The only thing I would add is that having watched the first hearing no one appeared to grasp the nettle. I appreciate there are plenty of laws i.e. Breach of the Peace, AGB, GBH etc. but my point was that if there was a specific offence with a statutory sentence then it may well deter would be assailants from attacking all NHS employees and volunteers. The Glasgow Evening Times during the summer has reported on a fairly large number of court cases at Glasgow alone where people charged with assault were virtually let off with community work sentences, whilst those employees of the NHS affected were undergoing months of worry and constant blood tests to ensure they were not infected by the scum who attacked them. I would be grateful if one of your team would relay the above comments to the chair of the committee.

Also, I wish to advise you of a tweet which I got tonight from the Huffington Post regarding A private members Bill which is going for its second reading on Friday next. The bill has been given government support and is expected to become law. The Bill "Assaults on Emergency Workers (Offences) Bill" is to get ministerial backing from UK parliament. In Scotland 1 in 3 staff is subjected to alcoholic related violence or abuse or being spat at, this bill will include all staff.