

FIREPLACE FITTER PROSECUTED FOR GAS SAFETY OFFENCES

A fireplace fitter, who pleaded guilty to carrying out illegal gas works and portraying himself as a registered gas installer, was today instructed to pay €500 to Crumlin Hospital in Dublin District Court.

Counsel for the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER) informed the court that the gas work was carried out in February 2014 in a home in Ballsbridge Dublin. The court heard that the Kildare based fitter attended the premises to carry out the installation of a gas fire. At the time the individual was not a registered gas installer as required by law.

Counsel for the CER told the court that on the day the work took place; the fitter used the registration number of another registered gas installer on the certification required to complete this work. The customer was given the false impression that the fitter was registered to carry out such works even though he was not.

In closing, Counsel for the CER stated that only registered gas installers can carry out gas works in a home as they have the necessary qualifications, insurance, and training to carry out the works safely. In addition, he noted that registered gas installers are being subjected to regular audit and inspections to ensure their ongoing competence.

Imposing sentence, Judge O'Neill stated that this was a "serious matter" and that gas works were "dangerous to be dealing with". Judge O'Neill imposed the probation act on condition that the fitter pay a €500 donation to Crumlin Hospital. In addition, the Judge awarded the CER costs.

In response to the verdict, the CER stated that it is committed to using its resources in the investigation and prosecution of individuals who commit gas safety offences. The CER continued by stating that it would encourage any member of the public that suspects that a domestic gas installation has been maintained, repaired or installed by an unregistered individual, then they should report it directly (or anonymously) by completing an illegal gas works complaint form at www.rgii.ie or by contacting 1850 454 454.

Note to Editors:

1. Under the Energy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 the CER has responsibility to regulate the activities of gas undertakings and gas installers with respect to safety. The CER 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 RGII.
2. There are approximately 3,053 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 RGI's with respect to safety. Visit www.RGII.ie for further information and a full listing of Registered Gas Installers.
3. The CER'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.
4. Please visit CER website at www.cer.ie for further information on CER's safety responsibilities.