

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

**3RD WITNESS STATEMENT OF
WONG CHEUNG-HING**

I, WONG Cheung-hing, 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 same WONG Cheung-hing who made my 1st Witness Statement and my 2nd Witness Statement dated 30 January 2026 ("**2nd Witness Statement**") pursuant to the request of the Committee. Save where otherwise appears, I shall adopt the abbreviations and nomenclature used in my 1st Witness Statement and my 2nd Witness Statement.
2. I make this Witness Statement pursuant to the request of the Committee as set out in two letters from Messrs. Lo & Lo, Solicitors for the Committee, to the Department of Justice respectively dated 16 February 2026 ("**16 February Letter**"), in which specific questions were raised in paragraphs 1 to 16, and dated 2 March 2026 ("**2 March Letter**"). 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 Questions 10 to 12 of the 16 February Letter and Question 15 of the 2 March Letter and explain the increase in the reported death toll at the early stage of the investigation. 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. A summary of fatalities (as at 13 January 2026) was attached to my 1st Witness

Statement as Annex 1. In my 2nd Witness Statement, I attached as Annex 1 the Updated List of Fatalities (as at 22 January 2026).

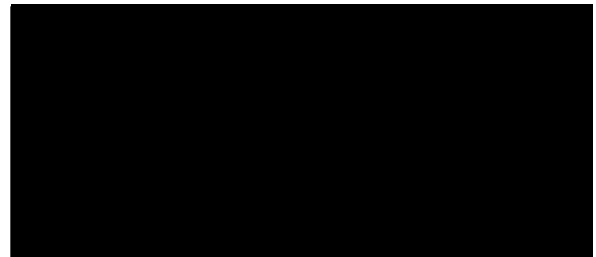
5. As of 20 December 2025, the death toll was publicly reported as 161, including 156 identified deceased and 5 unidentified deceased pending forensic examination result. As of 3 January 2026, the death toll was 165, including 164 identified deceased and one unidentified deceased pending forensic examination result. The increase in the number of identified deceased from 156 to 164 was due to the identification of 8 individuals in the Updated List of Fatalities (identified by serial number (“S/N”) in the Updated List of Fatalities), i.e. S/N 153, S/N 158 to S/N 164.
6. As mentioned at paragraph 10 of my 1st Witness Statement, the final death toll was 168 identified deceased, with no unidentified human remains. The increase in the number of identified deceased from 164 to the final death toll of 168 (with all the deceased identified) was due to the identification of 4 individuals, i.e. S/N 165 to S/N 168.
7. The reason for the change / increase in the number of fatalities was due to the progress of identification of the deceased. Once a deceased was formally identified by pathologist / anthropologist / odontologist / chemist, the Police would be informed on the same date. In this regard, the means and date of the identification of the fatalities concerned are listed as follows:-
 - (1) S/N 153 was identified by DNA on 24 December 2025 and forensic odontology on 2 January 2026;
 - (2) S/N 158 was identified by forensic odontology on 29 December 2025;
 - (3) S/N 159 was identified by forensic odontology on 29 December 2025;
 - (4) S/N 160 was identified by forensic odontology on 29 December 2025;
 - (5) S/N 161 was identified by forensic odontology on 29 December 2025 and DNA on 2 January 2026;
 - (6) S/N 162 was identified by forensic odontology on 29 December 2025;
 - (7) S/N 163 was identified by forensic odontology on 2 January 2026;
 - (8) S/N 164 was identified by forensic odontology on 2 January 2026;

- (9) S/N 165 was identified by forensic odontology on 5 January 2026 and DNA on 6 January 2026;
 - (10) S/N 166 was identified by forensic odontology on 6 January 2026;
 - (11) S/N 167 was identified by circumstantial evidence on 8 January 2026; and
 - (12) S/N 168 was identified by forensic odontology on 12 January 2026.
8. As mentioned at paragraph 6 of my 2nd Witness Statement, in the Updated List of Fatalities, information (including the time of death, time of discovery and precise location and position in which the individuals were discovered) regarding most of the deceased bodies discovered by the FSD was pending input from the FSD, and the cause of death of some of the fatalities was pending confirmation by the pathologists' reports, whereas the information for deceased bodies discovered by the Police's Disaster Victim Identification Unit on or after 30 November 2025 had been included therein. Since then, more information has been made available from the FSD and pathologists.
9. As requested by Question 10 of the 16 February Letter, the Police and FSD were requested to consolidate the relevant tables/lists and provide a composite list of fatalities in Excel and PDF form. The Police and FSD were also requested to resolve the discrepancies in the relevant tables/lists as identified in Questions 11 and 12 of the 16 February Letter and provide documentation in support.
10. As requested by Question 15 of the 2 March Letter, the Police and FSD were requested to resolve further discrepancies as identified in the said composite list and mark all changes from the list previously supplied in red. Written explanations were requested for those discrepancies that could not be resolved between the Police and FSD.
11. In response to the said requests, a Composite List of Fatalities ("**Composite List of Fatalities**") was prepared which, as I was given to understand, was submitted by the FSD to the Committee on 9 March 2026. Significant efforts have been made to double check the Police's information and the source from

which each piece of information is derived with a view to resolving, as far as possible, the discrepancies between the FSD's and Police's records. I attach hereto as **Annex 1** the same Composite List of Fatalities (as of 3 March 2026).

12. In the Composite List of Fatalities, four columns containing input from the FSD were newly added, namely "FSD S/N", "Approximate Time of Discovery (FSD's record)", "Certified Time of Death / Time Confirming Obviously Dead (FSD's record)" and "FSD's clarification (with source if appropriate)". Insofar as those remaining discrepancies in the Composite List of Fatalities are concerned, such as discrepancies on the time of discovery and certified time of death of those deceased who were discovered by both the FSD and Police but removed by the Police, the Police's clarifications and justifications have been stated under the column titled "Police's clarification (with source if appropriate)", referencing the supporting documentation.
13. I confirm the Police's information as stated in the Composite List of Fatalities to be true and accurate.
14. I confirm that the contents of this Witness Statement are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Dated this 16th day of March 2026.



WONG Cheung-hing