

Comments on Transcript of Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee meeting dated 25th October 2018.

1) Transcript section

9.15am

***The Convener:** An average person looking at the situation would see it as extremely unfortunate that in both fires you were just about to put in a fire sprinkler system.*

***David Page:** I cannot disagree with that.*

***The Convener:** It is a repetition of the previous mistake.*

We would like to comment on the above exchange as follows.

The Convenor's statement that "It is a repetition of the previous mistake" was made early on in the session and before we had explained that in both circumstances, mist suppression systems were in the process of installation. The installation of suppression systems in 2013/2014 at the Mackintosh building was pioneering for an important historic building in Scotland and remains so to this day. Indeed, it is hard to list other examples of historic buildings of similar importance which currently have suppression systems installed.

2) Transcript

9.30am

***David Paton:** There is a standard joint code of practice, to which the contractor referred earlier. That sets out the standards for work on fire prevention on construction projects and it is effectively the industry **byelaw** for the work that should be done on site to protect against fire. That was written into the tender documents and the contractor took it into account in preparing his fire emergency plan.*

The word used was "bible" rather than byelaw.

3) Transcript

10.15am

***The Convener:** We have already heard that the fire safety plan that has to be put in place and the statutory regulations are not adequate for any historic building. We are asking what extra measures you put in place, given the precious nature of the building. The fire safety regulations are about evacuating people, not preserving precious assets.*

***Brian McQuade:** The joint code of practice is the minimum standard that is used for the insurance world.*

The Convener: Yes, it is the minimum standard, but we are talking about a unique cultural treasure.

We would like to provide further clarification on the above exchange as follows.

We had previously stated that the contractor was required to carry out a Fire Risk Assessment of the existing building before producing a Site Fire Safety Plan which would establish appropriate Emergency Procedures and Escape Strategy for the building.

These fire precautions were required to be in compliance with the requirements of "Fire Prevention on Construction Sites – the Joint Code of Practice on the Protection from Fire of Construction Sites and Buildings Undergoing Renovation". This Code of Practice is specifically aimed at "Buildings Undergoing Renovation" and is prepared with the support of the Association of British Insurers, the Chief Fire Officers Association, The London Fire Brigade and the Contractors Legal Group and its preliminary section "Objective of the Code" describes the code as representing "best practice".