

Media Release

Local Dundalk Man Prosecuted for Undertaking Dangerous and Illegal Electrical Works

- Under the Electricity Regulation Act 1999, it is a criminal offence for any individual or company to undertake Restricted Electrical Works if they are not a Registered Electrical Contractor or portray themselves as a Registered Electrical Contractor.
- Works carried out created a potential safety hazard for the occupants

Thursday, 13 April 2017: The Commission for Energy Regulation (CER), Ireland's independent energy regulator has successfully secured a prosecution against Mr. Seán Murray, Balregan, Kilcurry, Dundalk, Co. Louth for illegally carrying out restricted electrical works and portraying himself as a Registered Electrical Contractor.

The case was heard in Dundalk District Court under presiding Judge Brennan, who convicted and fined Mr Murray €500 for undertaking restricted electrical works while not being a member of the safety supervisory body, Safe Electric and for falsely portraying himself as a Registered Electrical Contractor. Judge Brennan awarded a contribution of €700 for costs to CER.

Mr Murray contested the charges of undertaking restricted electrical works and portraying himself in a manner likely to suggest he was a member of the relevant safety supervisory body for electrical contractors in Ireland, Safe Electric (previously RECI). The electrical works undertaken at the time consisted of an extension to a dwelling house and constituted a potential fire hazard to the occupants of the house, located in Castleross, Dundalk, Co. Louth. At the time of the offence, Mr Murray was not a Registered Electrical Contractor with Safe Electric.

Judge Brennan heard evidence from the homeowner and from Seán Ward, the CER's Electrical Safety Officer, that the electrical works carried out created a potential safety hazard for the occupants and breached 13 national wiring standards.

Members 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 should visit www.safeelectric.ie. Since October 2013, it has been a legal requirement for anyone who carries out restricted electrical works to be a Registered Electrical Contractor.

Only Registered Electrical Contractors give confidence to consumers that they are using a contractor who is competent, insured and subject to inspection to ensure their work is undertaken to the required standards.

The CER's Commissioner for Energy Safety, Dr. Paul McGowan, said: "Anybody engaging an individual or company to carry out electrical work needs to be confident that they are suitably qualified and a Registered Electrical Contractor. The CER is committed to investigating and prosecuting 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."



Ends

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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 one Electrical Safety Supervisory Body, the Register of Electrical Contractors of Ireland (RECI), on behalf of the CER. RECI 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 (RECs) 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.