



James Taylor, Chair of the UTVU, Statement on the Unscripted TV Rate Guidance:

“Rate guidance for freelancers who work in unscripted programmes is one of the most requested things when people contact the union – understandably people want to know if they are being paid fairly. We recognise this is a complicated subject, and that publication of the guidance has highlighted many existing issues in the sector – including the disparity in pay within diverse communities, and the lack of parity between rates in production and editorial roles. We remain committed to addressing these issues; indeed, addressing long standing discrimination in rates is part of the reason we wanted a rate guide for the unscripted sector.

“We are listening to concerns raised by the freelance community and want to stress that our members’ voices are being heard. This published information is the result of a lot of hard work and is based on substantial data and feedback on current rates being paid from thousands of responses from freelancers. We of course acknowledge that the guidance has its limitations and could benefit from greater context. Accurately reflecting rates across a varied industry across multiple genres can lead to oversimplification and we’ll be working to refine and update the guidance so we can drive change in giving people an idea of what they should be asking for.

“There is still progress to be made and we will be engaging our members and other groups as we seek to continue to make the guidance as accurate as possible, so that it’s a truly useful tool for the freelance community. All unscripted workers deserve to be paid fairly and have their skills and experience valued by employers and Bectu and the UTVU will continue to support its members to achieve this.”