1. **Rebuild**: post-fire and even post demolition, there will be some Mack left onsite, and there has been a huge amount of fixtures and fittings taken offsite, to return; and a partial rebuilding of the Library sitting in a workshop ready to go back in and a huge resource – possibly unrivalled for any building in Scotland – of digital information and professional expertise that can be drawn-upon to rebuild. Yes, it will be substantially a facsimile, but a substantial facsimile of the Mack – a building of transcendent beauty and importance – and a key point about the Mack was that its beauty was not just as a historical artefact but as a living, *useful* building, whose tough beauty continued to nurture generation upon generation of students and should be available to those that follow. And as for “building it elsewhere”, the beauty of the building is inexorably woven to its site: how it crowns the steep Garnethill with such graceful massivity. Mackintosh would have put it nowhere else.

2. **Finance/Insurance**: the work was, as is standard on building contracts for perils such as fire, and as the GSA have confirmed, properly insured. The Fundraising after the 2014 fire was for betterment, to add to the insurance pay-out for the first loss: to improve building services, environmental performance, I.T., fire safety measures (highly-ironic, of course) and the like – the sort of work that a thorough refurbishment of the pre-fire building would have encompassed. The pay-out now should cover the rebuilding of what was planned and what was lost.

3. **Lessons to be Learnt – process**: the GSA is the most painful of a number of recent fires in prominent historic buildings, often during building work. While Kier, the Contractor, has noted comprehensive fire measures it seems likely that the investigation will find comprehensive fault in their composition and execution. It would seem necessary to consider better statutory oversight of construction work, with a Construction Stage Fire Risk Assessment required, for existing/historic buildings over a certain size, as part of the Building Warrant or, more likely, the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM). Such an assessment would look at issues such as:

   - fire compartmentalisation during construction;
   - materials storage;
   - trained personnel;
   - inspection regimes and their verification;
   - others as necessary.

It is noted that the current investigation will be looking at such issues and direction from this Committee might help with recommendations.

4. **Lessons to be Learnt – materials**: it has been reported that the GSA reconstruction involved the fitting of PIR insulation, possibly as a cost-cut. This material was used in the Grenfell refurbishment and, while it is thought not to be a
contributor to the inferno it is a plastic: is non-breathable and gives off highly-toxic hydrogen cyanide when it burns. Its use in the refurbishment is regrettable: in my view it should not be allowed near historic buildings, or homes… or any building, really. With regard to 3. and 4. it is noted that Building Standards are consulting on issues arising from the Grenfell disaster. The Culture, Tourism Europe and External Relations Committee may wish to note and comment.