# ITV honoured with BAFTA for drama that spearheaded Post Office scandal justice



ITV has been honoured with the BAFTA television special award for commissioning the critically acclaimed series Mr Bates vs the Post Office, a drama that has brought renewed attention to one of the most significant miscarriages of justice in British history. The series centres on the wrongful prosecution of hundreds of post office operators due to faults in the Horizon IT system and has played a pivotal role in influencing policy change and reopening legal cases.

Mr Bates vs the Post Office, which attracted an audience of 15 million viewers, follows Alan Bates, a former post office operator who was dismissed from his job. The drama chronicles his journey from his sacking to forming the Justice for Subpostmasters Alliance and campaigning relentlessly for the victims of the Post Office scandal.

The impact of the series was swift; within three weeks of the show's broadcast, the scandal was raised in parliament. Subsequently, a bill was fast-tracked to quash the majority of the convictions associated with the Horizon IT system, which led to false allegations of theft and fraud against numerous post office operators.

Hilary Rosen, chair of the BAFTA television committee, praised ITV’s contribution, stating, “This is public service television at its best and shows the power of television to change hearts and minds. In a climate where the cost and risk of making UK-specific dramas that have limited international appeal is becoming increasingly challenging, this special award champions ITV’s brave commission and honours the social and public impact television can have. As Mr Bates vs the Post Office has proved, audiences want and need to hear these important British stories.”

Polly Hill, ITV’s director of drama, expressed her pride in commissioning the series, describing it as “without doubt the proudest moment of my career and has shown us the power a story can have on the nation.” She added, “Everyone involved in the drama wanted their story to be heard and we are glad the drama did that, but justice won’t be done until they are all paid what they are owed. In this moment though, we will enjoy the recognition for ITV and remember the power drama can have.”

The BAFTA television special award will be presented to ITV’s managing director Kevin Lygo and Polly Hill during the 2025 BAFTA television awards on Sunday, 11 May at the Royal Festival Hall in London. This accolade recognises ITV’s role in bringing a complex and deeply impactful story to the screen, highlighting the significant societal influence that television drama can achieve.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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