



## Why I was devastated to be told I DIDN'T have cancer

BY AUTHOR WENDY MITCHELL **PAGES 30-31**

**As economy stalls, Chancellor urged to turbo-charge growth in March budget**

# NOW BE BOLD AND GO FOR **BIG** TAX CUTS, MR HUNT

**JEREMY Hunt was last night urged not to scale back plans for substantial tax cuts despite a double economic blow.**

The Chancellor was under pressure to get the economy back on track with his spring budget after the UK slipped into a recession and the 'headroom' for cuts halved. Grim

By **Jessica Clark** and **Harriet Line**

figures showed the economy shrank by a worse-than-expected 0.3 per cent in the final three months of 2023.

Britain met the technical definition of a recession – two straight quarters of contraction – because output also fell 0.1 per cent between July and September.

That news came after the Treasury was handed official estimates that showed just £13billion of wig-

gle room for tax cuts, down from £24billion at the start of the year.

While experts said the recession would be short and shallow – with growth expected in the first quarter of this year – Mr Hunt is under pressure to take urgent action, with the country labelled a 'stagnation nation'.

The estimates from the Office for Budget Responsibility have left him looking at a public spending squeeze in order to find an extra £5-6billion and provide

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**Zendaya turns into C-3-Peepo at Dune premiere**

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Revealing robot: The star in Leicester Square last night