



Údarás um Fhorfheidhmiú Corparáideach
Corporate Enforcement Authority

PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAN DISQUALIFIED FOR 10 YEARS FROM ACTING AS A COMPANY DIRECTOR

Following an investigation by the Corporate Enforcement Authority (CEA), Mr. Thomas Colton, a former director of Grá agus Solas Unlimited Company, has today received a 10-year disqualification order prohibiting him from acting as a company director for 10 years. In addition, he received a 9 month sentence, fully suspended.

Mr. Colton, with an address in Celbridge, Co. Kildare, had pleaded guilty to the company law offence of acting as a company director while disqualified from doing so, an offence contrary to section 855 of the Companies Act 2014.

In the course of the sentencing hearing before Dublin Circuit Criminal Court at the Criminal Courts of Justice, Parkgate Street, Dublin Judge Sinéad McMullan said, 'there is a strong public interest in the regulation of companies.' Judge McMullan also noted that 'it was the first prosecution of its kind of a person who had contravened an automatic disqualification arising from previous convictions for company law and other offences'.

ENDS/

CORPORATE ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY
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NOTE FOR EDITORS

Corporate Enforcement Authority

The Corporate Enforcement Authority (CEA) is Ireland's company law enforcement agency. The CEA's functions include:

- promoting compliance with company law,
- investigating instances of suspected breaches of company law,
- taking appropriate enforcement action in response to identified breaches of company law,
- supervising the activities of liquidators of insolvent companies, and
- operating a regime of restriction and disqualification in respect of directors of insolvent companies.

The CEA discharges its mandate to promote compliance with company law through a range of activities, including developing and publishing accessible guidance materials and through its outreach activities.

The CEA's enforcement remit is both civil and criminal in nature and, in discharging that mandate, the CEA has at its disposal an extensive suite of statutory powers including:

- the power to require the production of documents, including electronic documents, by companies and relevant third parties,
- powers of search and seizure,
- the power of arrest, i.e., by CEA officers who are seconded members of An Garda Síochána, and
- powers to request the courts to order certain additional investigative measures.

The CEA is a multi-disciplinary agency whose staff complement includes, amongst others, accounting and legal professionals, seconded members of An Garda Síochána, and digital forensics experts.

Acting as a director while disqualified

Section 855 of the Companies Act 2014 provides that it is an offence for a person to act, in relation to any company, in a manner or a capacity which they are prohibited from doing by virtue of being a person who is subject to a disqualification order.