The Rate for the Job

THIS MONTH’S crop of rates brought two cases of work spotted being used without permission, for which freelances invoiced (in Euros) and were paid. See www.londonfreelance.org/fl/0711трат. html for more on tracking down and taking action against piracy of your work.

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: RTE Radio 1, 17 seconds of audio lifted from a video, then invoiced Euro 150; BBC Radio 4, 30 seconds of rare audio £100.

Photography: Massive international sports clout, two-hour aerial shoot of sporting event for worldwide editorial use only for 1 year + exzes, £650; large charity day of video interviews, exzes paid, £230 X; Archant newspaper 3 photos for print, 1 online £190; Financial Times portrait commission for Saturday supplement single use, print only £160 X; Irish Independent image lifted off the internet and then invoiced, paid with no questions Euro 150; Times property section, photograph also used on web £90; English Language Gazette picture research (contact rights-holders) £20 XX.

Shifts: Department of Health, writing day £250; Grazia writing day £200; Architect’s Journal subbing day £150; Independent on Sunday day/night reporter £145; Metal Hammer subbing day £120 X; T3.com day news writing, web editing £120 X; Jewish Chronicle subbing day £120 X; Morning Star subbing day £45 XXX; Pearson schoolbooks, project mgmt, editing (pay on publication, 6 months or more!) per hour £30; Vocational qualifications text books commissioning, tech development, per hour £30.

Words, per 1000: Mail on Sunday £1000; Look feature all rights £850; Take a Break FBS £750; Reader’s Digest £600; Grazia £500; Knowledge@Wharton.edu web only US$667; Saga magazine FBS £450; Sunday Express S Magazine £417; Africa Report feature all rights Euro 400; Science Business web only £400 ; Rail £375; Guardian supplement £364; FT magazine £364; Yours feature FBS £350; Irish Daily Mail FBS, prod/kses Euro 50, fee 333; Guardian Media £300; Metal Bulletin £300; Zest exclusive rights £292; Independent family £231; New Internationalist £230; Children + young people now £230; The Ecologist £207 X; North East Life £200; BBC website £200 XX; Disability Now (Scope) terms not discussed so assume FBS, £192; Audience/Live UK £190 X; Franklin Watts (children’s books) £170 X; Music Week feature £170 X; Songlines £100 XX; Education Now all rights £100 XX; World Policy Journal £100 XX.

Clarify that comment is not for free

The Freelance has heard reports of freelance journalists who have contributed to the Guardian Comment is Free blog being asked (retrospectively) if they could “do it pro bono” – which is Latin, we are told, for “without payment”. The best way to avoid any unpleasant misunderstandings here is to make it clear from the outset (in your written pitch) that you are offering the article as a professional journalist who expects to be paid.

Citizen commentators too...

The Freelance editor is from time to time contacted by non-journalists who have written pieces about subjects they love – perhaps the most open to exploitation. They are shocked to find that the Guardian expects them to assign their copyright for no fee.

In every case we’ve been involved in, the contributor sending the commissioner a link to the Guardian Freelance Charter, highlighting the bit that says how they aim to treat contributors, has resulted in payment.

Claim for Belgian copying!

THE AUTHORS’ Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS) in 2008 signed an Agreement with the Société Civile des Auteurs Multimédia in Belgium to collect fees due to UK authors under the terms of a statutory scheme dealing with the reprographic copying of UK newspapers in Belgium.

Having received the first payment of fees, ALCS will now make payments for this photocopying in the next distribution, scheduled for February 2011. To receive a share of fees in this distribution, freelance journalists are invited to claim their share of the fund. At present you can claim if you have written newspaper articles on a freelance basis, of at least 250 words, published in a national UK newspaper between 1 January 1995 and 31 December 2008 with a byline. ALCS will notify members when we are accepting claims for articles written later.

ALCS is introducing a scheme whereby writers register their published articles with ALCS and receive a share of the total photocopying royalties collected. This means that writers will receive a payment for their eligible articles being available to be photocopied in Belgium between 1 January 1998 and 31 December 2008.

Claims for newspaper articles can be made in exactly the same way as for journal and magazines articles, by registering for the members’ area of www.alcs.co.uk and submitting article details online, or by requesting a Newspaper Article Details Form on paper – email licensedworks@alcs.co.uk

ALCS is expecting about £1.7 million in settlement of a legal case over revenue from private copying in Germany. The payment covers books, magazines and journals and is expected to be paid out in February 2011.