



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE
Manatū Aorere



New Zealand Ministry of
Foreign Affairs and Trade
Manatū Aorere

6 March 2026

195 Lambton Quay
Private Bag 18-901
Wellington 6160
New Zealand

T +64 4 439 8000
F +64 4 472 9596

OIA 30661

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release

Tēnā koe Personal details removed for proactive release

Thank you for your email of 24 January 2026, in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"Please provide the following information from 1 June 2025 to the present:

- 1. Any status updates, progress reports, briefings, or written advice held by your agency that describe the current state of discussions with Italy on a driving licence conversion arrangement, including whether the work is active, paused, or awaiting action.*
- 2. Any documents created since 1 June 2025 that record substantive progress, issues identified, or steps taken to advance the discussions, including internal summaries prepared for Ministers or senior officials.*
- 3. If no substantive progress has occurred during this period, any document or communication that records the reason for the lack of progress or identifies blocking issues.*
- 4. Confirmation of which New Zealand agency currently holds responsibility for this work and whether there is an identified next step or anticipated milestone."*

On 19 February 2026, the timeframes for responding to your request were extended by an additional 10 working days due to the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request (section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA refers).

Response to your request

Since the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (MFAT) last response to your OIA request (OIA 30338) on 5 September 2025, the Ministry of Transport, Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency, MFAT, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Italian Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport have remained in ongoing correspondence regarding negotiations on Mutual Recognition of Drivers Licences between Italy and New Zealand. The documents listed below have been exchanged and are in scope of your request:

- New Version (draft) of the agreement - dated November 2025
- Equivalence Tables (updated) - dated November 2025
- List of New Zealand Driving Licence Models (updated) - dated November 2025
- Images of the Twelve Italian Driving Licence Models

The content of these documents is withheld under section 9(2)(j) of the OIA, to prevent prejudice to negotiations. Where the information has been withheld under section 9 of the OIA, no public interest in releasing the information has been identified that would override the reasons for withholding it.

Please note, as part of the ongoing negotiations, translations of proposed text need to be sought, which is time consuming. The latest translation of documents was completed in January, which was when these documents were handed to the Ministry of Transport and New Zealand Transport Agency for review.

It is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry website: www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade