

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

2nd Witness Statement of FOK Chun-ming

I, FOK Chun-ming, of Corporate Strategy Command, Fire Services Department, Fire Services Headquarters Building, 1 Hong Chong Road, Tsim Sha Tsui East, do say as follows:-

1. I am the same FOK Chun-ming who gave a witness statement dated 20 February 2026 (“**my 1st Witness Statement**”) to the Independent Committee (“**Committee**”) in relation to the fire at Wang Fuk Court in Tai Po.
2. I make this 2nd Witness Statement pursuant to Request 5 of the 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 FSD dated 16 February 2026 (“**16 February Letter**”) in which specific questions were raised in paragraphs 1 to 16 (“**Questions**”). 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 are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. Save as otherwise specified, this Witness Statement adopts the same abbreviations and nomenclature as in the 16 February Letter.
3. This Witness Statement addresses Question 16(c) of the 16 February Letter. Other Questions which are within the FSD’s purview will be addressed in the witness statements of other relevant officers of the FSD to the Committee. I understand that FSD has indexed all relevant documents in its possession in Lists of Documents produced on various dates (collectively “**LoD**”) and a 5th List of Documents (“**5th LoD**”) to be produced, a draft of which I have read. In this

Witness Statement, I shall refer to these documents by their designation in the LoD (for example, [FSD/A(I)/1] means Item 1 in Part A(I) of the LoD, [FSD(2)/A(I)/1] means Item 1 in Part A(I) of the 2nd LoD, and so on) without annexing them hereto for the avoidance of duplication.

4. Question 16(c) relates to complaints or requests for assistance received by the FSD in relation to Wang Fuk Court other than the email identified in Questions 16(a) and 16(b) and those already mentioned in the Witness Statement of KEUNG Sai-ming (“**AD KEUNG’s Statement**”) and Witness Statement of YUNG Kam-hung, Michael (“**AD YUNG’s Statement**”).

Part A – Role of Corporate Strategy Command and Classification of Complaint/Enquiry Cases

5. Corporate Strategy Command (“**CS Command**”) is one of the ten commands/branches of the FSD and provides planning and management support to the Director of Fire Services as well as policy and logistical support to other Commands. It also oversees issues relating to procurement and logistics support, information technology management, welfare, as well as information and publicity matters. It is headed by Assistant Director (Corporate Strategy) and deputised by Deputy Chief Fire Officer (Corporate Strategy), which is my present post. Under CS Command, there are a total of seven divisions and units, including the Outsourcing and Complaints Section (“**O & C Section**”), which is headed by the Chief Executive Officer (Corporate Strategy) and supported by one Senior Executive Officer (Outsourcing & Complaints), one Station Officer (Complaints and Awards) and two Executive Officers (Outsourcing and Complaints). This unit is responsible for coordinating the handling of complaints and enquiries (including those raised or referred

by the public, other Bureaux / Departments, the Ombudsman, Chief Executive's Office, Legislative Council and other external bodies).

6. Generally speaking, the complaints and enquiries received by the FSD may involve departmental & policy issues, staff matters and fire safety issues. Irrespective of the title or subject allegation, the receiving unit, be it the O&C Section or various FSD's units including local fire stations, will first review the content of the complaints/enquiries to determine whether the issues fall within the FSD's purview and the appropriate handling unit(s) to follow up as necessary.
7. **Fire hazard or fire safety related complaints that fall within the FSD's purview** are handled under the departmental general procedures. In essence, suspected fire hazards are assessed and allocated a priority having regard to the nature and seriousness of the risk. High priority cases are confined to hazards posing an imminent danger to life (for example, locked escape routes), for which the FSD pledges to conduct inspections within 24 hours and, where necessary, deploy local fire station crews or designated task forces to take follow-up actions. Other breaches which do not pose an immediate catastrophic threat (for example, defective smoke stop doors) are treated as normal priority cases and will give rise to inspections by the specified fire protection units within 10 working days. [FSD/G(I)/5]
8. On the other hand, the FSD may receive other correspondences which do not constitute as **complaints** and are handled as **enquiries**, such as (i) general fire safety enquiries; (ii) proposals seeking the FSD's comments or views; (iii) matters or allegations outside the FSD's purview but are routed to the FSD; and (iv) matters mistakenly seen or understood by the general public as fire hazards. Such

enquiries are dealt with, either by verbal or written reply, and, where appropriate, by advising the enquirer the appropriate Government Department(s) to handle the relevant enquiry, without the need of any physical inspection.

Part B - Enquiry Cases relating to Wang Fuk Court

9. In light of the arrangements described in paras. 6 to 8 above, the cases summarised in Part C of AD KEUNG's Statement are categorised as complaints and cases giving rise to inspections or site visits¹ and were thus provided in response to Question 14.4.1 of Request 1 in relation to inspections carried out by the FSD at Wang Fuk Court since the commencement of renovation in July 2024. In response to Question 16(c) of Request 5, the FSD has identified eight other cases relating to Wang Fuk Court (hereinafter "**Cases 1-8**"); copies of the emails are produced at [FSD(5)/G(III)/2]. These eight cases are classified as enquiries. In gist, they were not fire hazard complaints that would give rise to inspections or site visits. Accordingly, they were handled by way of telephone advice or email correspondence without any inspection by FSD officers.

