



Voluntary Occurrence Reporting System (VORS) Explained: How It Supports Safer High-Rise Buildings

Alongside the Building Safety Act's Mandatory Occurrence Reporting (MOR), a Voluntary Occurrence Reporting System (VORS) helps owners and managers capture lower-level issues, near misses and learning opportunities before they escalate. VORS builds a proactive culture, strengthens the Golden Thread and supports safer decision-making for Higher-Risk Buildings (HRBs).

What VORS is for

- Early warning: flag structural or fire-related concerns that do not yet meet the MOR threshold.
- Learning culture: collect insights on emerging safety risks in a non-punitive way.
- Trend spotting: identify patterns (e.g., water ingress leading to corrosion) before significant failures.
- Golden Thread support: add voluntary reports to your digital safety record for better lifecycle context.

Why it matters for structural safety

- Structural defects often develop gradually — cracking, spalling, corrosion or altered load paths.
- Capturing early signs lets engineers target inspections and prevention before risks grow.
- Voluntary entries create a traceable history that supports the Safety Case and BAC submissions.

Confidentiality and protection

- Voluntary reports are confidential and used primarily to improve safety, not to punish those who raise concerns.
- The regulator's aim is learning and prevention; enforcement focuses on issues that should have been reported under MOR but were concealed.
- Internal VORS channels should allow personal details to be kept confidential where appropriate to encourage honest reporting.

How to implement a VORS in your building

- Create a simple reporting channel (online form or email) for residents, caretakers and staff.
- Define what to report: minor cracks, leaks, vibrations, unusual movement, small incidents and near misses.
- Triage and review: have a competent structural engineer periodically assess entries and escalate as needed.
- Update the Golden Thread: log each report, actions taken and outcomes for traceability.
- Communicate back: acknowledge reports and share learning points to build trust.

How Structures Made Easy can help

- Set up practical VORS frameworks aligned with your Safety Case and Golden Thread.
- Provide Chartered Engineer review of voluntary reports and define escalation thresholds to MOR.
- Integrate VORS findings into Structural Safety Reports and Structural Risk Assessments.
- Support PAPs in building a transparent, proactive safety culture across single assets and portfolios.

Want to launch a practical, confidential VORS that strengthens your Safety Case? Contact Structures Made Easy for templates, workflows and Chartered Engineer oversight.