



A smartphone will convey you directly to the Rate for the Job page ([www.londonfreelance.org/rates](http://www.londonfreelance.org/rates)) by means of the above QR code.

# The Rate for the Job

THIS time we have rather few rates that members and others have submitted – but some with which the recipients were quite ☺ happy. We do need more rates to help update [www.londonfreelance.org/fees-guide](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fees-guide) – which we can produce only if we have regular survey results.

You can submit rates online, in confidence, at any time, at [www.londonfreelance.org/rates](http://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 € 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:** Major UK broadcaster, producing a series of programmes, per week, negotiated up from £1200 per week, plus expenses, £1400; BBC News Channel 5-min expert pundit TV interview £75.

**Photography:** *Health Service Journal* day, expenses paid £260; *Which?* half-day £220; *Nursing Standard* half-day, exes paid £160; *Health Service Journal* half-day, expenses paid £160.

**Punditry:** University in UK one-hour talk followed by Q&A, up to one hour, £60/day subsistence + £250 max travel expenses £150.

**Shifts:** European NGO per day, work not specified €300; *Nature* per day, work not specified £200; *The Times* subbing day £150; *Independent*

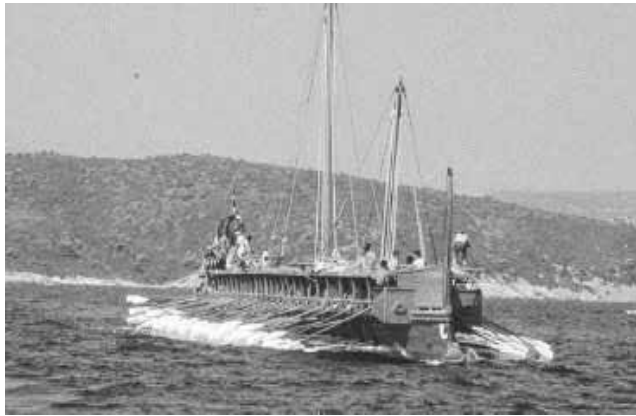
online reporting day £85 **XXXX**; HarperCollins copy-editing per hour – member quoted Fees Guide rate and got it – £24.

**Teaching:** A writers' association, day teaching £450 ☺; University in UK, two-hour group activity £60/day subsistence + £250 max travel expenses £250.

**Tip-offs:** *Private Eye* 20-word tip-off £10 **XX**.

**Words, per 1000:** *VICE* 1000 words kill fee (not sure what the £60 is for – Ed) £120 + 60 **XX**; *Mirror* feature £1000 ☺; *Good Housekeeping* feature, retained copyright £666 ☺; *The Humanist* feature £550 ☺; *Classic Pop* features paid £60 per page, approx 500 words, terms vary, sometimes 3 months exclusivity £120 **XXX**; *Catworld* £30 **XXX**;

**Words, other:** *Sun* feature spread £1500 ☺; *Pitchfork* op-ed with a little reporting, regardless of word count, Work For Hire (US-speak for "all rights" & worse) \$150; Choose. net Consumer news writing, per piece, no exes all rights £30 **XXX**.



## The Trireme Award

This month's Trireme Award, for terms and conditions "worse than I was last chained to the oars" in the words of one freelance, goes to the BBC. Its "shadow scheme" (sounds like something from *The X-Files*!) pays would-be scriptwriters £1000 for a "trial script", estimated at an average of approximately £2.38 an hour. See page 3 for the full story.

## Low budgets bringing out bad behaviour

WE HEAR via an email network used by freelance editors and authors, including NUJ members, that there is "some funny stuff going on out there." Low budgets are bringing out some dodgy behaviour so we need to be on our toes.

One incident involves a packager (sub-contracted by a publisher to deliver a book to a certain format) who one member of the network helped to do a chunk of "complicated" work on material last year, for which they were paid by the pack-

ager. The packager then invoiced the publisher for the complete material. Meanwhile, the publisher who commissioned the book "package" has had a change of personnel – the new incumbent has made it clear to the packager that a change of "direction" means they have no intention of paying for what their predecessor commissioned.

They made it clear they wouldn't be getting any more commissions if they made a fuss. (Packagers often have only a very few clients, and

can't afford to upset them.) This is of course a breach of contract.

In the same sector, a writer had earlier turned down an offer of appallingly-paid editing work. They were recently asked by the same publisher to "rescue" the appalling half-finished mess the writer they eventually commissioned had produced, adding the bits the writer had left out, re-organising the text and so on – but the money offered was still rubbish and they said no.

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## Register now for book cash

THOSE of you who have signed up to the Public Lending Right (PLR) scheme – it makes micro-payments to authors whenever their books are borrowed from public libraries – have until **30 June** to register their recent books with the scheme to get money for them when they're lent over the next year. Do so via [www.plr.uk.com](http://www.plr.uk.com). If you've got a book published, and you've not done so already, now might be a good time to register with PLR, in plenty of time to register your titles, also by 30 June. PLR now "synchronises" with its Irish equivalent, allowing you to register for micro-payments made whenever your books are lent in libraries in the Republic of Ireland as well.

## Should positive discrimination be introduced at the BBC?

**FREELANCE BRANCH member Colin Joseph, who worked on Community Affairs at the BBC, asks: should positive discrimination be introduced to ensure fair representation of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities?**

WORKING at the BBC can be like living in a protective rose-tinted bubble and it can be difficult to objectively analyse the corporation's achievements and objectives in a clear and dispassionate manner.

The blinkers have now been removed and I often find myself disappointed with the lack of on-air BAME representation and lack of responsible BAME focused news stories and programmes.

Is it possible the BBC is going backwards? I find it hard to believe

as an ex-employee, after researching this issue, that there has been so few gains for BAME BBC employees on and off-air.

The census in 2011 put the BAME population in the UK at 1 in 7 and set to increase: roughly the same as that of Scotland and Wales combined. Why then, as a BBC consumer and ethnic minority, do I feel that the BBC doesn't represent me?

Surfing across BBC outlets there seems to be no BAME focused programmes on air. When there is coverage on bread and butter BAME issues it's often irresponsible and lacks sensitivity (take the UKIP-like rhetoric on immigration for example).

I interviewed a number of BAME consumers of BBC services. Common responses to my questions were "the BBC doesn't represent me" and "we need to see more

BAME programmes on the BBC".

The BBC announced in June last year that a ring-fenced £2.1m Diversity Creative Talent Fund would be introduced to promote BAME employment. But how much difference will £2.1m really make? It's the cost of two episodes of *Downton Abbey*.

Simon Albury, Chair of the Campaign for Broadcasting Equality, believes the BBC will be under a lot of pressure to diversify its programme content and staff in the years ahead. "I don't think BAME communities will continue to allow themselves to be sidelined by the BBC," he said. "BAME communities are finding a voice and some are threatening not to pay the license fee because they don't see themselves represented."

● See the full piece online at [www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1506bame.html](http://www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1506bame.html)