

5<sup>th</sup> February 2019

To who it may concern,

I have known \_\_\_\_\_ for over 20 years, working closely with her on numerous charity events.

She has organised large and small charity events in a very professional manner. Each event I have attended has been well co-ordinated and run in a very proficient style.

I have been aware that Bess works very well with external suppliers and stakeholders.

At the events I have attended, her catering and management procedures are excellent. Bess is especially careful with noise control and making sure that her guests are considerate of the environment.

All guests are well briefed on safety procedures and what facilities are available.

Bess cares very much about the wellbeing of any guests with special needs.

Bess is also someone who cares very much about helping charities within the community.

Working closely with Gwent Police for 8 years as an independent member I have no hesitation in recommending Bess as an excellent organiser for events at Woodbank.

If you require any further information, please feel free to contact me on my mobile:

With kindest regards



**Tony Curtis MBE**  
Executive Chairman and Founder

**From:** "Woodcock, James" <JamesWoodcock@monmouthshire.gov.uk>

**Date:** 10 January 2018 at 10:07:00 AM

**To:**

**Subject:** RE: Woodbank

It was good to speak to you again recently and to discuss your plans to establish Woodbank as a venue for weddings, celebrations and events.

I note that you have been offering high quality accommodation at the property for at least five years and recognise that expanding your offer will enable you to realise more of its full potential.

I recall that we first met at the property in 2016 for initial discussions and it clearly offers a unique location for occasions of this kind.

It is also ideally placed to benefit from the new International Convention Centre, Wales, and I understand that they have already indicated that they would like to include Woodbank as one of their partners.

I wish you well with your plans.

Kind Regards,

James

James Woodcock  
Business Insights Manager  
Monmouthshire Business & Enterprise  
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Reply Reply All Forward

**From:** <[Louise.Garrett@gov.wales](mailto:Louise.Garrett@gov.wales)>  
**Date:** 20 January 2019 10:00:00 GMT  
**To:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Subject:** Ref: D206475 - Visit Wales gradina - Woodbank  
Good evening \_\_\_\_\_

Further to my recent visit on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019, I can confirm that Woodbank has, as per previous visits, maintained a most worthy Visit Wales 5 Star Self Catering rating.

On behalf of Visit Wales, I would like to thank you for your continued and ongoing participation in our grading scheme, over the last 5 years, since our first meeting in 2014.

Woodbank is an exceptional property and a real asset to Monmouthshire, the wider region and to the Visit Wales grading scheme.

As discussed during my recent grading assessment, Visit Wales, Business Wales and Superfast Business Wales, to name just three, can offer tourism and business advice to help you develop and evolve your business moving forward. I recall you also mentioned you were a member of the Wye Valley/Forest of Dean Tourism Association too.

I also sent an email after the visit to our Visit Wales Product News and PR Teams to advise them that you had comfortably maintained your 5 Star rating again this year and to remind them to consider you in future marketing activities and leisure, tourism, event and corporate orientated events and so on that they might be involved in, all of which are of course aimed at supporting the local economy and/or encouraging tourism to Wales and its specific marketing regions, including Monmouthshire.

We look forward to working with you moving forward into 2019 and beyond!

Louise

**Louise Garrett**

Swyddog Gweithredol Datblygu Ansawdd / Quality Development Executive

Sicrwydd Ansawdd / Quality Assurance Department

Croeso Cymru / Visit Wales

Adran yr Economi a'r Seilwaith / Department of Economy and Infrastructure

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The person dealing with this matter is  
Kevin Ford  
Tel/Ffon: 01633 644842  
Email: [kevinford@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:kevinford@monmouthshire.gov.uk)  
Date/Dyddiad: 17 January 2019

To whom it may concern,

Woodbank has been working with us at Monmouthshire Tourism and Visit Wales for the last 5 years. Bess Asprou is always willing to reply to requests for help and information and has kept in close touch with us throughout this period. Woodbank has achieved (and kept) a Visit Wales 5 Star grading and appears on the Visit Monmouthshire and Visit Wales websites. Woodbank is a great contributor to tourism and accommodation in Monmouthshire and the greater South East Wales region.

Yours sincerely,

Kevin Ford  
Digital Tourism Marketing Officer  
Monmouthshire County Council





The new and exciting ICC Wales is being built in the grounds of Celtic Manor Resort in Newport. When it opens in the summer of 2019, it will be a world class facility and something Wales will be extremely proud of.



The building itself can accommodate 5000 delegates at one time and will offer over 2000 car parking spaces with 700 having direct access to the atrium. The design also includes an abundance of networking and breakout areas, a 4000 square metre pillar free hall, 1500 seater split level auditorium and have access straight into the surrounding woodland areas. The slate and sustainable building will even have on site catering for delegates.

We are looking to attract large events from Associations Nationally and Internationally into Wales which will not only benefit the Welsh economy but also help with further research and development into key sectors here. The economic impact for this Convention Centre will be in the region of £70 million only a few years after opening. We have already secured a number of high profile events for ICC Wales from 2019 to 2023.

For events that run for consecutive nights, organisers will need to offer delegates accommodation within the local area – we estimate an additional 100,000 bedroom nights per year into local hotels, bed & breakfasts and serviced apartments, therefore it is important to be aware of the impact this will have to the already growing bed stock in South East Wales and imperative that property developers continue to consider Newport for their newest investments. We are happy to be working with Wood Bank House, Monmouthshire which is just 10 mins from the ICC Wales site.

To find out more, visit our website [www.iccwales.com](http://www.iccwales.com)

**Cerys Davey**

ICC Wales Liaison Officer

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