The Rate for the Job

We're still waiting to hear from you whether or not the above QR code actually takes your smartphone to the Rate for the Job page (www.londonfreelance.org/rates).

Pay to play?

WORKING AT one of their other gigs, a Freelance editor received an extremely interesting email. “I run a business selling consumer goods (home appliances & electronics),” it opened. “Sitting at the cash counter the whole day, often leaves me with a lot of spare time, to actively follow my other passion: writing. I love writing about the consumer goods business as I know its ins and outs. My eventual aim is to establish myself as a writer of some repute.”

Leaving out the details of the inappropriate pitch, we were startled by the conclusion: “I am willing to give $30 to have my article published as I am really keen to feature on your site and hence feel that it would be 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.

Broadcast: ruptly.tv video interviews, edit, 3 hours total, all rights £200 XX; Midlands Today BBC TV shift: scriptwriting, script editing £140; weekend newsreading shift (Global Radio) £80 XXX; weekend newsreading shift (Oxis Media) £75 XXXX.

Photography: BBC Wildlife Magazine double page pic spread £150 XX.

Shifts: undisclosed client, data journalism day £725; GMB Magazine editing day, 7 hours £140; Mobile Choice editing day, 7 hours £130; NGO publication editing, writing, per day £100; Daily Mail online reporting day; exes including subsistence and travel £400; unnamed university consultancy per day – content strategy, editing £250; The Times subbing day £175; UN proofreading 3pm to 1am; taxi fare home, £90 XXXX.

Teaching: Random House Online Writing Course, 10 weeks, feedback, online supervision, likely to be more than “estimated” 1.5 hours a day. (Teaching 25 students who pay £12,475) rejected! £1250 XXXX.

Translation: from Russian for International Road Transport Union website, 4900 words £460. Words, per 1000: Indy sports interviews, £130 XX; TES 500-word column for print @ £200 = £400. British Airways inflight magazine lead, 1500 words @ £350 = £233 XX; NME feature £130 XX; University Business (Wildlife) FBS £100 X.

Words, other: Sunday Telegraph 750 words £250 X; The Trade News 500 words-ish £130; career resources for small publisher: research, updating text, checking websites, 35 hours £600; English Teaching Professional (Pavilion) 1400 @ £80 FBS = £57 XXXX; Mail online “real life” story, second UK serial rights £40; Local Secrets website 600-800 word feature, + photos £15 XXXX.

Guardian Dorisery?

WE HEAR that some of the more obscure corners of the Guardian have recently been offering freelances dorisery amounts for work, way below the 2012 house agreement the NUJ negotiated with that newspaper – a minimum rate of £290.49 per thou-
sand words for work in print, plus an uplift of 6.5 per cent for web and other uses, making in total £310.68.

If you are offered significantly less than the Guardian house agreement minimum rate, contact the Freelance Office. Back in 2009, one member was able to demonstrate via the Rate for the Job pages (see above) that an occasional educational section of Guardian Weekly was offering approximately half what other comparable Guardian spots paid, instantly doubling the fee offered to them.

Get in touch

TRAUMA AND harassment surveys

WE DRAW readers’ attention to a UNESCO survey on harassment suffered by journalists, including recent instances of being under surveillance; being deliberately sent viruses; or receiving a hack attack. We like surveys that remind you to do something, this asks if you’ve had digital security training. See https://unescoagenderquestionpro.com.

A University of Westminster researcher is surveying journalists who’ve covered war zones or disasters, with a view to learning “how best to protect those working in news, as they continue to do a challenging job.” It’s at http://tinyurl.com/PTGsurvey, closing 21 May.