

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Witness Statement of YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy**

I, YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy, Director of Fire Services, 9th Floor, Fire Services Headquarters Building, 1 Hong Chong Road, Tsim Sha Tsui East, Kowloon, do say as follows:-

1. I am the same YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy who gave a witness statement dated 16 January 2026 (“**my 1<sup>st</sup> 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 pursuant to Request 4 of the Committee as set out in a letter from Messrs. Lo & Lo, Solicitors for the Committee, to the Fire Services Department (“**FSD**”) dated 4 February 2026 (“**4 February Letter**”) in which specific questions were raised in paragraphs 1 to 10 and 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 4 February Letter.
3. This Witness Statement addresses Questions 16a and 16b of the 4 February Letter. Other Questions which are within FSD’s purview will be addressed in the witness statements of other relevant officers of FSD to the Committee.

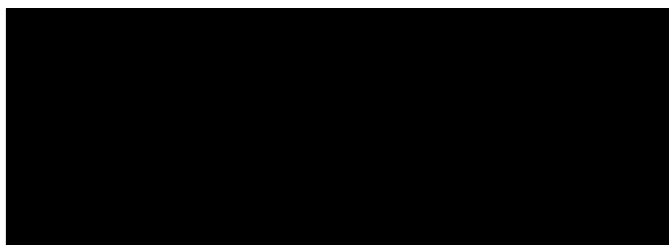
4. This Witness Statement addresses **Question 16a and 16b** regarding (i) the aspects of the FSD's current operational strategies which the FSD considers may usefully be improved as a result of its experience in the Wang Fuk Court fire; and (ii) whether there was anything the FSD could realistically have done in its response to the fire and whether there was any equipment which, if available to the FSD, could have more effectively contained the fire and/or reduced the scale of the resulting casualties and property damage.
  
5. First, it is important to recognise the truly unprecedented nature of the Wang Fuk Court fire. It involved the full-scale involvement of seven high-rise residential blocks in close succession. Each building was extensively covered with renovation-related and combustible materials along their external façades and re-entrants, completely compromising the buildings' compartmentation, fire-resisting construction requirements and fire service installations, such that once the fire reached a certain magnitude, it became self-sustaining. The immense and inter-connected fire load present across numerous units and within the building envelop, coupled with temperature sufficient to continuously ignite adjacent combustible materials, presented exceptional operational challenges. My understanding is that there is, at present, **no obviously superior or fundamentally different operational approach** that fire brigades elsewhere could realistically have adopted to contain such a conflagration effectively under the circumstances.
  
6. This line of thinking underscores that for a fire of this scale and configuration, the strategic focus should shift from how to extinguish the fully developed blaze to how to prevent its occurrence or limit its development at the very initial stage. I

must emphasise that preliminary observations to date indicate that the underlying causes and contributing factors of the Wang Fuk Court fire **span across multiple domains beyond frontline firefighting operations**. I consider it essential to **strengthen collaboration and coordination among all regulatory and works departments** with responsibilities for major building renovation projects, so that the lessons learnt from this tragedy can be addressed across the entire regulatory framework.

7. That said, the FSD is fully committed to learning from this fire incident and to pursuing continuous improvement. To this end, the Department has established a “**Mega-scale Fire Incidents Strategic Steering Committee**” (hereinafter referred to as “**The Steering Committee**”), led by the Deputy Director (Operations), to conduct a comprehensive review of existing firefighting and rescue strategies, protocols and equipment for incidents of mega-scale and nature. The Steering Committee will undertake a thorough examination of current operational strategies, drawing on the experience and good practices of Chinese Mainland and overseas counterparts, with a view to enhancing rapid response, command and deployment, firefighting and rescue tactics and evacuation effectiveness under large-scale and complex fireground conditions.
8. The FSD’s response to the Wang Fuk Court fire was, in my view, undertaken to the best of its ability in the face of an unprecedented and extremely challenging incident. Through deeper inter-departmental efforts to enhance fire prevention and the regulation of renovation works, the FSD is determined to contribute actively to preventing the recurrence of similar tragedies in the future.

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

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026.



YEUNG Yan-kin, Andy  
Director of Fire Services  
Fire Services Department