

# Law Enforcement in the Netherlands

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## National law enforcement bodies within the Netherlands include:

- Politie (Netherlands Police)
- Koninklijke Marechaussee (Royal Military Constabulary - gendarmerie);
- Douane (Border Patrol, Customs);
- FIOD (tax fraud);
- SIOD (social security fraud);
- Algemene Inspectie Dienst AID (agricultural offences).

## Netherlands Police

### Police Role

Article 3 of the Dutch Police Law describes what the missions of the police are:

*"The task of the police is to, in subordination to the authorities and complying with applicable law, take care of the actual upholding of the legal order and to supply aid to those who need it."*

By mandate and in practice this comes down to four main missions.

- Prevention (preventing offences and crimes)
- Investigation of crimes and offences
- Upholding the law and order
- Providing assistance to Civil Authorities

With strength of 55,000 personnel (1:375 ratio) the Netherlands Police Service has the following responsibilities:

- Routine police patrolling;
- Investigative work;
- Crime prevention;
- Traffic duties;
- Environmental monitoring;
- Maintaining public order.



### Organisational Structure

In January 2013 Dutch law enforcement services were reorganised from 25 regional forces and one national agency (KLPD) to a single National Police Service. The Netherlands Police now operate under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Security and Justice.

Lead by one Police Commissioner the Netherlands' National Police consists of ten regional units, a number of national units, (e.g. a national criminal investigation service), and a Police Service Centre (responsible for nationwide operational management).

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The Netherlands Police is structured in three, closely collaborating levels: national, regional and district. The Senior Police leadership operates at the national level. Within the ten Regional Units are locally active districts.



## *National*

- National Operations Centre
  - Criminal Investigation Service
  - Information & Communication Service
  - Operational Support & Coordination Service
  - Port and Transit Service
  - Diplomatic Protection and Security Service
  - Police Special Forces
  - Police Service Centre
- Dienst Landelijk Operationeel Centrum (DLOC)
  - Dienst Landelijke Recherche (DLR)
  - Dienst Landelijke Informatieorganisatie
  - Dienst Landelijke Operationele Samenwerking (DLOS)
  - Dienst Infrastructuur
  - Dienst Bewaken en Beveiligen (DB&B)
  - Dienst Speciale Interventies (DSI)
  - Politiedienstencentrum (PDC)

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## *Regional*

The ten regional units consist of five departments and districts.

Each unit has five services:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • Regional Operational Centre                | Dienst Regionaal Operationeel Centrum      |
| • Regional Criminal Investigations Service   | Dienst Regionale Recherche                 |
| • Information & Communication Service        | Dienst Regionale Informatieorganisatie     |
| • Operational Support & Coordination Service | Dienst Regionale Operationele Samenwerking |
| • Regional Operations Service Unit           | Dienst Bedrijfsvoering Regionale Eenheid   |

The Netherlands has around 1,500 voluntary police officers. After an extensive training course, paid for by the police force, a voluntary police officer has the same powers as a professional police officer. Voluntary police officers also wear the same uniform and perform the same tasks as their professional colleagues.

## *Victim Support*

To provide support to victims the police cooperates with the *Bureaus Slachtofferhulp* (*Victim Support*). The employees of *Slachtofferhulp* are specially trained to provide support to victims of accidents and crime. They make sure that victims are coached, but they also help with filling in forms for insurance or a lawyer.

### **Continuing Support**

The police cooperate closely with support organisations that can continue providing support:

- Addiction care like the *Consultatiebureau voor Alcohol en Drugs*, *Kentron* or *Novadic*.
- Mental Health Care (for people who are a risk to themselves (suicide) or others)
- *Reclassering Nederland* (Dutch Parole office)
- Youth Parole Office
- *Raad voor de Kinderbescherming* (Children & Family Court Advisory and Support Service)
- Social Work e.g. domestic violence



# Law Enforcement in the Netherlands

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## *Police Education and Training*

The Netherlands Police education and training is based on:

- clear occupational profiles;
- examination criteria linked to the occupational profiles;
- a qualification structure comparable to that of regular vocational/higher education;
- a combination of work and study;
- competence-based learning.

Each new police officer undergoes basic training (undergraduate education) at the Police Academy. A student may enroll for one of five levels. In the initial foundation training students acquire the necessary basic skills, knowledge and competencies. Upon completion of training students are immediately qualified for active duty.

The education and training structure provides courses leading to qualifications at five levels:

Level	Initial	Vocational	
		<i>Management</i>	<i>Specialist</i>
2	Voluntary Police Officer		
3	Police Officer		
4	"All Round" Police Officer	Operational Management	Detective - tactical
			Detective - technical
			Environmental Specialist
			Traffic Specialist
			Immigration Specialist
			Violence Control Specialist
5	Graduate Officer (Bachelors)	Tactical Management	Graduate Detective
			Graduate Environmental
			Graduate Traffic
6	Graduate Officer (Masters)	Strategic Management	









Vocational courses can be taken after completion of initial education. Usually this occurs after a gap of several years in which personnel gain relevant work experience. Such courses are encouraged to develop specialist or management skills.

# Law Enforcement in the Netherlands



## Dutch Police Ranks

The following ranks have been translated according to required training for rank, responsibility, and position – though this translation is not an absolute as services differ greatly from country to country.

 <p><b>Eerste Hoofdcommissaris</b> <i>Commissioner of Police</i> Chief of the National Police (this rank is introduced at the start of the national police)</p>			
 <p><b>Hoofdcommissaris</b> <i>Regional Chief Commissioner</i></p>			
 <p><b>Brigadier</b> <i>(Senior) Sergeant</i></p>	 <p><b>Inspecteur</b> <i>Inspector</i></p>	 <p><b>Hoofdinspecteur</b> <i>Chief Inspector/ Superintendent</i></p>	 <p><b>Commissaris</b> <i>Commissioner/ Chief Superintendent</i></p>
 <p><b>Aspirant</b> Police Academy Trainee*</p>	 <p><b>Surveillant</b> Patrol Officer (unarmed Police Auxiliary)</p>	 <p><b>Agent</b> <i>Constable</i> Police Officer</p>	 <p><b>Hoofdagent</b> <i>Senior Constable</i></p>

\* = Police Trainees are armed with a handgun if training for the constable level, if not the trainee performs their duties unarmed (with pepper-spray, handcuffs and baton).