

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

**WITNESS STATEMENT OF
LEUNG YEE-MEI APRIL**

I, LEUNG Yee-mei April, Chief Inspector of Police, Hong Kong Police Force, of the New Territories North Regional Headquarters, No.6 On Po Lane, Tai Po, New Territories, Hong Kong do say as follows:-

1. I am the Chief Inspector of Police, Regional Technology and Financial Crime Unit 1 of Crime New Territories North Region ("**Unit**"), 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 29 October 2018. My main responsibilities include the supervision of the investigation of technology and financial crime cases of the New Territories North Region, and the handling of any other duties as directed by the senior officers of the New Territories North Region.

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 Commissioner of Police dated 29 December 2025 ("**29 December Letter**") in which 10 categories ("**Category/Categories**") of documents were requested. 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 Category 9 of the 29 December Letter and the progress of enquiries with the injured persons and families of the deceased persons.

4. A serious fire broke out in Wang Fuk Court, Tai Po on 26 November 2025, at seven blocks, resulting in 79 injuries and over 160 deaths (as of 5 January 2026). My Unit is responsible for conducting enquiries with the injured persons starting from 5 December 2025, and initial enquiries with families of the deceased persons starting from 30 December 2025.

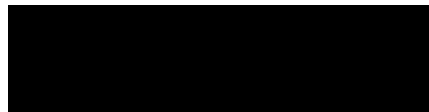
5. Based on the list of the 79 injured persons provided by the Hospital Authority, the roles of them are as follows:-
 - a) 56 residents of Wang Fuk Court, including 31 of Wang Cheong House, 11 of Wang Tai House, ten of Wang Tao House, two of Wang Shing House, one of Wang Yan House and one of Wang Chi House;
 - b) Three visitors at Wang Fuk Court, including two of Wang Tai House and one of Wang Cheong House;
 - c) Three construction workers at Wang Fuk Court, including two outer wall construction workers at Wang Cheong House and one private decorator at Wang Tai House;
 - d) Three residents of the adjacent estate (Kwong Fuk Estate);
 - e) 12 firemen;
 - f) One ambulanceman; and
 - g) One news reporter.

6. Out of the 79 injured persons, **67** of them were reached with statements or questionnaires obtained, including all firemen and the ambulanceman (as of 5 January 2026). Interviews with **two** of the 79 persons were not conducted – one is an infant of three months old at the time of the incident and the other is a news reporter who felt sick outside Wang Fuk Court. The remaining ten injured persons are all residents of Wang Fuk Court or in the vicinity. **Three** of them strongly refused to police enquiries. For **six** injured persons, two are still admitted in hospital as of the last update on 3 January 2026 and four were only discharged from hospital lately, but still felt unwell for enquiries. **One** could not be reached throughout after repeated attempts.

7. It is crucial for police to interview the injured persons in order to uncover the full details of the fire case, especially evidence provided by these injured persons who survived the incident. Yet, for these few injured persons whose statements or questionnaires are still pending, most of them are over the age of 60. Upon being contacted by the police, they or their family members clearly indicated that they need more time to recover and cannot specify when an interview can take place. Continuous effort will be made to conduct the necessary enquiry whenever appropriate.
8. On the other hand, my Unit also conducted initial enquiries with families of the deceased to investigate the circumstances surrounding their deaths and to gather potential evidence. It is important to note that these families have recently received confirmation of their beloved ones' deaths in the fire following positive forensic identification.
9. Between 30 December 2025 and 4 January 2026, my Unit successfully contacted 20 groups of family members involving 22 deceased (aged between 43-97, five males and 17 females). However, all of them expressed that they were not ready to provide a statement in the coming weeks, as they were engaged with the funeral and burial arrangements (15 groups), emotional unpreparedness (three groups), hospitalization (one group) or work commitments (one group). Amongst them, only one family group was willing to schedule a date for the police to take a statement in late January 2026. The other families preferred to provide statement a few weeks or a few months later.
10. Contacts had been made with 20 groups of deceased families. Given that most expressed a need for additional time to process the after-death arrangements and to cope with their grief, it is assessed that other families will require similar time to settle before providing statements, especially for those families which have recently identified their beloved ones, and those with deceased family member having incomplete or almost completely burnt bodies. As such, to avoid further traumatizing these families, I instructed my Unit to suspend calls to the remaining families and to resume the task only in a few weeks' time.

11. I confirm that the contents of this Witness Statement are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Dated this 9th day of January 2026.



LEUNG Yee-mei April