concretely promote the preventive work, as was indicated in the written input?**

The commission to the Swedish Agency for Public Management includes four specific tasks. The Agency for Public Management will inform the Government Offices of how work on the tasks proceed at a later stage. However the design and format of the measures to promote the preventive work in the agencies is the decision of the Agency for Public Management. We have

already been informed that the Agency for Public Management has sent out written inquiries to agencies.

**Has it already been decided which are the selected key state agencies that the Agency for Public Management will coordinate under this plan to enhance efforts against corruption?**

Concerning the task to set up a forum for collaboration between agencies and other organisations with special expertise in the area the government a number of state agencies are specified in the commission.

- Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention
- National Financial Management Authority
- Swedish Competition Authority
- Swedish Police Authority
- National Agency for Public Procurement

**With a view to the oversight over the implementation of the plan, could you elaborate on the role of the Ministry of Finance and the role and mandate of the Swedish Agency for Public Management vis-à-vis the new action plan?**

The responsibility to prevent corruption rests ultimately with the director general of each agency. The Swedish Agency for Public Management is tasked with promoting and facilitating the preventive work of agencies in different ways and thus plays an essential role in the action plan.

**Could you elaborate on the envisaged format and content of the report prepared by the Agency of Public Management by 2023?**

The Agency is required to present data on two occasions. The data should indicate how the preventive work of the government agencies is conducted. It will include what measures have been taken to prevent corruption and enable to take further steps and efforts to prevent corruption. The review shall enable the Government to conclude how the preventive work has developed.

The summary results report in the end of 2023 shall include how the state agencies has developed their work against corruption in accordance with the action plan, including recommendations for further measures.



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**Question**

Could you elaborate on the new Council set up last year concerning digitalisation in criminal proceedings? What are the objectives and tasks of the Council and what work has it carried out so far? Could you clarify if this is the project referred to in your input to improve efficiency in criminal cases?

**Answer:**

Yes, the work of the council is what is referred to in our input regarding the improvement of efficiency in criminal cases<sup>1</sup>. In 2020 the government enacted a regulation (2019:1283) on the digitalisation of the judiciary. The regulation contains provisions on the coordination of work on digital information exchanges and other measures relating to digitization in criminal proceedings. A council consisting of the heads of eleven authorities<sup>2</sup> has been established, called the Council for the digitization of the judiciary. The Council serves as a decision-making forum where the authorities agree on relevant issues. Each authority then implements its part of the joint agreements that has been reached. The Swedish National Council for Crime

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<sup>1</sup> "To meet the challenges facing the judicial system – and, ultimately, to increase security and reduce crime – criminal cases need to be managed more efficiently. To this end, a project is under way to ensure that, jointly and through the use of information technology, the authorities in the judicial chain develop a better exchange of information in the criminal justice process. Besides the efficiency gains, the project entails enhanced service to citizens and better data for knowledge, analysis and follow-up throughout the judicial chain. When a case can be followed electronically through the entire criminal trial procedure, information can be retrieved and analysed in ways that were previously impossible. This opens new possibilities to introduce more knowledgebased law enforcement. The digitisation of information exchange in the judicial chain also allows stronger governance and more efficient resource use in the judicial system."

<sup>2</sup> The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention, the Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority, the Swedish National Courts Administration, the Swedish Economic Crime Authority, the Swedish Prison and Probation Service, the Swedish Coast Guard, the Swedish Police, the National Board of Forensic Medicine, the Swedish Tax Agency, the Swedish Customs and the Swedish Prosecution Authority.

Prevention is responsible for coordinating and giving administrative support to the council.

The Council is responsible that:

1. joint development efforts are identified and planned;
2. ongoing and implemented development efforts as well as results and effects are monitored,
3. information management in accordance with the regulation (2014: 1085) on the judicial system's information management is managed and further developed, and
4. follow developments in Sweden and internationally in the field of the Council's activities.

The Council shall contribute to collaboration on common strategic issues concerning the use of new technologies and innovations. The Council shall also contribute to the implementation of digitalisation in a manner that maintains information security and the protection of personal integrity.

Since it is an extensive, long-term undertaking, the work is being conducted in stages. The authorities, acting on government instructions, have created an electronic information flow between the bodies that manage the largest volumes of cases, i.e. the Swedish Police, the Swedish Prosecution Authority, the Swedish Tax Agency, the Swedish Economic Crime Authority, the Swedish courts and the Swedish Prison and Probation Service. The judicial chain is expected to be completely digitally join-up in 2022 when the second stage is complete. The Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention receives data continuously and converts them into statistics. Direct electronic transfer of information in the criminal justice process between the authorities' different IT systems requires, apart from technical solutions, harmonisation of the concepts used and the authorities' routines. Often, training is needed before the new working methods introduced can take effect in the authorities' activities. To benefit from the efficiency and quality gains that the work offers, activities must be adapted to the new conditions. The intention is to continue developing and intensifying cooperation between the authorities so as to make the management of criminal cases even more efficient. Going forward, the work will encompass additional

processes and functions in the criminal justice process. The areas envisaged in the future are digital management of confiscation and some other coercive measures, and digital evidence.