

# Corrie suicide attracts an extra 2million viewers

CORONATION Street's much talked-about suicide storyline attracted an extra two million viewers on Monday.

As terminally ill character Hayley Cropper ended her life, the Samaritans reported calls to its helpline by distressed people surged by almost a third.

Critics have accused ITV of only focusing on the issue to boost ratings. A total of 100 viewers contacted ITV to complain about the death scenes - which were broadcast before the 9pm watershed - and another 15 objected to TV watchdog Ofcom.

Before the episode was even broadcast, it prompted a national debate on assisted suicide, even

though in the end Mrs Cropper ended her life without help from her husband Roy.

A peak audience of 10.6million viewers tuned into the two-part episode, up from the 8.6million who watched last week.

Although ITV did not mention assisted suicide in its official press releases, critics said the broadcaster had used the issue to stoke up controversy.

On Twitter yesterday, one viewer said ITV would 'do anything for ratings' while another said: 'Coronation Street is not highlighting the problems faced by people in society, it is using controversial subjects to gain viewer ratings.'



Grief: Roy and Hayley Cropper

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