

Variations & Claims

Civil Engineering

A change to the work, or a claim about it.

A variation changes the agreed work; a claim seeks time or money for something that went wrong.

STRONGEST EVIDENCE
Contemporaneous records

WEAKEST POSITION
Reconstructed later

- A variation is instructed before the work starts
- Verbal instructions are confirmed in writing
- Records made at the time carry the weight
- Extension of time and money are separate
- Notice periods in the contract are strict
- Concurrent delay is argued far more than settled

LOOK FOR IT

A well-kept site diary settles more disputes than a well-argued letter.

Educational reference. Not legal or contractual advice. Entitlement depends on the contract in force and on legal advice.