Uber to pay $20m to 'misled' drivers

Dave Lee, North America technology reporter, 20 January 2017

Between January and March 2015, ride-sharing service Uber put out ads on Craigslist in the hope of attracting new drivers by offering attractive hourly rates of pay.

In Boston, for example, it told potential drivers they would earn $25 an hour.

In truth, fewer than 10% of drivers in the city actually managed to bring in that amount, according to a lawsuit brought by the US Federal Trade Commission.

The FTC said the median amount earned in those cities - for drivers working a 40 hour week - was significantly less ($29,000 and $21,000 less, respectively).

The FTC listed 18 cities across the US where it said Uber was painting a far more lucrative picture than was realistic. In Baltimore, fewer than 20% of drivers earned $16 an hour. Chicago - fewer than 20% earned $21, Minneapolis - 10%, $18.

On Thursday, Uber agreed to pay $20m to those drivers in order to settle the claim.

Drivers complain, however, that the improvements to the driver experience do not extend to covering the costs of running and maintaining a car.

"The reality of being a ride-sharing driver is a far cry from the rosy picture these apps describe,” said Jim Conigliaro from the Independent Drivers Guild. […]

"On top of that, drivers are stuck with the bill for their vehicle, gas, repairs, maintenance, insurance, the list goes on.”


**Vocabulary**:

« A far cry » : bien loin

**Culture Box**:

- Craigslist : « site web américain offrant des petites annonces avec des rubriques telles qu'offres et recherches d'emplois » (Wikipedia)

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