The Rate for the Job

THIS month’s Rates for the Job include several Euro currency rates. Remember that even if the Eurozone country where your client is based views such guides to freelance rates as “cartels” under European competition law, you can still send your Euro-Rate for the Job “offshore” to us.

Thinking about work for a company you’ve not dealt with before? Simply look at the Rate for the Job to find out what companies in similar niches have paid. Then aim higher. You can submit rates online, in confidence, at any time, at www.londonfreelance.org/rates – please give not only the basic rate (e.g. for FBS, First British Serial rights) but extra payments negotiated for extra uses, like the Web – or for print if it’s a Rate for the Online Job. These are shown as (eg) £400 + 100. We now record rates paid in Euro as well. Rates marked X are, in the editor’s fallible opinion, below par. Treat all rates as minima, even perhaps the happy © few.

Broadcasting: Al Jazeera video online: 1 min 30 sec of edited live news footage, Euro 300. "secondary uses" of photocopying and printing are not discussed for photos – please give not only the basic rate (eg Photography: Daily Mail compensation in principle for photos used without permission £160; Mountain Bike Skills Manual all photography for book, £500 author and photographer travel, world rights £2000; Corporate website 3.5 hours 19 pix for corporate website only, Euro 350; greyhound racing book six stock pics £90 XX; Sustrans Regional Cycling Guide two photos, all uses for 10 years £60 XX.

Shifts: PCS union writing and subbing day £170; Moneywise sub-editing day £120; Northampton Chronicle & Echo reporting day £110 X; Top of the Pops (BBC Worldwide) production editor day £130 X.

Words, per 1000: Glamour £500; Sunday Telegraph foreign news feature £455; News Of The World feature £450; Go (AA publishing) Euro 400; Sunday Times entertainment feature £350 but after 10 per cent across the board cut £315; Eurostar magazine (Ink Publishing) £300 XX; Accountancy (Wolters Kluwer) £100; BTThere travel £300; Independent on Sunday travel, no expenses £250 X; Independent on Sunday £200 XX, travel feature, no expenses for a week trip (work declined) £200 XXXX; Mail online foreign news, travel paid, £200; Scotsman magazine outdoor news £154; BikeRadar.com online, all rights £150 X; Fortean Times £104 X.

Words, other: News of the World page lead mid-paragraph £500; Manchester Evening News news page 5 lead, 300 words £30.90 XXX; BBC News Online 800 words on G8/G20 summit, £63 extra for pix, terms not discussed £150.

Keeping copyright earns you a third more

PHOTOGRAPHERS who retain their copyright earn on average almost a third more than their colleagues who routinely give away their rights. Those in the profession who were firm in demanding to keep copyright made an annual profit of – on average – £19,272, compared to £14,471 for those who normally assigned such rights.

That was one of the findings of the British Photographic Council 2009 survey, completed by 1700 photographers from all sectors of the UK industry. Nine tenths of respondents were freelances, and they earn significantly less than staffs.

Nine out of ten photographers surveyed said they kept copyright whenever they could, although seven out of ten said they had been “asked” by clients to give away copyright, and six out of ten said they had to grant clients a wider licence to use their work, for no more money.

Three fifths of surveyed photographers were aware of their work being infringed some time in the previous three years, estimating the loss at on average €3600. Only a third said they’d actively pursued compensation for this infringement. Fewer than one in five photographers surveyed are female. (See www.londonfreelance.org/fl1004iwd.html for a recent survey on the broadcast media industry’s missing 5000 women.) Only three in five of survey respondents said photography was their sole source of income, with one in five professionals saying most of their income came from some other source.


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in 2012, for example. There will be a review of counter-terrorism powers and new legislation – eventually. Please use the policing incident report form at www .londonfreelance.org/policing to log any relevant events.

Photo: Pennie Quinton leaving the European Court of Human Rights in May 2009 © Mike Holderness

Guardian cuts responses

THE GUARDIAN chapel has passed the following motion: “The chapel rejects the company’s proposal to cut the casual day rate from £175 to £150 and abolish sabbaticals for new entrants, and instructs the officers to put both issues into the disputes procedure immediately. The attempt to cut the casual rate is particularly outrageous in the light of the GNM and GMG decisions to take very substantial bonuses and pension fund top-ups. The chapel regards our casuals as an integral part of the workforce and calls on the company to negotiate a comprehensive casual agreement with the chapel.” The regular casuals have also been meeting to discuss other ways of responding to this.

Meanwhile, a freelance contributor has been told by a senior manager that “The Guardian is committed to paying promptly”. They told him to tell all freelances who are having problems of this sort to get in touch with the Managing Editor and they will sort it. To avoid payments falling through gaps the system they would put all freelances working to long lead times – or supplements or obituary – down to be paid 30 days from delivery of copy.