

April 2023 - March 2024

Paul Coyle - 25 April 2023

Paul Coyle was fined in relation to two health and safety offences. The court heard how Mr Coyle failed to ensure a gas appliance at rented accommodation in North Belfast was checked by a registered and competent gas safety engineer to ensure it was in a safe condition.

The prosecution arose as a result of an investigation by HSENI into an earlier gas related incident at the Belfast property. During this investigation, a HSENI Inspector identified that a gas safety check had not been completed for a gas boiler. After failing to provide confirmation of a gas safety check being completed, an Improvement Notice was served on the landlord which was not complied with.

Breaches and fines were as follows:

- a) Article 31(1)(g) of the Health and Safety at Work (NI) Order 1978, fine £2,500.
- b) Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations (NI) 2004 Regulation 36(3), fine £500.

Northern Health and Social Care Trust - 27 April 2023

On 25 December 2014, a patient, Mr G McElhone, who was on a restricted diet requiring food to be pre-mashed, choked on a Brussels sprout and died later that evening.

The investigation found that Mr McElhone was given the Brussels sprout in error by a member of staff, at his request on Christmas Day. Although Mr McElhone's dietary restrictions had been identified by way of an earlier assessment, they were not effectively communicated.

The Northern Health and Social Care Trust, as an employer, failed to ensure that reasonably practicable steps were taken to ensure the safety of Mr McElhone.

Breaches and fines for Northern Health and Social Care Trust are as follows:

Article 5 of the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978: fine £10,000.