The Rate for the Job

FINALLY, WE have some rates for picture editing and research. That means we can legitimately update the rates in the Freelance Fees Guide. Your mission this month is to supply rates for use of photos online. via www.londonfreelance.org/rates/submit 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. You can submit rates online, in confidence, at any time, at www.londonfreelance.org/rates/submit – 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. We now record rates paid in Euro as well. Rates marked are, in the editor’s fallible opinion, below par. Treat all rates as minima, even the happy few.

Electronic Press Kits: (filmed interviews with artist for album PR) – indie record label or artist: £250; major record label with successful artist – from £600 to £1000.

Illustrations: Expressions, per job, US$25 + expenses.

Photography: 33Shake, day doing photos for website £200; XX: Express, one image £80; X: Financial Times, day £160; ITV, one archive photo, worldwide usage £400 X: PR company, cheque presentation photo £200.

Picture editing shifts: Daily Mail, day £180; Daily Telegraph, day £150; Financial Times, day £139 XX; Guardian, day £160; Guardian Labs (advertorial), day, up to £210; X: newspaper, day £150; Independent day £150; Sunday Times, day £150; TLS day £150; Times day £145 X: BBC News, day £165; Discovery Channel, day (some research) £150; ITV, archive and picture research, day, £140-£250 depending on the shift.

Words, per 1000: Sunday Mirror, exclusive true-life feature, first newspaper rights, once-only use print and online, £2000; BMJ, 1300 words @ £395 = £304; Economist: Espresso email briefing, 150-word news piece @ £100, all rights = £666; Guardian weekend, “The Secret to…” 350 words @ £200 = £571; Q: reuse of features published 25 years ago, license to former owner with agreed reuse rate £120; The Economist, 600-word news piece @ £400, all rights demanded for £666; The Week Junior Big Debate 600 words @ £175 = £292.

Precarious work – courts rule

THERE HAVE been recent developments in the world of precarious work that, while they are unlikely to affect freelance journalists, may have a positive impact on “false freelancing” work practices, where workers are freelance in name only, and on the gig economy in general.

The Employment Appeals Tribunal has thrown out an appeal by courier firm Addison Lee and ruled that its couriers meet the legal definition of ‘workers’, giving them rights including holiday pay. The Tribunal concluded that the written terms of the contract (in which couriers were technically ‘self-employed’) did not reflect reality.

The ruling said of the company’s relationship with one of its couriers logged into the company’s app that “the expectation on both sides was that if he was given a job he would do it. There was no ‘decline’ button on the computer.”

In June, the Supreme Court ruled that a former heating engineer with Pimlico Plumbers was not “self-employed” but a “worker,” and that Pimlico Plumbers “cannot be regarded as a client of customer” of his. A lower court will set compensation. This sets a precedent, but there’ll be argument over what it applies to.

The Independent Workers of Great Britain union (www.iwgb.org.uk), representing Deliveroo riders, is seeking £50,000 in crowdfunding for a High Court case it is bringing against Deliveroo, following a tribunal ruling that Deliveroo riders were self-employed and so did not have the right to collective bargaining through a trade union. The Union is also seeking the right to a minimum wage and holiday pay, which they would be entitled to were they not “misdategorised” as self-employed. The case is expected to go to court as we go to press.

A “self-employed” delivery rider.

In Australia, the fair work ombudsman has started court action against food delivery company Foodora, saying its riders are employees with work rights.

A culture of zero-hour contracts is not inevitable. New Zealand recently passed legislation banning zero-hour contracts “in most cases”. A Bill that seeks to outlaw most zero-hour contracts is before Parliament in the Republic of Ireland.

Festivals for fun and profit

If you speak at literary festivals (especially if you are paid to do so) please consider filling in the Society of Authors survey on terms and conditions for festival talks or punditry at www.societyofauthors.org/festivalsurvey – and please send the same details to the Rate for the Job at www.londonfreelance.org/rates/submit while you are at it. We will pass on any findings from this survey by the SoA, which has long been campaigning in this area.

Tell Parliamentarians about earnings issues

THE ALL-PARTY Parliamentary Writers Group, which keeps MPs and Lords from all sides of the political spectrum informed on issues pertinent to writers, is holding an inquiry into authors’ earnings. It seeks to identify what environment writers need to enable them to flourish in the future.

The Group observes that “writers contribute to the richness of our diverse culture and the success of our creative industries”; and, we would add, to the struggle for informed democratic debate.

It goes on: “to preserve this continued contribution, it is important to make sure writers have the freedom to share and make a living through their work.”

This inquiry follows studies commissioned by the Authors’ Licensing & Collecting Society in 2005 and 2013, which showed steep declines in authors’ earnings and in the number of authors who made a living from their writing.

The Group would like to hear from all types of writers, by Thursday 2 August. For more see www.allpartywritersgroup.co.uk/apwg-call-for-evidence

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