

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Witness Statement of TUNG Wing-kei**

I, TUNG Wing-kei, of Breathing Apparatus Unit, LG/F, Wong Tai Sin Ambulance Depot, 5 Ying Fung Lane, Wong Tai Sin, Kowloon, do say as follows:-

1. I am the same TUNG Wing-kei who gave a witness statement dated 17 March 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Witness Statement to address specific inquiries raised during the evidential hearing held on 13 April 2026, concerning the technical configuration, adequacy and potential improvements of the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (“**SCBA**”) currently used by the Fire Services Department (“**FSD**”). Apart from the considerations in the procurement and replacement of SCBA, this Witness Statement also sets out other breathing apparatus (“**BA**”) equipment used by the FSD but were not used in the incident. 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.
3. This Witness Statement is divided into two parts:-
  - **Part A** specifies the considerations in technical configuration and operational performance in the procurement of SCBA;
  - **Part B** presents the technical assessment of other types of BA equipment which were not used in the incident

**Part A: Considerations in technical configuration and operational performance in the procurement of SCBA**

4. In general, an air cylinder that offers a longer air supply duration is larger and heavier, which may affect the wearer's endurance. When procuring SCBA, the FSD needs to strike a balance between technical configuration and operational performance.
5. The air cylinders the FSD used in the Wang Fuk Court incident were MSA 8-litre cylinders (7.3 kg each), which have been in service with the FSD since 2014. Their theoretical working duration is 33 minutes, and the weight of a full BA set is 13.5 kg.
6. Prior to their introduction, the FSD had used 6.7-litre ABB Plast composite air cylinders (7.5 kg each) since 2000, with a theoretical working duration of 28 minutes. In 2010, a study was conducted to evaluate the compressed air capacity of existing cylinders and ensure their adequacy for fireground use. This study compared the carrying load and practical suitability of two new cylinder types against the cylinders used since 2000.
  - (i) MSA 9-litre air cylinder (7.8 kg) (Theoretical working duration: 38 minutes); and
  - (ii) MSA 8-litre air cylinder (7.3 kg) (Theoretical working duration: 33 minutes).
7. Despite the fact that the 9-litre cylinder offers longer working duration, it was deemed unsatisfactory due to its larger diameter and increased length. These dimensions will shift the centre of gravity further outward when the cylinder is mounted on the breathing apparatus set, adversely affecting the wearer's endurance during donning and use.
8. The 8-litre cylinder was thus identified as the better option.

Although slightly lighter than the cylinder previously in use, it offers a 19.4% increase in air storage capacity. This significant increase was found to substantially enhance deployment flexibility and firefighter safety when performing firefighting, search, and rescue duties in smoke-logged and hazardous environments. Consequently, the MSA 8-litre cylinders were officially placed into service in May 2014, replacing the older 6.7-litre ABB Plast composite cylinders.

9. As mentioned in para. 34 in AD(NTN) TANG Wing-wah's 2<sup>nd</sup> Witness Statement, the FSD completed a SCBA replacement exercise and the new Interspiro SCBA was placed into service to replace the MSA SCBA in January 2026. After reviewing the latest available technologies and considering the operational needs in Hong Kong, the current system retains the 8-litre air cylinders. These cylinders are slightly lighter than the previous version (i.e. 7.1 kg), with a total set weight of 14.5 kg. In addition, the new SCBA is equipped with TeamTalk function to enhance communication within the same BA Team. Furthermore, the Emergency Breathing Safety System enables the sharing of air between BA Team members, thereby enhancing the effectiveness and safety of emergency rescue operation.

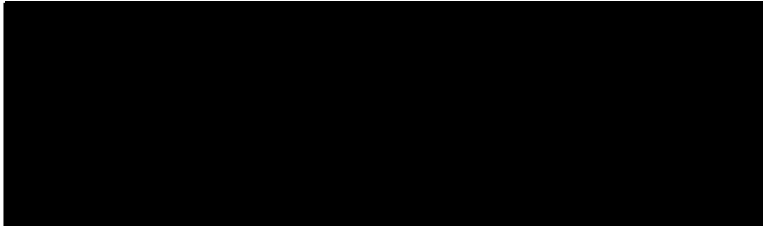
**Part B: Technical assessment of other types of BA equipment which were not used in the incident**

10. The FSD possesses other BA equipment with longer working durations, but these were not used in the Wang Fuk Court incident as they offered no material or sustainable improvement in overall operational effectiveness.
11. The Twin-Cylinder Breathing Apparatus ("TCBA") is a dual-cylinder configuration of the MSA SCBA intended for tunnel incidents. Although it offers a theoretical working duration of

56 minutes compared to the 33 minutes of a standard SCBA, it carries a weight of 20.5 kg which, together with its bulky size, would have aggravated physical exertion during high-rise building firefighting operations and accelerated fatigue.

12. The Closed-Circuit Breathing Apparatus (“CCBA”) recycles exhaled gas and is designed for extended use in environments like tunnels. It has a theoretical working duration of three hours, and is 2 kg heavier than the standard MSA SCBA. However, the CCBA cannot be exposed to naked flames or high levels of radiant heat, which will shorten its effective air supply.
13. The Airliner is a portable compressed air supply system that provides a mobile source of breathing air. Although it offers extended operational duration, its air hose system is highly susceptible to snagging, entanglement, or obstruction when navigating corners and staircases. Such impediments hinder both the advance and withdrawal of firefighters. Moreover, its effective range is limited by its 90-meter hose length, making it impractical for operations on upper floors.
14. I confirm that the contents of this Witness Statement are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026.



TUNG Wing-kei  
Divisional Officer  
(Breathing Apparatus)  
Fire Services Department