

Press Release

CER Secures Prosecutions against Unregistered Gas Installers

- **Homeowners Should Ensure Work on Domestic Gas Appliances is Only Carried Out by Registered Professionals**
- **CER Underlines its Commitment To Gas Safety and the Pursuit of Illegal Activity**
- **Illegal Activity Can be Reported Anonymously to CER or Registered Gas Installers Ireland (www.RGII.ie or calling 1850 454 454)**

Wednesday, 11 November 2015: The Commission for Energy Regulation (CER), Ireland's independent energy regulator, has today announced that it has secured four successful prosecutions in the Four Courts in Dublin related to gas safety against unregistered and illegally operating gas installers.

The prosecutions were obtained against those illegally undertaking gas works while not registered or falsely portraying themselves as registered when they were not.

It is illegal to carry out work on gas within the home unless registered with Registered Gas Installers Ireland (RGII), which oversee the work of Registered Gas Installers (RGI's) with respect to safety on behalf of the CER.

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

The number of prosecutions taken by the CER has continued to rise annually since 2011, with 17 successful prosecutions prior to today's announcement, and a further five currently awaiting final court appearances. Under legislation, individuals who are successfully prosecuted can face a fine of up to €5,000 or €15,000, with the potential of additional imprisonment of up to six months or three years.

The successful prosecutions emphasise the requirement by law for all gas installers to be registered with RGII before carrying out any gas works relating to domestic gas appliances, for example in homes, or else face prosecution.

The CER'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. CER investigates all reports of alleged breaches of legislation. Illegal activity can be reported anonymously to CER or to RGII (www.RGII.ie or calling 1850 454 454)

The CER's Commissioner for Energy Safety, Dr. Paul McGowan said:

"The CER is fully committed to pursuing such cases against unregistered gas installers and the prosecutions secured today, our highest number to date, is an indication of our determination to heighten awareness among industry professionals and, most importantly, the consumer of the legal requirements that suppliers must observe. Consumers must feel comfortable that any works undertaken in their homes are delivered by a sufficiently qualified and registered professional to give them piece of mind in terms of safety and quality. If a gas installer does not have the required registration or cannot prove membership of the RGII scheme, consumers should not use them and if they suspect that they are acting illegally, they should contact RGII".

ENDS

For further information contact:
Karl Richardson, CER Communications and Public Affairs
T: 01 4000800 / M: 086 008 1470

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. Please visit CER website at www.cer.ie for further information on CER's safety responsibilities