

SKETCH: TOP GEAR BUDGET (March 2016)

PREMISE: In March the government back-tracked on proposed cuts to some benefits for disabled people, following a major fall-out after the budget. It also emerged that Chancellor, George Osborne, was disrupted from writing his fiscal plan by the Top Gear team filming on Whitehall. So just how did this mess come about?

OSBORNE: Seven. Eight. Nine...

FX: A CAR SCREECHES PAST THE WINDOW, BACKFIRING.

OSBORNE: (CURSING) Oh, Giddeons! (SHOUTING OUT THE WINDOW) Do you have no respect?!

FX: CLICK OF THE INTERCOM.

CAMERON: Chancellor?

OSBORNE: (TUTTING WITH REFERENCE TO HIS 'LOW RANKING' TITLE.)
'Chancellor'.

FX: CLICK OF THE INTERCOM

OSBORNE: (NOW CLEAR AND CONCISE) Prime Minister...?

FX: **CLICK OF THE INTERCOM**

CAMERON: I need to the budget finished in five minutes.

OSBORNE: But the numbers don't add up.

FX: **CAR SCREECHES PAST. AGAIN.**

OSBORNE: (LOSING HIS RAG) And those Top Gear idiots are not helping!
(SHOUTING OUT THE WINDOW AGAIN) I should give you lot a jolly good thrashing! (TO HIS MINISTER) Why is it always bloody Clarkson?! (IN CLARKSON STYLE) The (ELONGATED) worst man... (GRUFF) in the world!

MINISTER: You know it's not Clarkson anymore, sir?

OSBORNE: (STILL IN CLARKSON STYLE) As Prime Minister, I'll be the most (ELONGATED) powerful man... (GRUF) in the world!

MINISTER: Clarkson was fired, sir. Remember? It's that bunch of unrecognisable misfits now. And that bloke from Friends.

OSBORNED: (DISMISSING THE CRITICISM) Look - the higher-rate tax threshold is sorted - so us privileged few will pocket more of what we deserve. But I need a less deserving group to plug the gap.

FX: **TELEPHONE RINGS**

OSBORNE: I've tried steelworkers - but there's now not enough of them; northerners - I'm told they're not *all* poor; 'pound shop shoppers'...

PA: (BUZZING THROUGH ON INTERCOM) Chancellor, to look cool and modern we tweeted the Top Gear team, from your account, asking them to keep the noise down. Now some 'comedian' pretending to be Joey from Friends is on line three.

FX: **OSBORNE PICKS UP THE TELEPHONE.**

OSBORNE: Joey.

MATT: George, my name's Matt LeBlanc.

OSBORNE: (STERN-ISH) Do you have no respect?

MATT: I just wanted to make it clear we're *certainly* not filming anywhere near the Cenotaph.

OSBORNE: So inconsiderate!

MATT: Well, for the record, the producer's told me to say we're most definitely not doing doughnuts *anywhere* near the Cenotaph. Not even close. Ha! As if. Us?

OSBORNE: These are calculated cuts, I'm devising. I need quiet!

MATT: Oh! Ha. Don't worry. Judging by the crazy way we're driving we'll be out of 'gas' pretty soon.

OSBORNE: Matt - you're a genius!

FX: **OSBORNE HANGS UP.**

OSBORNE: Petrol duty! I've not put it up for six years! Six years! I'll just blame Top Gear!

MINISTER: But you'll be picking on the middle-class car-owning, prosecco-quaffing public...

OSBORNE: Big Dave will hate that. They're not the ones we punish. (HE
PAUSES TO THINK) I've got it!

FX: CLICK OF THE INTERCOM

OSBORNE: Dave - you will *love* this... No one would notice if we tinkered with
the benefits we gave 'the disabled', would they?

END