

Media Release

Local Dublin man prosecuted and fined €10,000 for illegally undertaking Gas Works and portraying himself as a Registered Gas Installer

- Under legislation, it is a criminal offence for any individual or company to undertake Gas Works if they are not a Registered Gas Installer or to falsely portray oneself as a Registered Gas Installer.
- Judge Brennan fined Mr. Manning €10,000 for the three offences, and awarded costs of €1,500 plus VAT to the CRU.

On Monday, 26 February 2017: The Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU), Ireland's independent energy regulator has successfully secured a prosecution against Mr. Shane Manning trading as SM Gas Services, of Bray, Co. Wicklow.

Mr. Manning received a criminal conviction in Dublin District Court under presiding Judge Brennan for two counts of illegally undertaking gas works while not being a Registered Gas Installer (RGI) and one count of illegally portraying himself as a Registered Gas Installer (RGI).

The gas works were undertaken in a house in Clonsilla, Dublin 15 in June and July 2016. Judge Brennan fined Mr. Manning €4,000 for the first offence of illegally undertaking gas works, €4,000 for the second offence of illegally undertaking gas works, €2,000 for the third offence of illegally portraying himself as an RGI, and awarded costs of €1,500 plus VAT to the CRU.

Judge Brennan heard evidence from Mr. Keith Walsh, Gas Safety Officer with the CRU that the works carried out were not in conformance with the relevant gas standard.

Members of the public who wish to report an unregistered individual who has undertaken gas works or has portrayed themselves as a Registered Gas Installer should visit www.rgii.ie.

It is illegal for an individual or company to carry out Gas Works or to portray themselves as registered, unless they are a Registered Gas Installer (RGI) with the Register of Gas Installers of Ireland (RGII). The penalties for non-compliance include a fine of up to €15,000 and/or imprisonment for up to 3 years.

There are over 3,000 Registered Gas Installers (RGIs) in Ireland. By using a RGI, consumers can have confidence that they are dealing with a competent installer who has the required expertise in gas safety to ensure the safe operation of their gas installation. The RGI is insured and a sample of their work is inspected by the RGII on an annual basis.

The number of prosecutions taken by the CRU has continued to rise annually since 2011. The successful prosecution emphasises the requirement by law for all gas installers to be registered with RGII when carrying out domestic gas works which includes work on domestic appliances in non-domestic settings, and those in leisure activity vehicles (LAVs).

The CRU's objective in this area is to protect life and property, deliver the safety regulatory system to oversee the industry, build awareness levels of the issues among consumers and the general public and to prosecute unregistered individuals or companies where required. The CRU investigates all reports of alleged breaches of legislation. Illegal activity can be reported anonymously to the CRU or to the RGII (www.rgii.ie or calling 1850 454 454).



The CRU's Commissioner for Energy Safety, Dr. Paul McGowan said: *"If a gas installer does not have the required registration or cannot prove membership of the RGI scheme, consumers should not use them and if they suspect that they are acting illegally, they should contact the RGII. The CRU will continue to pursue such cases against individuals and companies who do not observe the legal requirements for undertaking gas installations or works"*.

ENDS

For further information contact:

Karl Richardson, CRU Communications and Public Affairs

T: 01 4000800 / M: 086 008 1470

Note to Editors:

- Under the Electricity Regulation Act 1999, as amended the CRU has responsibility to regulate the activities of gas undertakings and gas installers with respect to safety. The CRU appointed the Register of Gas Installers Ireland (RGII) to carry out this function on its behalf. Any person wishing to carry out Gas Works (as defined under Statutory Instrument 225/2009 and 299/2011) is required by law to register as a Registered Gas Installer (RGI) with the RGII.
- There are approximately 3,000 RGI's in Ireland. By using an RGI customers can have confidence that they are dealing with a trained installer who has the required expertise in gas safety to ensure their gas installation is safe. The RGII supervise the work of RGIs with respect to safety. Visit www.rgii.ie for further information and a full listing of Registered Gas Installers.
- The CRU's mission in this area is to protect life, to prevent injury, and to minimise economic loss, by means of a pro-active, precautionary and preventative approach to ensuring the safe transmission, distribution and use of gas.
- Please visit CRU website at www.cru.ie for further information on CRU's safety responsibilities.