

Background

Diplomatic Passports can be issued to applicants when a letter approving eligibility is received from The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). It is acceptable for a person to hold both a standard and a Diplomatic Passport. Diplomatic Passports are processed by Life and Identity Services Officers performing Special Operations duties.

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Policy statements

Entitlement to Diplomatic Passports

New Zealand citizens in the following categories or with the following titles are entitled to travel on a Diplomatic Passport:

Title	Spouse Entitlement
Governor-General	✓
Aide-De-Camp to Governor General	
Personal Assistant to Governor General	
Official Secretary, Government House	
Chief Justice	✓
Prime Minister	✓
Speaker of The House	✓
Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of the Crown	✓
Ministerial Staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPS (Senior Private Secretaries) to PM and Ministers Prime Minister's Chief of Staff All other Private Secretaries, Press Secretaries, Executive Assistants to Ministers 	
Leader of The Opposition	✓
Chiefs of Staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chief of Defence Force Chief of Naval Staff Chief of Air Staff Chief of Army General Staff 	
Commissioner of Police	✓
NZ Police – DPS (Diplomatic Protection Squad)	
Permanent Heads/Chief Executives of Government Departments/Ministries.	✓
Officers of Parliament	✓
Governor of Reserve Bank	✓
MFAT – Officers taking up positions at overseas posts	✓
MFAT – Dependant children of Officers taking up positions at overseas posts. (Validity not to exceed 21st birthday for dependant children accompanying officer on posting)	
MFAT – Chief Executive	✓
MFAT – contracted Tradespersons/technicians	
Other Government Officials at the discretion of MFAT	

Diplomatic Passports are released to spouses (who are entitled to hold them) if they are accompanying their spouse travelling on **diplomatic business**. If travel is **private**, then **standard** passports must be used.

▶ **Criteria for the issue of Diplomatic Passports**

Diplomatic Passports can only be issued when approval has been obtained on letterhead from MFAT. The approval can only be signed by an appropriate authorised signatory. Special Operations hold a file of authorised signatories.

▶ **Application requirements**

Applicants must provide the following items with their application for a Diplomatic Passport:

- Completed application for New Zealand Passport (PAS1)
- Full fee – there is no provision to waive the fees
- Applications for Diplomatic Passports should be accompanied by a letter from MFAT approving the issue of a Diplomatic Passport for the applicant.

▶ **Validity**

The validity given to a Diplomatic Passport is determined by MFAT.

▶ **Cancellation**

Diplomatic Passports must be cancelled when a person is no longer eligible to hold a Diplomatic Passport or when a new government is elected.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982