

Media Release

Galway Man Prosecuted for Undertaking Potentially Dangerous and Illegal Gas Works

- Under legislation, it is a criminal offence for any individual or company to undertake Gas Works if they are not a Registered Gas Installer
- Works carried out created a potential safety hazard for the occupants

Wednesday, 31 May 2017: The Commission for Energy Regulation (CER), Ireland's independent energy regulator, has successfully secured a prosecution against Mr. Fintan Keane, Kiltulla, Athenry, Co. Galway, for illegally carrying out gas works while not being a registered gas installer.

The case was heard in Clifden District Court on Thursday, 25 May 2017, under presiding Judge Mary Fahy, who convicted and fined Mr. Keane for undertaking gas works while not being a registered gas installer. The gas works were undertaken at Ballyconnelly, Co. Galway at various dates between January and February 2016. Judge Fahy fined Mr. Keane €400 and awarded a contribution to costs of €500 to CER.

Judge Fahy heard evidence from Keith Walsh, Gas Safety Officer with the Commission for Energy Regulation, to effect that the gas works carried out were substandard.

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

The CER's Commissioner for Energy Safety and Chairperson, Dr. Paul McGowan said: *"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. The CER will continue to pursue such cases against individuals and companies who do not observe the legal requirements for undertaking gas installations or works"*.



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Note to Editors:

- Under the Electricity Regulation Act 1999, as amended 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.
- 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 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.
- Please visit CER website at www.cer.ie for further information on CER's safety responsibilities.