

### Mr Dermot Ahern, T.D., Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform and Mr Martin Mansergh, T.D., Minister of State with Responsibility for Office of Public Works Open New PSA Offices in Davis St

The official opening of our new offices at Davis Street, Tipperary took place on Friday 18th July, with Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Mr Dermot Ahern, T.D. and the Minister of State at the Department of Finance, with responsibility for the OPW, Mr Martin Mansergh, T.D. doing the honours and leading the tour of our listed building. Great credit is due to the architects and all who worked so successfully at transforming three houses, all built on different levels, into the fine offices they are today. We look forward to welcoming visitors to Tipperary at Davis Street. See our new phone numbers below.

### 78% of 2008 Licence Applications are Incomplete

At the end of June 2008 we had received 3,801 licence applications from individuals. We have issued licences in 281 cases with a further 1,072 cases completed and being vetted by An Garda Síochana.

#### Status of Applications Received in 2008 @ 30th June 2008

|                | Door Supervisor | Security Guard Static | Both Sectors | Total |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------|
| Licence Issued | 84              | 190                   | 7            | 281   |
| Completed      | 323             | 692                   | 57           | 1,072 |
| Incomplete     | 533             | 1,651                 | 160          | 2,344 |
| Refused        | 26              | 74                    | 4            | 104   |
| Total          | 966             | 2,607                 | 228          | 3,801 |

The previous reported trend of incomplete applications continues with 78% of 2008 applications being incomplete. Incomplete applications are wasteful on resources and divert PSA staff efforts from targeting those who are not licensed or who are not operating to licensing standards. In an effort to tackle this issue the PSA has analysed all incomplete applications received since the start of 2008. The Table below shows the information that is missing and the number who failed to submit this information on first or even second reminder.

#### % of Incomplete Applications

|                                       | % of Total Received |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Applications Received                 | 100%                |
| Incomplete Applications when received | 78%                 |
| Incomplete after 1st letter           | 61%                 |
| Incomplete after 2nd letter           | 41%                 |

#### Top Stories

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- 78% of 2008 Licence Applications are Incomplete
- PSA Secures 6th Successful Prosecution
- Media Campaign Targets Householders
- Inspections in Co Sligo and Co Donegal Building Sites, Licensed Premises and Individuals
- Update on CIT Licensing

Some of this information should be readily available. The PSA currently rejects applications as being invalid where the applicants fail to enclose the fee or fail to provide evidence of having undertaken the necessary training or being scheduled to do training. From 1 August 2008 the PSA will extend invalid applications to include applications without the following:

- Birth Certificate
- 2 Passport sized Photos
- Completed Garda Vetting form
- Foreign Criminal record certificates or evidence that the individual has applied for these certificates

Rejected applications will be given 14 days to resubmit the information and after this time will be passed to our inspectors for follow-up.

### **PSA Secures 6th Successful Prosecution**

We successfully prosecuted Brendan Curtis, trading as BC Security, 69 Whitecastle Lawns, Athy, Co Kildare in Naas District Court recently, for offering security guard services without a licence. Mr Curtis was found guilty and 4 other charges were taken into account. He was given 30 days to pay a €100 fine and three months to pay €2,500 costs. This is the sixth successful prosecution that the PSA has taken this year.

### **Media Campaign Targets Householders**

The PSA has issued press releases to 160 provincial newspapers in every county to let householders looking for a licensed security alarm company know there is only one website they need to check to find a licensed company; [www.psa.gov.ie](http://www.psa.gov.ie)

### **Inspections in Co Sligo and Co Donegal Building Sites, Licensed Premises and Individuals**

The PSA'S Enforcement Team, accompanied by Gardaí, visited Co Sligo and Co Donegal last month, June, to carry out inspections of licensed premises, building sites and individuals working in the private security industry in Bundoran, Ballyshannon, Donegal Town, Ballybofey and Sligo town. 45 venues were inspected.

- Number of inspected venues which use security: 19
- Number of inspected venues where there is no security: 26
- Number of inspected venues which use a security contractor: 3
- Compliance with Contractor Licence requirements: 3 (100%)
- Compliance with Employee Licence requirements of those employed by contractors: 7 out of 11, (64%)
- Number of inspected venues which use in-house employees: 16
- Compliance with Employee Licence requirements of those employed in- house: 49 out of 78, (63%)
- Overall compliance by employees: 56 out of 89, (63%)
- Over all compliance by contractors: 3 out of 3, (100%)

We will follow up on all the cases where we found non compliance with the licence and we are planning to return to the area to do further inspections. We will be in the North West again in the near future.

### **Update on CIT Licensing**

The Board of the Private Security Authority has set 1st December 2008 as the critical date for CIT licensing. The critical date is the date beyond which it is an offence to provide a cash in transit service without a licence or without having applied for a licence.

This date has been changed from 16th May 2008 to facilitate further clarification with stakeholders on specific licensing requirements. That clarification has now been completed.

## Thanks for your feedback

We welcome feedback about our ezine so please let us know if it is relevant to your needs or if there are other topics we should include. If there are others in your organisation whom you think would like to receive the PSA ezine, you can let us know by emailing [info@psa.gov.ie](mailto:info@psa.gov.ie)

### **The Private Security Authority**

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