

Editorial

A milestone for CROSS

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In April we marked the 50th edition of the Confidential Reporting on Structural Safety (CROSS) newsletter (page 24). The first newsletter was published in November 2005 with brief comments on a number of short reports under the headings: Near misses, Collapses, Design issues, Building control, Engineers on site, and Fixings. CROSS had started a short while earlier on a six-month trial basis and we had no idea if the project would take off. Since then it has grown and is now the model for versions in other countries. The core topics have remained remarkably similar, showing that lessons must be continuously re-learned so that safety culture can improve. Many thousands read the newsletters around the world and the number continues to grow.

Structural safety reports now tend to be about more serious issues, although the headings remain remarkably similar, and the comments from our expert panel are longer and more detailed. We continue to be non-judgmental and to give advice that will help others who are faced with similar situations to those reported. The newsletters, SCOSS alerts, and of course the CROSS reports, are on our Structural-Safety database (www.structural-safety.org/search-database/) to provide a unique legacy of structural safety information.

None of this would have happened without the continuous support of our financial sponsors: The Institution of Structural Engineers, The Institution of Civil Engineers, and The Health and Safety Executive. Particular thanks go to the IStructE and its staff who, as lead sponsors, provide essential services in addition to generous funding, as well as to a succession of IStructE Presidents, committees and panels for their encouragement and support.

Nor would anything have happened without the unstinting services of our voluntary SCOSS Committee and CROSS Expert Panel. Some of the personnel have changed over the years, but the levels of commitment and undiminished enthusiasm have remained. Special thanks go to our previous chair, Professor Gordon Masterton, and our current chair, Bill Hewlett, for their leadership and far-sightedness.

The most important component of all is the commitment of those who report their safety concerns or event descriptions to us. Their support in providing the material from which we can learn, and which benefits the public and the construction industry, is without parallel. The categories of their reported concerns or events gathered over the last 13 years are shown in Figure 1. Thank you all very much!

For details of how to report your concerns, and we always need more, see the summary of Newsletter No. 50 on page 24.

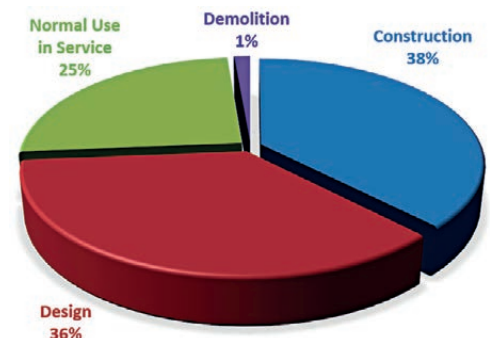


Figure 1
Project stage
for reported
safety concerns
or events

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