

## News: Clarkson Sacked by BBC, Top Gear Fate Uncertain

BY CLARE FITZGERALD | March 25, 2015

The [BBC](#) announced Wednesday that it will not be renewing *Top Gear* host Jeremy Clarkson's contract after it expires at the end of the month. This comes after an investigation into a verbal and physical assault that took place between Clarkson and BBC producer Oisin Tymon.

In a report that followed the BBC-led investigation, it was outlined that Clarkson engaged in a 20 minute verbal tirade against Tymon before physically assaulting the producer for 30 seconds in an incident that left the producer in A&E with a bloody lip. The assault reportedly stemmed from Clarkson being presented with a cold platter of food instead of steak and chips after a day of filming, and was brought to BBC management by the presenter himself, who did not deny the incident.

In a statement released Wednesday, BBC director general Tony Hall had this to say:

*"It is with great regret that I have told Jeremy Clarkson today that the BBC will not be renewing his contract. It is not a decision I have taken lightly. I have done so only after a very careful consideration of the facts and after personally meeting both Jeremy and Oisin Tymon.*

*I am grateful to Ken MacQuarrie for the thorough way he has conducted an investigation of the incident on 4th March. Given the obvious and very genuine public interest in this I am publishing the findings of his report. I take no pleasure in doing so. I am only making them public so people can better understand the background. I know how popular the programme is and I also know that this decision will divide opinion. The main facts are not disputed by those involved."*

Clarkson's dismissal has been met with varied opinions across social media, with fans denouncing the BBC's decision to drop the host. A [petition](#) to reinstate Clarkson has received well over one million signatures, and yesterday, Prime Minister David Cameron announced that his 11-year-old daughter had threatened to go on a hunger strike over the presenter's absence. That being said, many are applauding the BBC for its decision, calling what Clarkson did inexcusable.

In a statement that followed Hall's, Tymon stated that he "loved" working on *Top Gear* and that he and Clarkson "had a positive and successful working relationship". He also went on to add that Clarkson "is a unique talent" and that he is "aware that many will be sorry his involvement in the show should end in this way".

Clarkson has yet to comment on the decision, but the presenter has notably changed the description on his Twitter account to "I used to be a presenter on the BBC2 motoring show, *Top Gear*."

BBC are hoping to rebrand *Top Gear* without Clarkson as host, as the programme is BBC2's most popular. The show also features James May and Richard Hammond, whose contracts are also expected to expire at the end of the month. Negotiations with the two were put on hold while the investigation played out, but both have publicly hinted that they won't be renewing their contracts without Clarkson.

Richard Hammond has meanwhile expressed his sorrow at the news on his personal Twitter, calling it the "end of an era".

Sky News caught up with James May minutes after the decision was handed out. You can view his response below.

*How do you feel about Clarkson's dismissal by the BBC? Do you want to see Top Gear continue without him, or should the Stig hang up his helmet? Let us know in the comments below!*