

Notice

Independent Committee in relation to the fire at Wang Fuk Court in Tai Po Arrangements for Public Observation for the First Round of Evidential Hearings

The Independent Committee in relation to the fire at Wang Fuk Court in Tai Po (the Committee) will hold the first round of eight evidential hearings from March 19 to April 2, 2026, at the Multi-purpose Hall, 3/F, [City Gallery](#)¹, 3 Edinburgh Place, Central.

The dates for the first round of eight evidential hearings are as follows:

	Date
1.	March 19 (Thursday)
2.	March 20 (Friday)
3.	March 24 (Tuesday)
4.	March 26 (Thursday)
5.	March 30 (Monday)
6.	March 31 (Tuesday)
7.	April 1 (Wednesday)
8.	April 2 (Thursday)

The evidential hearings will be held from 10am to 1pm and from 2.15pm to 4.30pm.

Arrangements for public observation

The evidential hearings will be open for members of the public who have successfully registered to observe. They will be arranged to observe in the main venue or the two transmission areas set up on the ground floor of the City Gallery and in the Lecture Theatre of the [Hong Kong Central Library](#)².

¹ For members of the public who will go to the City Gallery by MTR, they may consider using Exit K from Central Station or Exit B2 from Hong Kong Station, followed by walking for approximately seven minutes.

² For members of the public who will go to the Hong Kong Central Library by MTR, they may consider using Exit B from Tin Hau Station or Exit F1 from Causeway Bay Station, followed by walking for approximately nine minutes.

Venues

Individuals who have **successfully registered** to observe the first round of hearings will receive a "**Confirmation of Successful Registration**" issued by the Secretariat of the Committee via SMS/email **by March 17**. Please refer to the details of the **allocated observation date(s) and venue(s)** in the "Confirmation of Successful Registration". No parking spaces are provided at the venues.

Registration at the City Gallery and the Hong Kong Central Library will start at 9am on the day of each hearing. Successful registrants are required to present their original Hong Kong Identity Card and the SMS/email "Confirmation of Successful Registration" for identity verification by staff and admission arrangement.

House Rules for evidential hearings

The House Rules for the evidential hearings is provided at **Annex 1**. As stated in the House Rules, without the permission of the Committee, photo taking, video recording, audio recording, or live streaming in the evidential hearing venue and all transmission areas, or publishing of such recording (including its reproductions) is prohibited.

Arrangements for inclement weather

Arrangements for inclement weather are provided at **Annex 2**.

Secretariat of Independent Committee
in relation to the fire at Wang Fuk Court in Tai Po
March 2026

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Evidential Hearing

House Rules¹

All persons observing the Evidential Hearing should abide by these house rules.

1. Admission to Evidential Hearing Venue

- 1.1 Any person wishing to enter the Evidential Hearing Venue is subject to security checks. Such security checks are carried out on the person and any belongings, bags or briefcases, etc..
- 1.2 No one entering or remaining at the Evidential Hearing Venue shall possess any items prohibited by law, or any items that may pose a danger to the people or property at the Evidential Hearing Venue. Examples of such items include:
 - (i) any arms or objects generally not allowed to be carried under the law, including but not limited to offensive weapons as defined in the Public Order Ordinance (Cap. 245);
 - (ii) any substance (whether in liquid, solid, or gas form), material or other items that may, or is suspected to, pose a danger to the people or property at the Evidential Hearing Venue; or
 - (iii) items such as knives, letter openers, scissors, screwdrivers, animals (except for guide dogs) or any item that in the opinion of the security officers or other authorised personnel may be used as a weapon.
- 1.3 The Independent Committee, security officers or other authorised personnel may request any person entering or remaining at the Evidential Hearing Venue to dispose of prohibited items set out in Rule 1.2 above, and/or store any item in a designated place. Uncollected items will be handled by the Independent Committee without further notice.
- 1.4 Where deemed appropriate, the Independent Committee, security officers or other authorised personnel may:
 - (i) refuse entry to the Evidential Hearing Venue;

¹ Evidential Hearing Venue includes main hearing venue and all transmission areas.

- (ii) admit entry to the Evidential Hearing Venue; or
- (iii) direct any person to leave the Evidential Hearing Venue.

2. Maintaining Order in General

- 2.1 All persons entering or remaining at the Evidential Hearing Venue shall maintain good order and not exhibit any conduct that may disrupt the good order and normal operations (such as the display of items, signs and/or banners).
- 2.2 The Independent Committee may give directions from time to time to maintain order or ensure security in the Evidential Hearing Venue. All persons in the Venue must at all times observe such directions.
- 2.3 Any person causing any danger, damage, disruption or disorder may be directed to leave the Evidential Hearing Venue and/or refused re-entry. As the circumstances may require, the Independent Committee may enlist assistance from the Police to maintain or restore the order in the Evidential Hearing Venue.
- 2.4 Irrespective of whether the Evidential Hearing is in progress, photo taking, video recording, audio recording, or live streaming at the Evidential Hearing Venue, or publishing of such recording (including its reproduction) is prohibited.
- 2.5 To avoid disrupting the conduct of the Evidential Hearing, all mobile communication and alert devices must be switched to silent mode when the hearing is in progress. Mobile phones or any mobile communication devices must not be used to make or receive calls.
- 2.6 Eating and drinking are not allowed inside the Evidential Hearing Venue.

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Arrangements for Inclement Weather

(1) When Black Rainstorm Warning Signal is issued

- If the Black Rainstorm Warning Signal is issued at any time during the day up to 4.30pm (except when a hearing is in progress), the hearing will be rescheduled, subject to the arrangements in Part (2) below regarding the cancellation of the Black Rainstorm Warning Signal.
- If the Black Rainstorm Warning Signal is issued while a hearing is in progress (i.e. from 10am to 1pm and from 2.15pm to 4.30pm), the hearing will either continue or be suspended immediately, depending on the actual situation of the hearing on that day.

(2) When Tropical Cyclone Signal No. 8 or above, "Extreme Conditions"¹ announcement or Black Rainstorm Warning Signal is lowered or cancelled

- If the relevant signal is lowered or cancelled at or before 6am, the hearing will proceed as scheduled at 10am on that day. Registration will commence at 9am.
- If the relevant signal is lowered or cancelled during the period from after 6am to 11am, the morning hearing will be rescheduled and the afternoon hearing will proceed as scheduled at 2.15pm. Registration will commence at 1.15pm.
- If the relevant signal is lowered or cancelled after 11am, the hearing on that

¹ According to the Labour Department's Code of Practice in Times of Adverse Weather and "Extreme Conditions", in the case where a Super Typhoon or other natural disasters of a substantial scale seriously affects the working public to resume work or bring safety concerns for a prolonged period, such as large-scale power outage, extensive fallen windows from high-rises leading to dangerous streetscape, major landslides, extensive flooding, widespread serious obstruction of public transport services, etc., if situation warrants, the HKSAR Government will decide whether it is necessary to make a territory-wide "extreme conditions" announcement.

day will be rescheduled.

- If Tropical Cyclone Signal No. 8 or above and/or "Extreme Conditions" is issued/announced while a hearing is in progress, the hearing will be suspended immediately.

The Committee will issue announcements on the relevant arrangements through the Information Services Department. Persons who attend to observe the hearings should pay attention to the latest news from radio, television, the [Committee's website](#) and the [Government's press release website](#).