**The Rate for the Job**

**London Freelance Branch Committee member Nicci Talbot has, with the Freelance Office, negotiated to reinstate discounts for NUJ members on Apple products. These range from 6 per cent to 10 per cent depending on what you’re buying. For more details see [www.londonfreelance.org/](http://www.londonfreelance.org/) fi/1903disc.html**

THIS MONTH’S rates include writing for record labels as well as work proofreading and editing books, in which a freelance was able to negotiate higher fees once the need for heavy rewrites became apparent.

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.londonfreelance.org/rates](http://www.londonfreelance.org/rates).

**Photography:** BBC world news Europe, photo £75; New Internationalist, photo £65; Mail online, 30-second video £60 XXX.

**Proofreading non-fiction books:** Ghost-written autobiographies, negotiated for massive rewrite £6000; non-fiction, originally £3000, renegotiated for heavy edit and rewrite £4750; edit 90,000 words, renegotiated after unexpected extra work £1500, more if rush job.

**Shots:** DW.com, data journalist day £330; AP Video, 11-hour video editing day £250; small drinks company, brand consultancy, per day £250; Best Practice In Nursing, day conference reporting, £175.00 + travel and accommodation; Africa Confidential, subbing day £150.00; Sun, consumer finance reporting, 9 hours, £120 XXXX.

**Teaching:** Richmond WS (what’s that?), day teaching PR & writing £350.

**Words, per 1000:** Album box set booklets: middle rank artist, shortish £250; small record label, (obscure artist) £100 XX; middle-rank artist, enormous booklet, total £3000 = £150; major record label, US$1000, FT Weekend, review £460; Private Eye, “Letter from…” 750 words £200 = £266.66; BBC3 online short feature £187.50 XX; The Register, column £160 XX; Independent IndyBest, reviews up to 1000 words £80 XX.

**Words, other:** pop promoter, tour programme note £1500; Mirror entertainment section, feature £800 XX; Songlines review £15 XXXX.

**_seek red ress for Universal Credit woes**

MANY freelances have relied on assistance such as Working Tax Credit to get through lean times and have had problems being moved to Universal Credit – see the December Freelance. Leigh Day solicitors write:

Tessa Gregory’s team at Leigh Day represent an individual who is self-employed and finds herself in significant financial hardship due to the application of the Minimum Income Floor (MIF) since she first had to claim Universal Credit in October 2017. She has brought a legal challenge against the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions challenging the lawfulness of the application of the MIF on the basis that it discriminates against self-employed individuals and is irrational.

We have now reached the stage of the challenge in which we need to collate and prepare supportive evidence.

It would be helpful for the court to be provided with other examples which show the broad and varied range of situations in which individuals are caught by the UC provisions, as well as the different ways in which the application of the MIF has affected peoples’ lives.

If you are self-employed, have been moved on to UC and have had the MIF recently applied, earn roughly the National Minimum Wage across the year, but experience significant fluctuations in income on a monthly basis, we would be grateful if you could provide a short summary of your situation which sets out how you came to be on UC and how the MIF is affecting you.

We would of course discuss your situation with you before sharing any information with the court and if requested by you we would anonymise any personal details.

If you are affected by the MIF and interested in hearing more about our challenge, please do not hesitate to contact us with any queries at [universalcrediterquities@leighday.co.uk](mailto:universalcrediterquities@leighday.co.uk).

**Watch for news of strikes at Newsquest and INM**

NUJ MEMBERS working at Newsquest titles in Cumbria held a one-day strike in December over a pay freeze, staffing cuts and the company’s attitude to journalistic standards. Staff at the Cumberland News then reported their own newspaper to press regulator IPSO, over its recognition of their copyright. In it is a commitment to raise freelance shift rates in line with staff pay rises.

Northern Organiser Chris Morley said: “It was pleasing to be able to include those elements in the new agreement but of course we would wish for more… employers are often fiercely hostile to inclusion of any reference to freelances in house agreements... Fortunately we did have something in the old agreement to build on and it was thanks to the Chapel’s insistence that it was retained and improved that we got what has now been concluded.”

**Freelances remembered in house agreement**

THE NUJ Trinity Mirror Chapel on Merseyside recently concluded a house agreement with Reach (it owns Trinity Mirror and Express titles) that includes freelances and recognition of their copyright. In it is a commitment to raise freelance rates in line with staff pay rises.

Northern Organiser Chris Morley said: “It was pleasing to be able to include those elements in the new agreement but of course we would wish for more… employers are often fiercely hostile to inclusion of any reference to freelances in house agreements... Fortunately we did have something in the old agreement to build on and it was thanks to the Chapel’s insistence that it was retained and improved that we got what has now been concluded.”