

**Independent Committee in relation to the
Fire at Wang Fuk Court in Tai Po**

WITNESS STATEMENT OF

CHAI NGA-MAN

I, CHAI Nga-man, Chief Inspector of Police, Hong Kong Police Force, of the Police Headquarters, No. 1 Arsenal Street, Wan Chai, Hong Kong do say as follows:-

1. I am the Chief Inspector of Police, Complaints Against Police Office Headquarters, Complaints and Internal Investigations Branch, Hong Kong Police Force (“**Force**”) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. I have joined the Force for 15 years since about 2010 and was promoted to the present rank on 24 November 2017. My main responsibilities include supervising the efficient operation of Complaints Against Police Office (“**CAPO**”) Reporting Centre, collaborating with Policy Wings in respect of Force policy matters arising from the Independent Police Complaints Council’s recommendation; and in relation to the Wang Fuk Court Fire Incident (“**Incident**”), serving as a member of the Casualty Enquiry Unit (“**CEU**”) Headquarters Team, to assist the officer-in-command and second-in-command of the CEU in coordinating all CEU teams, collating data and information, and arranging logistics matters for the operation.

2. I make this Witness Statement pursuant to the request of the Independent Committee (“**Committee**”) in relation to the fire at Wang Fuk Court in Tai Po as set out in a letter from Messrs. Lo & Lo, Solicitors for the Committee, to the Department of Justice dated 19 January 2026 (“**19 January Letter**”) in which specific questions were raised in paragraphs 1 to 19 (“**Question**”). Save where otherwise appears, the facts deposed hereto are within my personal knowledge or are derived from office files and records and sources to which I have access and which are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

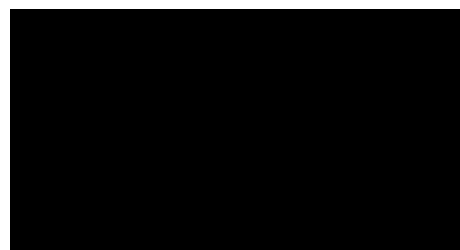
3. In this Witness Statement, I shall address Question 19, c. of the 19 January Letter and explain the details regarding the enquiries received by the Force in relation to missing persons and their outcome throughout the Incident. Other Questions which are within the Force's purview will be addressed in the witness statements of other relevant officers of the Force to the Committee.
4. Pursuant to the declaration of the Incident as a Major Incident ("MI"), the CEU was instructed to be mobilised. CEU Headquarters Team and I arrived at the Major Incident Investigation and Disaster Support System ("MIIDSS") Suite, 6/F, Arsenal House East Wing, Police Headquarters, No. 1 Arsenal Street, Wan Chai for CEU venue set-up at 1750 hours on 26 November 2025.
5. At 1832 hours on the same day, the CEU hotline (Telephone Number: 1878999) was activated for receiving public enquiries in connection with the Incident.
6. Since 26 November 2025, active public enquiries, processing of information, matching and investigation were conducted by officers of the CEU so as to ascertain the status of the missing persons. The outcome of the enquiries was duly recorded in the MIIDSS data management computer system that assisted in, amongst others, the management of victim identification and casualty enquiries during MIs.
7. Pursuant to the IC's request at Question 19, c. in the 19 January Letter, the following details of the enquiries received by the CEU regarding missing persons and their outcome (as of 23 January 2026) are prepared in tabular form, and attached hereto as **Annex 1**:-
 - (1) **the nature of each enquiry** is recorded in the columns of the "Missing Person Number", "Chinese Name" and "English Name", which indicate that each enquiry pertains to a missing person report and specify the name of the

missing person. As a single missing person may be reported by multiple enquirers, and each enquirer may have made more than one call to the CEU, the column of “**Number of Enquirer**” shows the total number of enquirer(s) who had made enquiries in respect of a single missing person. For the clarity of the tabular form, only **the date and time of the first enquiry** made by each enquirer to the CEU are recorded in the column of “**Date/Time of First Enquiry**”;

- (2) **the manner by which the enquiry was received** is recorded in the column of “**Reporting Channel**”;
- (3) **the manner by which enquiry was handled** is recorded in the column of “**Follow-up action**”; and
- (4) **the outcome of each enquiry** is recorded in the column of “**Outcome of Enquiry**”.

8. Once the status of a missing person was ascertained, the outcome of enquiry would be recorded. However, **the time at which each enquiry was resolved** is not available as it was not required to be recorded by the CEU officers when they were instructed to handle enquiries regarding missing persons.
9. I confirm that the contents of this Witness Statement are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Dated this 20 day of January 2026.



CHAI Nga-man