Settlement Agreement between the Central Bank of Ireland and Seamus McGrath t/a Seamus McGrath Financial Services.

The Central Bank of Ireland (the “Central Bank”) has entered into a Settlement Agreement with effect from 17 October 2014 with Seamus McGrath t/a Seamus McGrath Financial Services (the “Firm”), a regulated financial services provider, in relation to a breach of the European Communities (Insurance Mediation) Regulations 2005 (the “2005 Regulations”).

Reprimand and fine
The Central Bank reprimanded the Firm and required it to pay a monetary penalty of €900.

Breach
The breach related to the Firm’s failure to hold satisfactory professional indemnity insurance on a continuous basis in accordance with Regulation 17 of the 2005 Regulations.

Background to the breach
The breach was detected arising out of a themed inspection by the Consumer Protection Directorate of the Central Bank in relation to insurance intermediaries and their professional indemnity insurance cover.

Penalty decision factors
Professional indemnity insurance provides cover for loss suffered by customers as a result of professional negligence in relation to, for example, advice or services provided by a firm.
The Central Bank views non-compliance with the statutory requirement to hold professional indemnity insurance seriously, as professional indemnity insurance is an important protection for customers when dealing with regulated financial service providers.

In deciding the appropriate penalty to impose, the Central Bank has taken the following into account:

- the Firm took appropriate action to rectify the breach once made aware of it and now has satisfactory professional indemnity insurance in place; and
- the fact that the Firm settled at an early stage in the Administrative Sanctions Procedure.

The Central Bank confirms that the matter is now closed.