

Incident 1009: AI-Assisted Report by Tromsø Officials Cited Non-Existent Sources in School Closure Proposal



Description: In February 2025, Tromsø Municipality presented a report proposing the closure of schools and kindergartens. Residents later discovered the report cited numerous non-existent sources. Officials admitted using generative AI to help draft the report, leading to fabricated references. The incident led to public outcry, national commentary, and suspension of the closure plan. It is considered Norway's first major public-sector AI scandal.

Editor Notes: A couple of notes on two figures who appear in the reporting: Stig Tore Johnsen is the kommundirektør (municipal chief executive) of Tromsø Municipality. While he publicly accepted responsibility for the inclusion of AI-generated content in the school closure report, there is no indication that he personally deployed the AI system. Thomas Nordahl, a professor whose name was falsely cited in the report as the author of a non-existent book, appears more amused than aggrieved. His public comment suggests concern over the misuse of his name, but not a claim of reputational harm.

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Entities

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Alleged: [Unnamed large language model developer](#) developed an AI system deployed by [Tromsø Municipality](#) and [Stig Tore Johnsen](#), which harmed [General public of Norway](#), [General public of Tromsø](#) and [Thomas Nordahl](#).

Alleged implicated AI system: [Unnamed large language model](#)

Incident Stats

Incident ID	1009
Report Count	2
Incident Date	2025-02-13
Editors	Daniel Atherton

Incident Reports

Reports Timeline

Feb 2025

● Incident Occurrence

Feb 16

● Proposes closing down several kindergartens and schools in Tromsø: - Should have happened a long time ago

Feb 23

Mar 02

Mar 09

Mar 16

Mar 23

Mar 2025

● Norwegian citizen sued Norwegian government that proposed closing down kindergartens and schools in Tromsø



Proposes closing down several kindergartens and schools in Tromsø: - Should have happened a long time ago

nrk.no · 2025 ▾

AI Translated

- This proposal will have some consequences, and one of them is a longer travel distance.

This is according to Arne Christian Vangdal, who is leading the project for a new kindergarten and school structure in Tromsø.

- Our main challenge is...

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Norwegian city used AI to generate report that recommended closing schools

pivot-to-ai.com · 2025 ▾

In Tromsø, in northern Norway, the local administration decided it had too many schools and kindergartens for too few children, and they should shut some of them down. So they prepared a very nice 120-page report to support this move. [NRK,...

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Variants

A "variant" is an AI incident similar to a known case—it has the same causes, harms, and AI system. Instead of listing it separately, we group it under the first reported incident. Unlike other incidents, variants do not need to have been reported outside the AIID. [Learn more from the research paper.](#)

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- Defining an “AI Incident Response”
- Database Roadmap
- Related Work
- Download Complete Database

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2024 - AI Incident Database

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