



Ministry
of Justice

The Right Honourable
David Lammy MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Lord Chancellor & Secretary
of State for Justice

Andy Slaughter MP, Chair
Justice Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Ref: 131280

27 January 2026

Dear Andy,

PRISONER TRANSFER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND ITALY

I am writing to inform you that, on **26 January 2026**, I signed a Prisoner Transfer Agreement (PTA) between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Italian Republic. The treaty will now be laid in parliament for scrutiny under the 2010 Constitutional Reform and Governance Act.

Enhancing our bilateral prisoner transfer capabilities with European partners is a government priority. We remain fully committed to ensuring that this, and future, PTAs provide a robust framework that will enable us to transfer a greater number of foreign national offenders more efficiently, allowing them to serve the remainder of their sentences in their home country while also repatriating British nationals imprisoned abroad. The agreement represents a significant improvement on the existing framework under the 1983 Council of Europe Convention and sets a benchmark for future PTAs. The text achieves this by including:

- A compulsory transfer agreement with no requirement for prisoner consent. Voluntary transfers can also be facilitated under the agreement.
- Defined, limited grounds for a refusal of a transfer by the receiving State, while maintaining fundamental rights.
- An effective “adaptation of sentence rule” – so that the receiving State cannot amend the transferred prisoner’s sentence in a way too divergent from the original judgment.
- Time-bound procedures – setting deadlines at each stage of process, and communication requirements.
- Digital communication between the Parties and their prison services, streamlining the procedure.

The PTA also represents an important moment of cooperation with a key European partner – a step in the right direction as the UK seeks to strengthen relationships with all European partners on matters pertaining to law enforcement and criminal justice. This is the first bilateral PTA we have signed with a European partner since leaving the EU.

I hope that you will agree on the value of the PTA and the importance of strengthening cooperation with European partners.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David', followed by a long horizontal flourish that ends in a small loop.

RT HON DAVID LAMMY MP

**DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
LORD CHANCELLOR AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR JUSTICE**