The Rate for the Job

THIS MONTH’S Rates for the Job include a mildly eyebrow-raising £1000 for “executive coaching” for the Mail. There are also many rates sent to us that just say “video.” Can we have more detail, such as duration of footage, please?

Thinking about work for a company you’ve not dealt with before? 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 at www.

Ministry of Late Payments

THE UK Government now has a Small Business Commissioner, Paul Uppal whose brief is late payments. Paul was appointed to this new post in January.

Via the Office of the Small Businessness Commissioner’s website, small businesses and sole traders (that’d includes us freelances) can raise complaints about tardy payment.

But you can only do so if you haven’t already started legal action to recover the money. Also, the Commissioner’s Office will only handle complaints against “big” businesses with more than 50 employees. Good luck ringing up the debtor to establish how many employees they have!

Should you decide to make use of the Office of the Small Businesses Commissioner, let us know how you get on. As ever, you are advised to contact the Freecycle Office first about late payment issues see contacts on back page). And see also the guidance on using the Late Payment of Commercial Debts law, at www.londonfreelance.org/collection.html and see the Freelance Fees Guide for our latest payments interest calculator and more on chasing.

A call for rights for casual workers

A PARLIAMENTARY report has recommended that “worker status” be the default for “companies with substantial dependent workforces currently labelled as self-employed”.


It notes recent court cases that “have exposed a pattern of companies using bogus self-employed status as a route to cheap labour.” The “onus would be on the firm to prove self-employed status.” But any such measures “must not place unnecessary burdens on genuine self-employment, which is a positive choice for many individuals”. The report also calls for a lower minimum wage for zero-hour contracts (which would not affect freelances). It makes this plea: “As it seeks to negotiate the best possible Brexit deal, the Government must not allow addressing urgent issues in Britain’s labour market to fall by the wayside.”

On 7 February, Prime Minister Theresa May responded with proposals on sick pay and holiday pay rights for all workers, plus a right for workers to receive a contract on “day one”. The higher minimum wage for zero-hour work is being “considered.” Four “consultations” have been launched to provide more detail, but no legislation has been promised yet. TUC General Secretary Francis O’Grady described the announcement as “a baby step.”

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The Trireme

THE TRIREME Award is for the “worst terms since I was last chained to the oars”, in the words of one freelance. This month’s accolade goes to Silverback Publishing’s UK Rock ‘n’ Roll magazine (apparently also known as Rock ‘n’ Roll magazine).

Its website describes it as “the most widely read rock ‘n’ roll magazine on the planet”. But despite that, one freelance reports the Rate for the Job that it could only find the sum of £0.00 in payment for articles and reviews. Please remember to check before accepting work that clients are agreeing to pay you for it, and get it in writing, to avoid any unpleasant misunderstandings.

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