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Subject: News Bulletin: Statement on the passing of CEO Ian Edwards, chief executive of The Celtic Collection and ICC Wales

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News for the Tourism Industry in Wales

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Statement on the passing of CEO Ian Edwards, chief executive of The Celtic Collection and ICC Wales

It is with deep sadness that we pay tribute to Ian Edwards, chief executive of The Celtic Collection and ICC Wales.

Rebecca Evans MS, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning paid tribute to Ian:

“Ilan was an inspiring leader and a visionary ambassador of the Welsh tourism industry. He made an immense contribution to the tourism and hospitality industry and was an instrumental member of our Visitor Economy Forum and was the Welsh Government representative on the VisitBritain Board.

"His passion for Wales helped drive Welsh tourism and hospitality and his contributions during the Covid pandemic significantly influenced the recovery of the industry.

I extend my deepest condolences to his family, friends and all those who worked with him.”

Ilan’s unwavering global ambition for Wales was instrumental in bringing iconic global events to Wales with the Celtic Manor Resort hosting the prestigious 2010 Ryder Cup and the 2014 NATO Summit.

Under Ilan’s leadership the Celtic Manor Resort has grown to be one of Europe’s leading golf, leisure, business and high-profile events destinations. Ilan’s vision also drove the recent expansion of The Celtic Collection, along with the delivery of ICC Wales as a world-class venue attracting international conferences and events to Wales and contributing wider benefits to the Welsh economy.

Jason Thomas, Director of Tourism, Marketing, Events and Creative also paid tribute:

“Ilan was a relentless advocate for the visitor economy in Wales, which he loved so much. He was the ultimate professional and always the person I first thought of when the phrase “key stakeholder” was mentioned. Because that’s who he was: he took a stake in things. He devoted time and energy and he made a difference. He made things happen. Anyone in business knows they’ll be judged on whether they leave an organisation in better shape than when they inherited it. Well Ilan leaves our whole country in better shape because of what he achieved. My thoughts are with his family, friends and colleagues.”

As a widely respected inspirational business leader Ilan will leave a lasting legacy on tourism and hospitality in the UK and beyond. Welsh Government extends our deepest condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Ilan. He will be deeply missed.

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