Wales representative to VisitBritain Board selected

Ian Edwards is CEO of both the Celtic Manor Resort in Newport, south east Wales, which hosted the 2010 Ryder Cup and staged the 2014 NATO Summit; and the new International Conference Centre for Wales which is to open early next year and based within the resort site. Ian was named Hotelier of the Year at the 2015 European Hospitality Awards; and was a member of the Welsh Government's former Ministerial Tourism Advisory Board.

The Minister said,

> "I'm delighted to appoint Ian to represent Wales on the VisitBritain Board, with Ian's wealth of knowledge of the tourism industry in Wales and internationally, I'm confident that he will be an asset to the Board, will help in contributing to the overall development of tourism in Wales and help define, develop and scrutinise VisitBritain's plans and achievements. Never has it been more important to bridge Wales culturally, digitally and physically to the world – and our work with VisitBritain is an important way of building relationships in a bid to grow our share of international visits to Wales."

Ian Edwards, said:

> "I am delighted to be appointed as Wales' representative on the VisitBritain Board at this very exciting time for Wales. I look forward to bringing my 30 years of experience in the hospitality and events industries to this important role, as well as my personal passion to promote Wales and Britain as an outstanding destination for visitors. I also look forward to working with the team at Visit Wales more closely through the Tourism Management Board."

As well as representing Wales at VisitBritain Board meetings Ian will also attend the Welsh Government's Tourism and Marketing Department's internal Tourism Management Board meetings.