

Announcement to members

The Management Committee have made the decision to cancel Guildex 2020.

The most recent remote meeting with the Telford International Centre (TIC) management was held on Thursday 25th June. This meeting was attended by the Guild Chairman, the Secretary and the Events Chairman. At the meeting the most recent rules issued by the Government were discussed. The focus was that meetings of more than 30 people are not being allowed and that Exhibition Halls and Conference Centres remain closed by law. The TIC continues to believe that changes will soon be made that would allow our exhibition to go ahead. They wished to continue with a wait and see approach. Our answer was that this approach is not acceptable to the Management Committee nor to our membership. We stated that with the extremely serious Covid-19 problems still facing the country an indoor meeting for in excess of 1000 people was not going to happen in the near future. They claimed surprise to hear that we were not prepared to delay our decision further despite being advised of this at our last meeting. The meeting was adjourned so that their representatives could discuss this with their Group CEO and legal team.

We would add that the two representatives from TIC were polite and pleasant.

The health and safety of all who might have attended Guildex, in any capacity, has been the most important factor in all of the MC's deliberations. A comprehensive risk assessment was prepared by the Events Team and was updated following our previous meeting with the TIC on the 18th June. This risk assessment formed the basis of discussions with TIC.

The financial aspect, although important, has been of secondary concern.

The present financial situation is that we have paid a total of £13,328.34 to TIC (all paid before Kettering) with a balance of £9,809.58 outstanding. There are no other financial commitments attached to Guildex. No money has been spent on hotel or other bookings.

We must now wait for further negotiations with the TIC which will address all aspects of the termination of the contract.

Management Committee

26th June 2020