

# Watch out, photographers!

ANOTHER photo agency issued a new contract to photographers last month. Photoshoot gave contributors only until 15 September to opt out of a clause which would allow it to take a 70 per cent cut of money distributed by any collecting society from “secondary uses” such as photocopying newspapers and magazines in libraries. Sorry the printed *Freelance* missed this. Do keep an eye on **www.londonfreelance.org/fl** for any updates.

There’s a clear pattern here. Alamy – previously known as an agency less hostile to photographers – issued a similar change to terms and conditions in July, demanding a 50 per cent cut (see the August *Freelance*). The pattern is the plan by BAPLA, the British Association of Picture Libraries and Agencies, to form a collecting society in competition with DACS, the Design and Artists Collecting Society, to which many photographers belong. The differ-

ence is that only libraries and agencies would be members of the new beast (and Getty would be massively dominant among those).

The immediate practical advice remains: anyone receiving a new contract, or being asked to agree to varying a contract, must seek advice from your Union before signing anything. Which means being in the union. Tell your colleagues who may not yet have joined.

© Mike Holderness

## Getty sued for \$1bn over giveaway photos

If you want to give your work away, you’d want it to stay given away and not be gobbled up by corporates. That means having, and enforcing, strong copyright. The point is made in a lawsuit by Carol M. Highsmith against Getty Images. Carol donated photographs to the US Library of Congress. Getty, she says, is charging for access. She’s suing. For \$1 billion. Getty reportedly wrote to Highsmith asking for \$120, saying her website had an unlicensed photo from Getty’s portfolio. That would be one of her photos, donated to the Library. In 1981 Highsmith “conveyed title” in 230 of these to the Library of Congress. She continued to add to the collection under terms which included, “credit be given as follows: ‘The Library of Congress, Carol M. Highsmith Archive.’” The US Digital Millennium Copyright Act has “statutory damages” of “not less than \$2,500 or more than \$25,000” for those who “remove or alter any copyright management information.” With the option of treble damages. For the full story – there’s much more to it! – see **www.londonfreelance.org/fl/1609cc.html**

## Comic copper teaches colleagues journo rights

A VIDEO to be played to police officers in training on the rights of journalists covering “public order” situations – presented by a stand-up comedian and “serving copper” – is now online.

In NUJ *Public Order Press and Police*, the five-minute video commissioned by the NUJ and made by Rob Whitehouse, police officer Alfie Moore asks, “How should we get on with journalists and photographers when we’re in the middle of controlling a riot?” Alfie, himself a riot veteran, speaks to camera in front of a simulated riot at the Met’s public order training facility at Gravesend.

He emphasises that all his advice is based on “official guidelines set out by police chiefs” and that “journalists and photographers have legal rights to report events like this.” Examples of NUJ Press Cards are clearly displayed on screen.

Particularly eye-opening are the answers given by police taking a break from riot training on exactly what rights journalists do have, and what powers police have (or don’t have) to restrict them. Several times the officers get it wrong



Comedian and “serving copper” Alfie Moore compères the NUJ *Public Order Press and Police* training video for police officers. **Still © NUJ**

– they’re quickly corrected. Using humour, Alfie dispels some “urban myths” about whether journalists “need a permit” to photograph or film in a public place (we don’t) and whether coppers can confiscate or delete material (in limited circumstances), should the police help the media “obtain a good vantage point at the scene?” (“dialogue is important”), can police intervene to stop “interviews of the distressed and bereaved?” The answer given to the last one is, no, the police can “pass on requests”, with viewers alerted

to the NUJ’s own Code of Conduct. “They (journalists) have to justify intrusion of privacy”, as Alfie reminds us.

Justine Curran, National Policing Lead, Public Order stresses in the video that reporting on what happens in riots is part of “how democracy works.” The video will be played at all College of Policing command courses and become part of the police service database.

It’s also funny! The video’s at **www.bit.ly/PressPolice**

© Matt Salusbury

## Press Freedom: Domestic Extremist – trailer out

A TWO-MINUTE trailer has been released for *Press Freedom: Domestic Extremist*, the third in a trilogy of documentaries by NUJ videographers and photographers on the problematic policing that journalists can encounter while going about their work.

*Domestic Extremist* looks in particular at the discovery by six NUJ members that police from the National Public Order Intelligence Unit (NPIOU) had systematically been gathering intelligence on reporters who cover protest and environmental issues. The trailer is at **www.bit.ly/DomExt2** and the full-length movie is expected to be released relatively soon, (“no deadline yet”, filmmaker Jason N. Parkinson told



© Jason N. Parkinson and the *Press Freedom: Domestic Extremist* filmmakers

the *Freelance* in September). The documentary was part-funded with a modest donation voted by London Freelance Branch, for which Jason

says “a massive thanks to the Freelance Branch”.

© Matt Salusbury (Met Police Photo Reference No. 1481)

## Keep Access to Work

LFB MEMBER David Wilkins has launched a Parliamentary petition against planned cuts to the Access to Work programme, which he describes as “the only way to help employers to employ disabled people.” Access to Work grants pay up to £40,000 a year for disabled people in work, entering jobs or self-employment – a figure likely to drop if cuts go ahead. The grants cover adaptations to work equipment, taxi fares, wages for support workers in the workplace or job coaches, disability awareness training for colleagues and moving costs to change jobs. The petition’s at **https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/138508**