

OC220256

9 May 2022

Tēnā koe

I refer to your email dated 25 March 2022 to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). On 8 April 2022, MFAT transferred the following part of your request to the Ministry of Transport Te Manatū Waka for response:

“...all information regarding the reciprocal driving licence agreement between the UK and NZ Governments, including the signed agreement and surrounding details, from its inception...”

In 1999, the United Kingdom was included when New Zealand unilaterally recognised driver licences from several countries to allow holders to convert their licence to a New Zealand licence without sitting tests. The exemptions were given in recognition that the driver licensing standards in these countries are generally comparable to those in New Zealand.

Although some exempt countries also recognise New Zealand licences, no formal reciprocity was sought at the time. As such, there is no signed agreement with the United Kingdom and I am refusing this part of your request under the following section of the Act:

18(g)(i) the information requested is not held by the Ministry, and I have no grounds to believe that the information is held by another department.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on the Ombudsman's website www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

The Ministry publishes our Official Information Act responses and the information contained in my reply to you may be published on the Ministry website. Before publishing we will remove any personal or identifiable information.

Nāku noa, nā



Matt Skinner
Acting Manager, Mobility and Safety