

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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7 in 10 Brits think BBC covered up Savile allegations

Seven in ten people in Britain think the BBC covered up allegations of sexual abuse against Jimmy Savile. Just under (32%) say their trust in the BBC has decreased, while 41% say they still trust the BBC, according to a YouGov poll for The Sun.

The poll also reveals that 66% of the public think the BBC has handled the Savile situation badly, and over two-thirds (68%) say that Newsnight was wrong not to report the claims against the late BBC DJ. 34% believe that others at the BBC were involved in similar behaviour at the time.

Meanwhile, public opinion is divided on whether BBC Director-General George Entwistle should resign over the scandal: 29% say he should resign, 33% believe he should stay in his post and 38% are not sure.

Commenting on the results, YouGov Director of Political and Social Research Joe Twyman said:

“Earlier this week BBC Director-General George Entwistle said that trust in the BBC had been ‘shaken’ by the allegations surrounding Jimmy Savile, however, on the basis of these results, ‘shattered’ might have been a better description. History tells us that before any organisation can start the process of regaining the public’s trust they need to draw a line under things. This may be difficult for the BBC at the moment, given over a third suspect this type of behaviour was a wider incident that involved others at the BBC at the time. This perception, while it lasts, could prevent the organisation from moving on in the eyes of the public.”

- ENDS-

Notes to Editors:

Total sample size was 1,758 aged 18+. Fieldwork was undertaken 24th – 25th October, 2012. The survey was carried out online. All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc.

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