

Anything to declare?

Following a routine inspection by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, the NUJ has been asked to remind all members claiming Freelance Loss of Earnings allowances that it is their personal responsibility to ensure such payments are declared on annual tax returns.



The Gong

This month's Gong award – a wake-up call for late payers – goes to *History Today* magazine. Payment for work commissioned but not used took over six months after the invoice date. Always challenge “payment on publication” and ask what happens if publication is postponed – or endlessly postponed, as here. Guidance on compensation for late payments is at www.londonfreelance.org/interest.html

The Rate for the Job

THIS MONTH'S crop of rates brought two cases of work spotted being used without permission, for which freelances invoiced (in Euros) and were paid. See www.londonfreelance.org/fi/0711trac.html for more on tracking down and taking action against piracy of your work.

Thinking about work for a company you've not dealt with before?

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.

Broadcasting: RTE Radio 1, 17 seconds of audio lifted from a video, then invoiced Euro 150; BBC Radio 4, 30 seconds of rare audio £100.

Photography: Massive international sports clothier, two-hour aerial shoot of sporting event for worldwide editorial use only for 1 year + exes, £650; large charity day of video interviews, exes paid, £230 **X**; Archant newspaper 3 photos for print, 1 online £190; *Financial Times* portrait commission for Saturday supplement single use, print only £160 **X**; *Irish Independent* image lifted off the internet and then invoiced, paid with no questions Euro 150; *Times* property section, photograph also used on web £90; *English Language Gazette* picture research (contact rights-holders) £20 **XX**.

Shifts: Department of Health, writing day £250; *Grazia* writing day £200; *Architect's Journal* subbing day £150; *Independent on Sunday* day/night reporter £145; *Metal Hammer* subbing day £120 **X**; T3.com day news writing, web editing £120 **X**; *Jewish Chronicle* subbing day £120 **X**; *Morning Star* subbing day £45 **XXX**; Pearson schoolbooks, project mgmt, editing (pay on publication, 6 months or more!) per hour £30; Vocational qualifica-

tions text books commissioning, text development, per hour £30.

Words, per 1000: *Mail on Sunday* £1000; *Look* feature all rights £850; *Take a Break* FBS £750; *Readers's Digest* £600; *Grazia* £500; Knowledge@Wharton.edu web only US\$667; *Saga* magazine FBS £450; *Sunday Express S Magazine* £417; *Africa Report* feature all rights Euro 400; *Science Business* web only £400; *Rail* £375; *Guardian* supplement £364; *FT* magazine £364; *Yours* feature FBS £350; *Irish Daily Mail* FBS, prod/exes Euro 50, fee 333; *Guardian* Media £300; *Metal Bulletin* £300; *Zest* exclusive rights £292; *Independent family* £231; *New Internationalist* £230; *Children + young people now* £230; *The Ecologist* £207 **X**; *North East Life* £200; BBC website £200 **XX**; *Disability Now* (Scope) terms not discussed so assume FBS, £192; *Audience/Live UK* £190 **X**; Franklin Watts (children's books) £170 **X**; *Music Week* feature £170 **X**; *Songlines* £100 **XX**; *Education Now* all rights £100 **XX**; *World Policy Journal* £100 **XX**.

Words, other: *New Internationalist* 400-word review £80 **X**; BBC News Online 350-word news story £100, 800-word news feature incl. pix £213 **X**; BBC Travel (new) destination pieces, 450-650 words all rights £220 **XX**; *Huck* 650-word interview £155 **X**; *Evening Standard* news story as page lead £150 **XX**.

Clarify that comment is not for free

The *Freelance* has heard reports of freelance journalists who have contributed to the *Guardian* Comment is Free blog being asked (retrospectively) if they could “do it *pro bono*” – which is Latin, we are told, for “without payment”. The best way to avoid any unpleasant misunderstandings here is to make it clear from the outset (in your written

pitch) that you are offering the article as a professional journalist who expects to be paid.

Citizen commenters too...

The *Freelance* editor is from time to time contacted by non-journalists who have written pieces about subjects they love – perhaps the most open to exploitation. They are

shocked to find that the *Guardian* expects them to assign their copy-right for no fee.

In every case we've been involved in, the contributor sending the commissioner a link to the *Guardian* Freelance Charter, highlighting the bit that says how they aim to treat contributors, has resulted in payment.

Jimmy Reid 1932-2010

Jimmy Reid, trade unionist, author and broadcaster, died on 10 August. He came to prominence as an inspiring force of the work-in at Upper Clyde Ship-builders in 1971. Jimmy joined the NUJ as a freelance in 1980, and remained a member until his death. There's an obituary at www.londonfreelance.org/fi/1009reid.html

Claim for Belgian copying!

THE AUTHORS' Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS) in 2008 signed an Agreement with the *Société Civile des Auteurs Multimedia* in Belgium to collect fees due to UK authors under the terms of a statutory scheme dealing with the reprographic copying of UK newspapers in Belgium.

Having received the first payment of fees, ALCS will now make payments for this photocopying in the next distribution, scheduled for February 2011. To receive a share of fees in this distribution, freelance journalists are invited to claim their share of the fund. At present you

can claim if you have written newspaper articles on a freelance basis, of at least 250 words, published in a national UK newspaper between 1 January 1998 and 31 December 2008 with a byline. ALCS will notify members when we are accepting claims for articles written later.

ALCS is introducing a scheme whereby writers register their published articles with ALCS and receive a share of the total photocopying royalties collected. This means that writers will receive a payment for their eligible articles being available to be photocopied in Belgium between 1 January 1998

and 31 December 2008.

Claims for newspaper articles can be made in exactly the same way as for journal and magazines articles, by registering for the members' area of www.alcs.co.uk and submitting article details online, or by requesting a Newspaper Article Details Form on paper – email licensedworks@alcs.co.uk

● ALCS is expecting about £1.7 million in settlement of a legal case over revenue from private copying in Germany. The payment covers books, magazines and journals and is expected to be paid out in February 2011.