

NERA Activity from January to June 2013

Awareness & Information:

In the period January to June 2013 the NERA call centre provided information to over 28,794 people, a decrease of 15% on the 2012 figure of 33,908. 24,645 callers were dealt directly by experienced Information Officers and 4,149 by the NERA 24 hour recorded information service.

Employees and former employees accounted for 76% of callers, while an estimated 16% were employers. Redundancy, working hours, conditions and terms of employment, payment of wages and unfair dismissal were the main topics of the queries dealt with.

The Workplace Relations Customer Services became operational at the beginning of 2012. This Unit, based in NERA, incorporates the existing NERA Information services. In this regard 8,074 employment rights complaints were received by the WRCS in the first six months of 2013. Full breakdown of the WRCS statistics are contained in the second issue of the Workplace Relations Reform Quarterly Newsletter available to download at www.workplacerelements.ie.

NERA Workplace Inspections:

(See breakdown by Sector and Legislation on Page 2)

In the period January to June 2013 a total of 2,755 inspection cases were completed involving almost 32,393 employees. This compares to 2,250 cases in the same period on 2012. The amount of unpaid wages recovered was €420,941, a similar amount to €426,818 secured in 2012.

Prosecutions:

In the period January to June 2013 thirty one cases were referred for prosecution (in Q2 2012 forty five cases were referred). 29 convictions (31 in 2012) were recorded in cases heard by the Courts over the period resulting in fines of €400,000 being imposed. Arrears of wages of almost €9,000 were awarded to employees and over €7,800 awarded in costs to NERA. In the same period on 2012 the Courts imposed fines of over €77,000 and awarded arrears of almost €33,000.

Employment Agency Licences:

Under the Employment Agency Act, 1971 an Employment Agency must hold a licence if it is to carry on its business. In the six month period to end June 2013 two hundred and three applications for licences were received and 198 licences were issued. 247 applications were received and 153 issued in same period in 2012.

Protection of Young Persons

Licences:

103 licences, allowing children (i.e. under 16s) to be employed in cultural, artistic, sports or advertising work, were issued in the period January to June 2013 in respect of 192 children working in the arts/TV/film. This is similar to the same period in 2012 when 92 licences issued for 196 children.

Summary of Inspections & Breaches Detected January to June 2013

Sector	No of Inspections Concluded	Compliance Rate%	Unpaid Wages Recovered (€)
AGRICULTURE	42	52%	35,104
CONSTRUCTION	72	54%	101,690
CONTRACT CLEANING	9	33%	112
ELECTRICAL	12	42%	0
FOOD & DRINK	504	40%	140,911
HOTEL	41	54%	4,934
MANUFACTURING	31	65%	4,416
SECURITY	8	37%	0
TRANSPORT	29	48%	9,261
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL	153	40%	46,626
OTHER	396	56%	77,887
UNANNOUNCED VISITS	1,458	68%	0
TOTAL	2,755	58%	420,941

Employment Permits Inspections:

NERA inspectors are authorised officers under the Employment Permits Acts. Compliance checks under this legislation are an integral element of all NERA inspections. Joint inspections may also be carried out as part of investigations involving Revenue, Department of Social Protection staff and An Garda Síochána.

In the period January and June 2013 two hundred and thirty six employers were found to be in breach of the employment permits acts and over 300 persons were detected working without legal authorisation.

Enforcement of EAT/Labour Court Orders:

In the period January to June 2013 thirty nine new cases were opened and 39 cases were concluded. 104 such cases were on hands at the end of June 2013.

NERA Contact Details

Information: Lo-call 1890 80 80 90

Inspection: Lo-call 1890 220 100

Prosecution & Enforcement:

Lo-call 1890 220 200

www.employmentrights.ie

www.workplacerelations.ie



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Free Admission

22nd October, 2013
Printworks Conference
Centre, Dublin Castle
8:30 am to 2:30 pm



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for **YOU!**

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- Find out ways to save your business money
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An initiative of

Ais Roinn Post, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta
Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation

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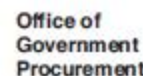
8:30	Event Opens
8:50	Opening Remarks – Senator Feargal Quinn
Session 1	Chair: Senator Feargal Quinn
9:00	Department of Social Protection
9:15	Food Safety Authority of Ireland
9:30	National Employment Rights Authority
9:45	Data Protection Commissioner
10:00	Environmental Protection Agency
10:15	Break
Session 2	Chair: Heather Ann McSharry IDA Board Member
10:45	Competition Authority
11:00	Companies Registration Office
11:15	Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement
11:30	Local Authorities – Fingal Co Co
11:45	Health & Safety Authority
12:00	Break
Session 3	Chair: Eamonn Kieilty, ISME Chairman
12:30	Enterprise Ireland
12:45	Equality Authority
13:00	Office of Government Procurement
13:15	Revenue
13:30	County & City Enterprise Boards
13:45	Closing Remarks
	John Perry, TD, Minister for Small Business

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