

Reference: 02180054

Information Requests  
[information.requests@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:information.requests@ofcom.org.uk)

22 April 2026

### Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning John Pilger's documentary "The Dirty War on the National Health Service" (2019).

We received your request on 30 March 2026 and have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the 'FOI Act').

### Your request & our response

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*Please provide all information (including but not limited to board minutes, memos, emails, and any contact with the production team, ITV, and any other concerned parties) relating to Ofcom's decision to order that the John Pilger documentary "The Dirty War on the National Health Service" be restricted from television screening until after the UK General Election on 12 December 2019.*

We do not hold any information relating to this request. For your information, Ofcom's role as a post-broadcast regulator is to assess (and, if necessary, investigate) potential breaches of the Broadcasting Code after a programme has been broadcast. We do not have the power to censor programmes ahead of transmission, and decisions to broadcast are the responsibility of individual broadcasters such as ITV in the first instance, mindful of their responsibilities under the Code.

Yours sincerely,

## Information Requests

### Request an internal review

If you are unhappy with the response you have received to your request for information, or think that your request was refused without a reason valid under the law, you may ask for an internal review. If you do, it will be subject to an independent review within Ofcom. We will either uphold the original decision, or reverse or modify it.

If you would like to ask us to carry out an internal review, you should get in touch within two months of the date of this letter. There is no statutory deadline for us to complete our internal review, and the time it takes will depend on the complexity of the request. But we will try to complete the review within 20 working days (or no more than 40 working days in exceptional cases) and keep you informed of our progress. Please email the Information Requests team ([information.requests@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:information.requests@ofcom.org.uk)) to request an internal review.

### Taking it further

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our internal review, then you have the right to [complain to the Information Commissioner's Office](#).