

Reference: 02208296

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

26 June 2026

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request concerning IBA Regulatory Logs: The Cook Report 'Pimps and Posses' (April 1988).

We received this request on 5 June 2026 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your request & our response

I am requesting access to historical regulatory logs, minutes, and legal correspondence held from the archives of the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) regarding the broadcasting and subsequent withdrawal of a specific television episode.

The Context:

Programme: The Cook Report (Series 2, Episode 4).

Episode Title: "Pimps and Posses" (focusing on Jamaican organized crime).

Broadcast Date: 17 April 1988 (Central Independent Television / ITV network).

Specific Information Requested:

Records of any formal representations, written objections, or notices submitted to the IBA by the Home Office, the Metropolitan Police Service, or the Treasury Solicitor between 1 January 1988 and 30 April 1988 regarding the potential national security or public interest risks of broadcasting this specific episode.

The legal or administrative rationale recorded by the regulator detailing why this specific episode was permanently withdrawn from future circulation, syndication, or archival review "for legal reasons".

We do not hold this information. It is possible that Bournemouth University may hold something, as they were gifted information from the IBA, but we are unable to confirm whether they hold what you are looking for. They can be contacted by email at:

archivesandspecialcollections@bournemouth.ac.uk

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) 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](#).