

# International agreements

Agreement considered on  
13 February 2023

February 2023



## 1. Background

1. The Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee is responsible for the scrutiny of non-trade international agreements in the sixth Senedd.
2. International agreements signed by the UK Government can cover matters within devolved competence or matters which have important policy implications for Wales.
3. The Committee will consider the impact on Wales of international agreements laid in the UK Parliament under the process established by the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 (CRaG Act 2010). It provides an initial 21-day scrutiny period.
4. Our consideration of an international agreement takes into account:
  - whether it engages the Senedd's competence; and/or
  - whether there are potential policy implications for Wales.
5. On 13 February 2023<sup>1</sup> we considered an international agreement that had recently been laid in the UK Parliament: the agreement between the UK and Italy on the mutual recognition of driving licences for the purposes of exchange.
6. We agreed to take further action on the agreement; further details are set out below.

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<sup>1</sup> Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, 13 February 2023

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## 2. Agreement noted for information

### **UK/Italy: Agreement on the Mutual Recognition of Driving Licences for the Purposes of Exchange**

**7.** This international agreement was laid in the UK Parliament on 11 January 2023. Its scrutiny deadline, as required by the CRaG Act 2010, is 21 February 2023.

**8.** This agreement provides for UK license holders who are already resident in Italy, or who become resident in future, the right to exchange their UK driving licence without the need to take further practical or theory driving tests. Under the agreement, the same treatment would apply to Italian license holders who are already resident in the UK, or who become resident in future.

**9.** Mutual recognition of driving licences with Italy was previously provided for by EU law, which ceased to apply when the UK left the EU. While the UK is party to United Nations Conventions which govern the mutual recognition of licences, those conventions apply to temporary visits only, and not to residency.

**10.** The Explanatory Memorandum for the agreement states that the UK Government ensured that the Welsh Government and the Scottish Government “were aware of the negotiations and the rights that will be granted under the Agreement”.<sup>2</sup>

**11.** The agreement relates to a reserved matter (driver licensing) within Schedule 7A to the *Government of Wales Act 2006*.

**12.** However, as the Equality and Social Justice Committee monitors the rights of EU citizens living in Wales after the UK’s exit from the EU, we agreed to draw the agreement to the attention of that Committee.

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<sup>2</sup> UK Government, [Explanatory Memorandum: UK/Italy: Agreement on the Mutual Recognition of Driving Licences for the Purposes of Exchange](#), January 2023, paragraph 1.32

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