**CROSS Stakeholder Communications Pack**

Thank you for agreeing to help us raise awareness of **Collaborative Reporting for Safer Structures**. We have developed this short document to tell you more about what we do.

It also outlines how you can support us through your networks.

You can find CROSS here: [www.cross-safety.org/uk](http://www.cross-safety.org/uk)

If you have any questions, please get in touch. We are happy to help you in any way that we can.

**Summary**

Following the tragedy at Grenfell and subsequent Government review of Building Regulations led by Dame Judith Hackitt (the “Hackitt Review”), a recommendation was made, in the Hackitt Review, that the CROSS scheme (Confidential Reporting on Structural Safety) should be extended and strengthened to cover all engineering safety concerns.

With support funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG), on 29 March CROSS officially expands its service to cover fire safety.

CROSS has also changed its name to be more inclusive and better representative of its new function – **Collaborative Reporting for Safer Structures**. The updated safety reporting system allows professionals and others to confidentially share their experiences to help others.

The updated website provides an independent source of relevant, quality and free safety information to help professionals and others make structures safer.

We want to ensure those working on buildings and other structures, at all levels, are aware of CROSS’s function – and know they can use the service to help make structures safer.

**Background about CROSS**

CROSS was founded in 2005 and is jointly funded by the Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE) and the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE). It is also supported by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

From 2020, CROSS began working with the Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE) to develop and run CROSS for fire safety.

CROSS helps professionals and others to make structures safer.

It does this by:

* Providing a secure, independent and confidential safety reporting system, based on anonymised information, that gives professionals the opportunity to share their experiences to help others
* Maintaining a continuing review of matters affecting safety in the built environment
* Publishing safety information based on the reports we receive and information in the public domain
* Analysing information to help improve safety
* Supporting and informing safety learning at all levels across the built environment, including individuals, organisations, regulators and government
* Helping to build a culture that supports and values the sharing of safety related information and learning from each other’s experiences

**Getting involved**

We would like your assistance in helping your staff, members and wider audiences be more aware about CROSS – and know that they have a safe way of sharing safety issues they come across.

The benefits for your audiences are:

* CROSS will help them with their professional development. It is an independent source of relevant and quality safety information.
* CROSS will allow them to share their own safety experiences to help others. All reports sent to CROSS are confidential. They are anonymised to ensure that no individual, organisation, product, asset, or any other identifiable feature is included in a published report.
* All of the information on the CROSS website is free to access and checked for quality by CROSS.

Here are some ways you can support CROSS:

* Post about CROSS on your social media channels and signpost to the CROSS website. We have provided some templated posts for you below.
* Include reference to CROSS in an internal email or newsletter – encouraging people to visit the [CROSS website](http://www.cross-safety.org/uk). We have provided some suggested News copy below.
* Host a blog by CROSS-UK on your website, or in one of your regular publications. Please contact Emma Beer to discuss.

**Social Media Posts**

We would appreciate any support you can provide on your social channels to help audiences be aware of who we are – and how we can help them.

We have drafted suggested posts below. If you are posting, join the conversation by using [@cross\_safety](https://twitter.com/cross_safety) and the hashtag #SaferStructures

Useful URLs:

[www.cross-safety.org/uk](http://www.cross-safety.org/uk)

CROSS on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/collaborative-reporting-for-safer-structures/> CROSS on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/cross\_safety](http://www.twitter.com/cross_safety)

***Example Tweets:***

Example 1

Want to help create #SaferStructures ? [@cross\_safety](https://twitter.com/cross_safety) provides a secure and confidential safety reporting system to help you achieve this. [www.cross-safety.org/uk](http://www.cross-safety.org/uk)

Example 2

Creating a safer #builtenvironment is everyone’s responsibility. [@cross\_safety](https://twitter.com/cross_safety) allows you to share experiences and help others learn lessons to create #SaferStructures for all

[www.cross-safety.org/uk](http://www.cross-safety.org/uk)

***Example LinkedIn posts:***

Example 1

Ensuring we create #SaferStructures is everyone’s responsibility.

The newly expanded @Collaborative Reporting for Safer Structures empowers industry professionals to confidentially share their experiences of safety across the sector. You can also learn from their library of fire and structural safety information.

Find out more at: [www.cross-safety.org/uk](http://www.cross-safety.org/uk)

Example 2

#DidYouKnow that learning lessons and improving practices counts towards your professional development?

@Collaborative Reporting for Safer Structures is an independent source of relevant and quality safety information to help you grow your knowledge and skills. Their confidential reporting system also allows you to share experiences you have had to help build the library of structural and safety information.

Find out more at: [www.cross-safety.org/uk](http://www.cross-safety.org/uk)

**News summary**

Built environment professionals and others have been empowered to help make structures safer, with the expansion and refresh of a collaborative and confidential safety reporting system.

Collaborative Reporting for Safer Structures (CROSS), which is operated jointly by the Institutions of Civil and Structural Engineers, has expanded its remit to include reporting on fire and structural safety from today.

Following the Grenfell Tower tragedy in 2017, Dame Judith Hackitt undertook an Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety. The final report recommended that CROSS “should be extended and strengthened to cover all engineering safety concerns”.

**Speaking ahead of the launch, Dame Judith Hackitt said:**

*“This is a really important step in changing the culture around buildings and structures to one of openness and transparency. Other industry sectors like airlines have shown how valuable this type of no-blame reporting of concerns can be in identifying potential causes of failure before they happen and ensuring that they are shared with the whole sector.”*

**Alastair Soane, CROSS Structural Safety Expert, said:**

***“****Ensuring structures are safe is a fundamental need and expanding CROSS into fire safety will provide more comprehensive monitoring and learning from across the sector.*

*“We want to promote a culture of change within industry – one that supports and encourages individuals to come together and share responsibility for creating a safer built environment.”*

CROSS, founded in 2005, updated its name, to better reflect the organisation’s values of the sharing of safety related information for future learning and the development of safer structures.

The confidential safety reporting system for buildings and other structures allows professionals and others to share their concerns about, and experiences of, fire and structural safety to help others make structures safer. CROSS publishes safety information, supporting continuous learning at all levels across the built environment, including individuals, organisations and regulators.

The expansion of CROSS functions was supported by funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) as part of its aim to deliver the recommendations made in the Independent Review.

**Additional quotes**

We would welcome any supportive quotes from your organisation. If you do share a statement, please let us know so we can promote these.

In addition to the quotes above, from CROSS and Dame Judith Hackitt, the **Building Safety Minister, Lord Greenhalgh** said of the expansion:

*“The expansion and strengthening of CROSS is a major step towards implementation of the new building safety regime, providing those in industry with the tools and information needed to effectively share valuable lessons learned and promote best practices.”*

*“Complementing other reporting systems, the relaunch of CROSS will play a key role in fostering a more open culture towards reporting and safety across all buildings.”*

**More information**

If you have any questions or would like further information, please get in touch. We are happy to help you in any way that we can.

For queries relating to CROSS, the platform, or the newly expanded safety remit, please contact:

Paul Mc Nulty

Lead Structural Engineer and CROSS Scheme Manager

MEng PhD CEng MICE

Paul.Mcnulty@cross-safety.org

+44 (0)20 7201 9133

[www.cross-safety.org/uk](http://www.cross-safety.org/uk)

For queries relating to media, or the communications content, please contact:

Emma Beer

Media Relations Manager, ICE

Emma.Beer@ice.org.uk

+44 7820 272 823