[FSD(5)/G(III)/2]

10. Eight cases are now provided to ensure that the Committee have a complete record of both inspections / visits and enquiries relating to Wang Fuk Court within its renovation period and the period prior to that. Similar to the case of inspections / visits conducted by the FSD at Wang Fuk Court referred to in para. 7.4 of AD KEUNG's Statement, since the FSD has received a number of enquiries in relation to Wang Fuk Court throughout the years prior to the commencement of renovation in July 2024, the FSD has limited the scope of the search and, for the sake of consistency, confined the search to January 2021 to November 2025 like for the

¹ See paragraph 7.1 of AD KEUNG's Statement for details

records of inspections / visits.

Part C – Details of Cases 1, 2, 4 and 8

11. Among the eight cases, Cases 3, 5, 6 and 7 were addressed directly to the New Territories North Command by the enquirers, and thus were handled by its members therein. Details of those cases will be covered in the witness statements of Divisional Officer HOR Herman (then Station Commander of Tai Po Fire Station) and Senior Station Officer NG Wing-kwong (Watch Commander of Tai Po Fire Station). The following paragraphs focus on the remaining four cases, namely Cases 1, 2, 4 and 8, which were received by the departmental general enquiry email account and handled by the uniformed member of O&C Section.

Case 1 – Complaint regarding a proposal of Solar Panel Installation

[FSD(5)/G(III)/2]

pp. 1 to 14

12. On 12 July 2022, the FSD received a referral from 1823 concerning a complaint about the proposal of installation of solar panels on the roof of Wang Fuk Court without the consent of all owners. The complaint was originally submitted to 1823 on 16 June 2022 and replied to by the Tai Po District Office of the Home Affairs Department.
13. As stated in paragraphs 10 and 11 of AD YUNG’s Statement, the Buildings Department (“**BD**”) is responsible for regulating fire safety in buildings under the Buildings Ordinance (Cap. 123), covering the planning, design, construction and related works of buildings to ensure that passive fire safety provisions meet statutory standards; for projects developed by the Hong Kong Housing Authority, such as Wang Fuk Court, statutory compliance is overseen by the Independent Checking Unit under the Housing Bureau (“**ICU**”) under BD’s delegated authority.

14. The substance of the complaint in the subject case concerned building works (installation of solar panels) on the roof, which relates to building construction and structural matters. As these are matters that fall outside the purview of the FSD, the FSD replied to 1823 on the same date indicating that the FSD would follow up on any obstruction to the means of escape of the subject building, but would defer to the BD for aspects of the case relating to minor works on the roof. A copy of the reply is produced at [FSD(5)/G(III)/2] p.1.

Case 2 – General Fire Safety Enquiry

[FSD(5)/G(III)/2]
pp. 15 to 17

15. On 2 November 2023, the FSD received an email titled “Re: Tai Po Wang Fuk Court” from an enquirer concerning the fire safety of Wang Fuk Court. The enquirer raised several questions regarding the estate’s fire safety equipment / designs and the need / prospects of any fire safety upgrades at that time or in the near future.
16. The FSD replied by email on 16 November 2023, providing general information on the applicable fire safety regulatory framework and Wang Fuk Court’s position within that framework. In particular, the FSD replied that there was no scheduled roll-out date for enforcement action from a fire safety perspective and that the FSD had not been approached by representatives of Wang Fuk Court in relation to any fire safety enhancement projects. A copy of the email is produced at [FSD(5)/G(III)/2] p.15.

Case 4 – Complaint regarding Construction Safety

[FSD(5)/G(III)/2]
pp. 24 to 30

17. On 22 July 2024, the FSD received a referral from the online Occupational Safety and Health (“OSH”) complaint platform regarding a complaint submitted on 20 July 2024

concerning construction workers found smoking while working at Wang Fuk Court.

18. Construction site safety is regulated by the Labour Department (“LD”) under relevant construction safety legislation. As stated in paragraph 13 of AD YUNG’s Statement, Regulation 53 of the Construction Sites (Safety) Regulations (Cap. 59I) empowers the LD to prohibit smoking and the use of naked lights in construction sites where flammable materials are used, and contractors are the responsible parties for enforcing the prohibition.
19. In light of the above, the FSD replied to the LD on the same date that the subject case did not fall under the jurisdiction of the FSD. A copy of the email is produced at [FSD(5)/G(III)/2] p.24.

Case 8 – Enquiry regarding Workers Smoking during Renovation Works

[FSD(5)/G(III)/2]
pp. 41 to 42

20. On 12 November 2025, the FSD received an email from a resident of Wang Cheong House, Wang Fuk Court, concerning renovation works at the estate, which was addressed to the LD with copies to the Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office of the Department of Health, Buildings Department and the FSD. The resident reported that, despite having previously raised the issue with the management office and the contractor, he had again observed workers smoking while carrying out repair works on the external scaffolding and was concerned about the risk of scaffold fires. He sought guidance on how he should handle the situation.
21. The FSD replied by email on 14 November 2025, explaining that “site safety” and “smoking activities” at construction

sites do not fall within the FSD's regulatory remit. The FSD did not make a separate referral as relevant departments were already copied in the enquiry email. A copy of the email is produced at [FSD(5)/G(III)/2] p.41.

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

Dated this 6th day of March 2026.



FOK Chun-ming
Deputy Chief Fire Officer
(Corporate Strategy)
Fire Services Department