

**Appointment of experts by
Independent Committee in relation to
the fire at Wang Fuk Court in Tai Po**

On 13 February 2026, the Committee appointed Professor Asif Sohail Usmani and Professor Jiang Liming to assist the Committee in discharging its duties regarding the causes and circumstances that led to the fire, and its rapid spread and related issues under the Terms of Reference (1)¹ by giving their expert opinions in a written report and in oral evidence at forthcoming evidential hearings of the Committee. Professor Usmani is Chair Professor of Building Sciences and Fire Safety Engineering of the Department of Building Environment and Energy Engineering of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University; Professor Jiang is Associate Professor and Associate Head of the Department of Building Environment and Energy Engineering of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

¹ The Terms of Reference (1) of the Committee is as follows –

Regarding the fire broken out at Wang Fuk Court in Tai Po, its rapid spread and the resulting casualties and property damage, to examine –

the causes and circumstances that led to the fire; the fire service installations and equipment in the buildings, and the supervision and responsibility for their effective operation; whether the construction safety requirements, standards, supervision and day-to-day maintenance regime for the building maintenance and renovation works were adequate; regarding the building maintenance and renovation works, whether the prevailing list of materials meeting safety standards is comprehensive, and whether the related verification and testing systems are effective; the roles and responsibilities of personnel with supervisory roles across all stages (including government officers, authorised professionals, contractors and others); and the liabilities arising from the aforementioned issues.