

## Agreement between Referee and the Research Council of Norway

This constitutes a formalisation of our invitation to assess proposals in connection with the calls for [Innovation Project](#), [The Regional Research Funds](#), [INTPART](#) and [Proof-of-Concept – Research Commercialisation from Publicly Funded Research – Commercialisation Project 2022](#).

Before we can provide you with information about the proposals, we need you to enter into an agreement with the Research Council (RCN) based on the terms stated under. It is therefore important that you carefully read the information below.

Should you accept this offer to serve as a referee, you must clearly state this by ticking "Yes, I have read and agree to the agreement with the Research Council" in the registration form. By accepting this offer, you are entering into an agreement with the RCN of serving as a referee. However, the agreement does not obligate RCN to appoint you as a referee. Thus, this agreement does not bind the RCN to fulfil obligations set forth in the agreement in the case that you are not appointed as a referee.

### Duty of confidentiality

Should you accept this offer to serve as a referee, you also accept the Research Council of Norway provisions on confidentiality, hereby confirming that:

1. I will be granted access to information regarding the Research Council of Norway and other organisations and persons, as an expert referee in connection with the assessment process.
2. The information has been supplied to me by the Research Council of Norway.

I declare that I will keep the information confidential, and in particular will not disclose to unauthorised parties any knowledge I have gained about any personal affairs or trade secrets (see Section 13, paragraph 1, in the Act of 10 February 1967 relating to procedure in cases concerning the public administration (the Public Administration Act)) or information constituting inside information pursuant to Section 3-4 in the Act of 29 June 2007 on securities trading (the Securities Trading Act). This duty of confidentiality includes preventing other parties from gaining access to confidential information in any other way. I further declare that I will not make use of this knowledge myself in contexts other than for the assessment process.

Requests for access to documents shall not be considered by me or my employer, but only by the Research Council.

My obligations under the duty of confidentiality apply without time limitation, unless and until the Research Council has released me from this requirement.

I accept that Section 13, first paragraph, of the Public Administration Act applies to any person rendering services to an administrative agency, and that the duty of confidentiality pursuant to the Securities Trading Act applies to anyone who possesses inside information. I further accept that a breach of the duty of confidentiality is a punishable offence pursuant to Section 209 of the Penal Code and Section 17-3 of the Securities Trading Act, and that misuse of inside information is also a punishable offence pursuant to Section 3-3 of the Securities Trading Act.

3. The information to which I gain access shall be used only for the assessment process, and must not be copied or otherwise misused. As soon as the assessment process is completed, any material provided will be deleted and/or destroyed in a sufficiently secure manner.

## Appointment as a referee

Appointment to serve as a referee depends on the body of proposals submitted and issues pertaining to impartiality. It is therefore possible that you will not be appointed as a referee even though you accept this offer.

If we wish to appoint you in the individual assessment round, you will receive an overview of the proposals by e-mail, asking you to assess your impartiality before you are given access to the proposals. You will be provided with further information about the assessment procedure if you are appointed.

## Remuneration

Remuneration will be provided in accordance with the Research Council's rates. You will be provided with further information about remuneration if you are appointed.

## Disclosure of referee/panel assessments and information about referees

**Applies to all relevant calls:** The panel assessments will be forwarded to the board(s) responsible for taking the final funding decisions. The assessment from the referee panel will be sent to the applicant with information about which panel carried out the review.

**Applies only to applications for Proof-of-Concept projects:** Individual expert assessments will also be sent to the applicant.

In accordance with Norwegian law, referee/panel assessments may no longer be considered exempt from public disclosure once such feedback has been sent out. This means that other interested parties have the right to see the assessment if they submit a request to do so. Before such access is granted, however, the RCN is under obligation to exempt from public disclosure all information that is subject to duty to secrecy and may also exempt all specific information relating to research ideas and the research project itself.

Following completion of application processing, a list of the names of the referees/panel members used to assess the applications for a given call for proposals will be published on the Research Council's website. The names of the referees/panel members involved in the assessment of specific applications will be supplied on request.

For more information regarding our processing of personal data, please visit our [privacy statement](#).