

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

Witness Statement of NG Wing-kwong

I, NG Wing-kwong, of Tai Po Fire Station (“**TPFStn**”), New Territories North Command, Fire Services Department, 3 Ting Kok Road, Tai Po, N.T., do say as follows:-

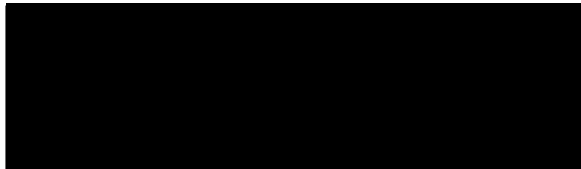
1. I am the Senior Station Officer (“**SStnO**”) of the Fire Services Department (“**FSD**”) of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. I have joined the FSD for about 10 years since 2016 and was promoted to the present rank on 22 February 2020. My main responsibility is to act as Watch Commander to lead one of the Watches in TPFStn (i.e. one of the teams of firefighters on shift).
2. I make this Witness Statement pursuant to Request 5 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 16 February 2026 (“**16 February Letter**”) in which specific questions were raised in paragraphs 1 to 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 16 February Letter.
3. This Witness Statement addresses Questions 16(a) and 16(b) of the 16 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 FSD has indexed all relevant documents in its possession in Lists of Documents produced on various dates (collectively “**LoD**”) and a 5th List of Documents (“**5th LoD**”) to be produced, a draft of which I have read. 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 2nd LoD, and so on) without annexing them hereto for the avoidance of duplication.

4. Questions 16(a) and 16(b) relate to an email dated 4 October 2024 titled “Request from Committee of Wang Fuk Court IOC” (“**4 October Email**”) sent by the then Vice Chairman of the Management Committee of Wang Fuk Court. The email was addressed to Tai Po East Fire Station and was forwarded to TPFStn for follow up on 6 October 2024.
5. I was on duty at TPFStn as Watch Commander from 0900 hours on 6 October 2024 to 0900 hours on 7 October 2024. On 6 October 2024, as per the instruction of Assistant Divisional Officer (“**ADO**”) FOK Wing-ming (the then Station Commander of TPFStn), I was tasked to deal with the 4 October Email insofar as possible issues under the jurisdiction of the FSD were concerned. [FSD(5)/G(III)/2]
pp. 35 -36
6. I established a tele-conversation with the enquirer at about 1431 hours on 6 October 2024 to discuss the content of the 4 October Email. At the outset of the conversation, he informed me that most of the windows at Wang Fuk Court were masked by polystyrene window covers which were used as a protective means to prevent the windows from being scratched during external wall maintenance. Given the flammability of the polystyrene window covers and the smoking hazard posed by the workers on-site, he expressed concerns about the risk and asked for advice on ways of handling the issue including if a fire drill could be arranged.
7. Since the FSD does not have regulations, codes of practice or guidelines governing renovation of buildings, the fixing of polystyrene boards on building windows during external wall maintenance was an issue beyond the ambit of the FSD. In the circumstances, I advised the enquirer that he could seek professional advice from the Buildings Department regarding the presence of suspected unauthorized modification and building works, and from the Labour Department regarding all issues relevant to the safety of scaffolding works. Upon receiving my advice, the enquirer raised no further queries and requests.

8. In response to the smoking issue, I advised the enquirer that the Incorporated Owners of Wang Fuk Court should direct the Property Management Office to urge the responsible contractor(s) to enforce strict construction site management, including careful handling of hot work procedures, such as clearing of combustible articles before commencement of hot work nearby, and in particular prohibition of smoking and prevention of careless disposal of smoking materials.
9. Finally, in response to the request for a fire drill, since details of the fire drill/talk were not yet available, the enquirer was advised to fill out a fire drill and/or fire talk application form and to seek assistance from the Property Management Office to make the submission.
10. No further issue was raised by the enquirer before the end of our dialogue. I also told him that further communication would be welcome.
11. I reported my follow-up actions to ADO FOK Wing-ming through an email on the same date. A copy of this email is produced at [FSD(5)/G(III)/2] p.35. After that, no further instruction was received by me.
12. I confirm that the contents of this Witness Statement are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Dated this 5th day of March 2026.



NG Wing-kwong
Senior Station Officer
Fire Services Department