The Rate for the Job

ONCE AGAIN an appeal to those filling in the Rate for the Job form circulated at Branch meetings to write legibly, please!

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.

Submit rates online, in confidence, at any time, at www.londonfreelance.org/rates – please give not only the basic rate (e.g. for PBS, 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 € as well.

Rates marked X are, in the editor's fallible opinion, below par. Treat all rates as minima, even perhaps the happy X few.

Broadcasting: BBC R4 expert interviews/punditry £120; BBC News GNS, 2 hours of 2-ways with local stations via Skype, terms “BBC all in” £150; RT news, 2-way 10 mins Skype interview, journalist says PBS £50; BBC Scotland Kay Adams ISDN punditry 10 to 30 mins terms “BBC all in” £50; RTE Six-One News (TV) live two-way £60 XXX; unmanned broadcaster, punditry – talked up to travel + £200.

Photography: Corporate video, shoot/production £300; NOISEY (Vice) music festival shoot, unlimited worldwide £150; Queen Mary University of London, shoot student union events, extra hour for editing, no exes, £9.28

The rate for the Job online goes to PlanetSki website. This month's Trireme Award, once again, goes to PlanetSki website. For reasons of security, your HMRC online password has to arrive forthwith to the Rate for the Job online, to avoid time-consuming discussions with HMRC that inevitably follow HMRC’s website crashing under the volume of all those last-minute submitted self-assessment tax returns.

The online version of this article (at www.londonfreelance.org/ fl/1611tax.html) links to apps, services and helplines – some free – that claim to simply the process for you or offer free advice on it. Their inclusion in the Freelance should not be considered an endorsement. Also linked from this article online, if you are also a member of the Society of Authors, is their very reasonably-priced insurance policy against the costs of being investigated by the people from HMRC.

Note to self – do tax by 31 January 2017!

IT’S THAT time of year again. Already? Yes, already! You have already missed the deadline to do your tax return on paper.

If you’re doing your tax return online for the first time (if – for example – you became self-employed and got a brand new Unique Tax Reference number between April 2016 and April 2017), register online and request a password for Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs (HMRC) online self-assessment thing. (www.gov.uk/topic/personal-tax/self-assessment). It’s actually a lot more user-friendly that the words “Government IT project” suggest.

For reasons of security, your HMRC online password has to arrive by post. HMRC recommend you allow up to a month after requesting such a password.

In the run up to the 31 January 2017 deadline for sending your tax return, callers to HMRC with enquiries can expect to wait on the phone for about 45 minutes, so request a password now, please. If you’ve used HMRC online to do your tax return before, your password will still work this tax year – if you can still find it. Check now, please.

You have until 31 January to submit your completed tax return online or face automatic fines for late filing – these start at £100. Don’t say we didn’t warn you.

If you’ve already submitted your self-assessment return a few days ahead of 31 January, you’ll have avoided time-consuming discussions with HMRC that inevitably follow HMRC’s website crashing under the volume of all those last-minute submitted self-assessment tax returns.

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