

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

**Witness Statement of LAM Ho-chun**

I, LAM Ho-chun, of New Territories East Division, New Territories North Command, Fire Services Department, 26-28 Yuen Wo Road, Shatin, N.T., do say as follows:-

1. I am the Deputy Divisional Commander (New Territories East) of the Fire Services Department (“**FSD**”) of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. I have joined the FSD for about 20 years since 2005 and was promoted to the present rank on 31 December 2023. My main responsibility is to assist Divisional Commander (New Territories East) in managing operations and administration of the New Territories East Division.
  
2. I make this Witness Statement pursuant to Request 4 of the Independent Committee (“**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 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 7(b), 8, 9(a), 9(c) and 9(d) of the 4 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 the FSD has indexed all relevant documents in its possession in Lists of Documents produced on various dates (collectively "**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, [FSD(2)/A(I)/1] means Item 1 in Part A(I) of the 2<sup>nd</sup> LoD, and so on) without annexing them hereto for the avoidance of duplication.
  
4. This Witness Statement describes (i) the circumstances in which communications with Senior Fireman (Posthumous) 18469 HO Wai-ho ("**SFn HO**") became lost and the search and rescue operations which were conducted to locate SFn HO in answer to **Question 7(b)**; and (ii) the decisions made by me as the Incident Commander after the fire was upgraded to No. 3 Alarm in answer to **Questions 8, 9(a), 9(c) and 9(d)**. The response should be read together with the timeline and account of the No. 3 Alarm Fire provided in paragraphs 18 to 29 of the Witness Statement of TANG Wing-wah.

[Questions 8 and 9(a)]

5. As stated in paragraph 19 of the Witness Statement of TANG Wing-wah, I was the second of the two Incident Commanders of the No. 3 Alarm Fire (from 1502 hours to 1533 hours). At 1508 hours on 26.11.2025, I received a telephone call from the Fire Services Communications Centre, which instructed me to attend a No.3 Alarm Fire at Wang Cheong House, Wang Fuk Court.

6. At about 1529 hours, I arrived at Tai Po Baptist Public School inside Wang Fuk Court and took on the role of Incident Commander of the No.3 Alarm Fire as per the established principle stipulated in General Orders 41. At the material time, I noted that fire had scattered on the middle and upper portions of the scaffoldings installed along the external walls of the east façade of Wang Sun House and southeast façades of Wang Kin House and Wang Shing House; whilst fire had spread along the scaffoldings on the southwest façade of Wang Cheong House and east façade of Wang Tai House. Burning bamboo sticks and debris continuously fell from height, piling up on the open ground.

[FSD/G(I)/3]  
pp. 22-26  
(A.S. No.211, 22-26)

[Question 7(b)]

7. At about 1532 hours, I met Assistant Divisional Officer CHEUNG Lok-hang (“**ADO CHEUNG**”) at the roundabout inside Wang Fuk Court and he reported that a Mayday message was received by Senior Station Officer HUI Kin-on (“**SStnO HUI**”) at about 1522 hours via radiotelephone (“**R/T**”). Nevertheless, the Mayday caller’s identity and location could not be recognised in the message. In order to clarify the Mayday caller’s identity and location, SStnO HUI promptly responded via R/T but with no response from the caller. SStnO HUI formed 5 Emergency Response Teams (“**ERTs**”) in attempt to conduct Mayday rescue operations on 30/F of Wang Cheong House, but the ERTs could not enter Wang Cheong House as its front entrance and rear exit were blocked by burning bamboo sticks and debris. As such, crew members were tackling the fire in order to establish a clear access.

## [Question 9(c)]

8. At 1534 hours, in view of the rapid fire spread at Wang Cheong House and Wang Tai House, and the fire development at Wang Shing House, Wang Kin House and Wang Sun House, I decided that additional Fire Services resources were required for firefighting, search and rescue operations, so I upgraded the fire incident to No.4 Alarm. At the same time, I tasked ADO CHEUNG to continue firefighting operations at Wang Kin House and Wang Sun House; ADO CHOW Tsz-ho to assist me in handling Mayday rescue operation; SStnO HUI to tackle fire at Wang Shing House, Wang Cheong House and Wang Tai House and to gain clearer access for the ERTs into Wang Cheong House.

## [Question 9(a) continued]

9. At about 1545 hours, a massive collapse of ignited scaffolding sent a torrent of burning bamboo sticks and debris cascading onto the open ground between Wang Cheong House and Wang Tai House. Recognising the escalating hazard, I made an immediate call to pull back all crew members from the impact zone. In about 30 seconds, crew members resumed firefighting operations with 3 jets in use at the open ground between Wang Cheong House and Wang Tai House.

## [Question 7(b) continued]

10. At about 1555 hours, whilst I was conducting assessment of hazards at the roundabout inside Wang Fuk Court near northeast façade of Wang Tai House, I noted that several crew members endeavoured to clear out debris at the open ground in front of the front entrance at the east side of Wang Tai House. I immediately proceeded to their location and noted SFn HO, unconscious, lying on a quantity of burning bamboo sticks and debris.

11. At about 1600 hours, the crew members removed SFn HO from the burning bamboo sticks and debris and endeavoured to convey SFn HO to Ambulance personnel on spot.
12. At about 1605 hours, I reported to the Incident Commander of No.4 Alarm Fire, Deputy Chief Fire Officer WONG King-man, result of the Mayday rescue operations and situation of the incident.

[Question 9(d)]

13. A layout plan showing the allocation and placement of all the water jets and turntable ladders deployed during the period of the No. 3 Alarm Fire when I was the Incident Commander is produced below. The deployment of water jets at the ground was dynamic.



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

Dated this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026.



---

LAM Ho-chun  
Deputy Divisional Commander  
(New Territories East)  
Fire Services Department