

# BROADCAST

## Police Custody beats BBC1 abuse doc

By [Max Goldbart](#) | 23 March 2021

MONDAY: BBC1 comes last at 9pm as older viewers tune out of harrowing football film



### Football's Darkest Sec

1.2m (6.3%)

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The three-part documentary spotlighting football's abuse scandal fell well short of BBC1's 2.8m (15%) slot average, suffering particularly from an exodus of older viewers.

Share of over-65s dropped from 17% benchmark to just 6% (430,000) and 55-64s headed in the same direction to 6%.

Men made up 55% of viewers to Passion Pictures/Insight TWI/VeryMuchSo's three-parter, which is being stripped across this week and has been dropped as an iPlayer box set.

It failed to match the opener of high-end stripped three-parter Stephen: The Murder that Changed a Nation from April 2018, which drew 2m (11.6%).

Football's Darkest Secret was the last-placed PSB at 9pm, beaten by Channel 4's **24 Hours in Police Custody** (2.1m / 11.2%) by almost 1m.

The Garden's stalwart defeated C4's 1.3m (7%) slot average, as 16-24 share nearly doubled to 17.3%.

The episode was short of the record 2.9m (14.8%) who tuned in to one of Police Custody's January instalments.

BBC1 also lost out to a BBC2 repeat of **Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby** (1.7m / 9.1%) and Channel 5's **Hoarder Homes: No Room to Move** (1.3m / 6.7%) - the latter of which just overcame the 1.2m (6.4%) slot average.

ITV's **Unforgotten** comfortably took the 9pm slot with a series-topping 5.3m (28.5%) for the penultimate episode of Mainstreet Pictures' fourth run.

- **7pm**

In better news for BBC1, a Panorama special **Covid: Who Got it Right?** became the strand's fourth-most-watched of the past year with 3m (17%). That list is still topped by last March's Coronavirus: The Week That Changed Britain (4.1m / 19.2%).

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