

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

3rd Witness Statement of WONG Sze-lut, Sunny

I, WONG Sze-lut, Sunny, of Operational Support and Professional Development Command, Fire Services Department, Fire Services Headquarters Building, 1 Hong Chong Road, Tsim Sha Tsui East, Kowloon do say as follows:-

1. I am the same WONG Sze-lut, Sunny who gave a witness statement dated 16 January 2026 (“**my 1st Witness Statement**”) and 29 January 2026 (“**my 2nd Witness Statement**”) to the Independent Committee (“**Committee**”) in relation to the fire at Wang Fuk Court in Tai Po.
2. I make this 3rd Witness Statement pursuant to Request 4 of the Committee as set out in a letter from Messrs. Lo & Lo, Solicitors for the Committee 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 10a and 10e of the 4 February Letter which are within FSD’s purview. Other Questions which are within 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 two List of Documents produced on 19 January 2026 (“LoD”) and 2 February 2026 (“2nd LoD”). 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, and [FSD(2)/A(I)/1] means Item 1 in Part A(I) of the 2nd LoD) without annexing them hereto for the avoidance of duplication.

4. This Witness Statement addresses **Question 10a** by confirming that the Support Centre is separate from the 999 call system and **Question 10e** by explaining whether it is advisable for occupants of a high-rise building to escape to the rooftop of a building to await rescue.

4.1 ***Question 10a: Confirm whether the Support Centre is separate from the 999 call system operated by the Police***

4.1.1 Paragraph 28 of the Witness Statement of TANG Wing-wah states that immediately after the activation of the Director’s Command Post, a Support Centre with 18 dedicated hotlines was set up to assist the FSCC in handling assistance calls. It is confirmed that the Support Centre is separate from the 999 call system operated by the Police. As mentioned in the said paragraph 28, the Support Centre was operated by uniformed members drawn from various units within the FSD. Its function was to assist the FSCC in implementing the Callback Mechanism as mentioned in paragraph 5.1.6 of my 1st Witness Statement. Upon termination of the three-way call involving the caller, FSCC and PCCC as mentioned in paragraph 4.2.3 of my 2nd Witness Statement, the Support Centre would call the caller back periodically to obtain updates on their situation and provide ongoing safety advice. This arrangement enables the FSCC to maintain focus on handling incoming emergency

calls while ensuring that callers who have reported their need for assistance continue to receive attention and guidance as the incident unfolds.

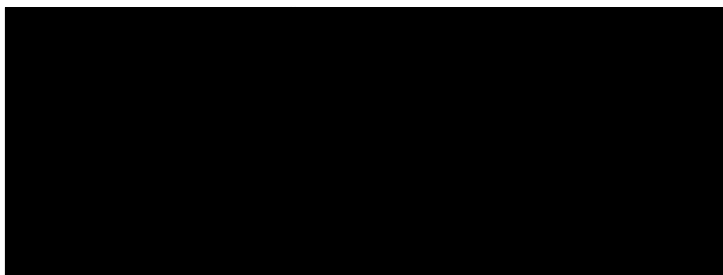
4.2 ***Question 10e: Explain whether it was advisable for occupants of a high-rise building to escape to the rooftop of a building to await rescue***

4.2.1 As mentioned in paragraph 4.3 of my 2nd Witness Statement, safety advice provided to callers is given on a case-by-case [FSD(2)/G(I)/3] basis, tailored to the specific details they provide. As a guiding principle, callers are advised to avoid smoke, as inhalation can be fatal. If the corridor is clear of smoke, callers will be advised to evacuate quickly to a place of safety away from the affected building using the nearest smoke-free staircase; they are also reminded to take their keys with them, so that they can return to their own unit if necessary and conditions permit. The overriding aim of our advice is to ensure safe egress from the fire scene. We do not specify particular evacuation routes or designate refuge locations within the building as fire and smoke conditions can change rapidly and vary significantly throughout different sections of the building.

4.2.2 As to whether the rooftop of a building, in particular, was an advisable place for occupants of a high-rise building to seek refuge and await rescue considering the fatalities and injuries found on the rooftops of buildings in the Wang Fuk Court fire, it is noted that while the fire at Wang Fuk Court resulted in fatalities on rooftops, some casualties were successfully rescued from rooftops. These contrasting outcomes underscore that whether rooftop evacuation is advisable depends on the prevailing situation, and there is no hard and fast rule.

- 4.2.3 Although the rooftop is likely to be open to air, the safety of occupants awaiting rescue at rooftop is not guaranteed, as they remain vulnerable to fire and smoke on the rooftop or during their ascent. During their evacuation to the rooftop, they may encounter various potential hazards as staircases could be filled with hazardous gases, and occupants might need to traverse floors affected by heat and smoke. Even upon reaching the rooftop, occupants may in some cases continue to be exposed to fire effects, particularly if the fire spreads vertically or if smoke accumulates at the roof level.
- 4.2.4 Although it may appear that rooftop occupants who are at a location highest from the ground would be the last ones to be rescued, whether this is the case depends on the available information from the callers and prevailing situation. While standard firefighting operations require crews to advance floor-by-floor from the ground under conditions of intense heat and dense smoke, Search and Rescue (“SAR”) Team members at times accept heightened risks to expedite lifesaving. This includes advancing through burning floors to reach upper levels and the rooftop, or delaying the use of Breathing Apparatus while moving through staircases filled with hazardous gases to save crucial time. The sequencing of rescue therefore depends on operational circumstances and the professional judgment of SAR leaders and responding crews.
5. I confirm that the contents of this Witness Statement are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Dated this 12th day of February 2026.



WONG Sze-lut, Sunny
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(Operational Support and
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