



CER PRESS RELEASE – 3rd November 2014

FIRST SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION FOR ILLEGALLY CARRYING OUT RESTRICTED ELECTRICAL WORKS IN DUBLIN

At Dublin District Court today, Peter Knowles from County Kildare has been found guilty, on two counts; illegally carrying out restricted electrical work and portraying himself as a Registered Electrical Contractor. The offences were committed under the Electricity Regulation Act, 1999, as amended. The court ordered the defendant to pay a sum of €3000. In addition, a contribution towards costs of €350 was awarded to the CER. The CER is the body responsible for overseeing safety in the area of electrical contracting.

This is the first successful prosecution of its kind in Ireland.

Since October 2013 it has been a legal requirement for anyone who carries out Restricted Electrical Works to be Registered Electrical Contractor with either RECI or ECSSAI. Only Registered Electrical Contractors give confidence to consumers that they are using a contractor who is competent, insured and subject to inspection.

Commissioner for Safety, Paul McGowan stated:

“This case demonstrates the CER’s continued commitment in using its resources to investigate and prosecute unregistered individuals who carry out Restricted Electrical Works or portray themselves as Registered Electrical Contractors. Registration is required to protect the safety of the public. “

Member of the public who wish to report an unregistered individual who has undertaken Restricted Electrical Works or has portrayed themselves as a Registered Electrical Contractor please visit www.safeelectric.ie.

Ends.

For further information please contact:

John Melvin at jmelvin@cer.ie

Tel: 01 4000 800

Note to Editors:

1. Under the Energy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 the CER has responsibility to regulate the activities of electrical contractors with respect to safety. It is an offence under the Energy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 to portray oneself as a Registered Electrical Contractor unless registered with a designated Electrical Safety Supervisory Body. It is also an offence under the Electricity Regulation Act 1999 (Restricted Electrical Works) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 264 of 2013) for any individual to carry out Restricted Electrical Works unless they are a Registered Electrical Contractor.
2. Safe Electric is operated by two Electrical Safety Supervisory Bodies, the Register of Electrical Contractors of Ireland (RECI) and the Electrical Contractor Safety and Standards Association of Ireland (ECSSAI), on behalf of the CER. These bodies carry out the day to day operations of the electrical safety scheme on behalf of the CER, such as inspecting the Registered Electrical Contractors annually.
3. There are approximately 3,900 Registered Electrical Contractors in Ireland. All Registered Electrical Contractors are insured and must issue the customer with a certificate of conformance to show the work is to an approved standard, thereby improving safety standards.
4. For further information and to find a Registered Electrical Contractor please visit www.safeelectric.ie.