



NHS Parliamentary Awards 2022

An information pack for
health and care organisations

Organised by:



Media partner:



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Please note

This pack is intended to support any individual, team or organisation who wishes to request an MP submit a nomination for the NHS Parliamentary Awards.

This includes communication leads/teams in NHS provider organisations and clinical commissioning groups, as well as local authorities, charities, voluntary groups, social enterprises or any other organisations or individuals who provide or support the delivery of health and care in England.

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Introduction

The NHS is one of our nation's proudest achievements and for over 70 years dedicated NHS staff have been there for us all. Whether they are doctors, pharmacists and nurses on the frontline, world leading scientists, hard-working cleaners, much needed clerical staff, caring porters, or our amazing volunteers, without the NHS staff there wouldn't be an NHS.

Coronavirus has been a global health emergency on a scale not seen for a century. The NHS, which first opened its doors at Trafford Park Hospital on 5th July 1948, responded swiftly and flexibly to deal with the pandemic, with staff – present, past, and future – having had to come together as never before, supported by volunteers and the public.

The NHS Parliamentary Awards launched in 2018 to celebrate the NHS's 70th birthday and recognise the outstanding contribution of staff, volunteers and others working in the health and care sector. Now in its fifth year, the awards have been an overwhelming success with over 450 Members of Parliament representing constituencies in England nominating an individual or organisation for an award.

These awards also provide an excellent opportunity for health and care organisations to engage with their local MPs, tell them about the work they do, and strengthen ongoing relationships.

The NHS Parliamentary Awards represent a chance for MPs to say thank you once again for all the work done to support the NHS. So, we would encourage all MPs representing constituencies in England to get involved and show their local NHS staff, volunteers and carers what the health service means to them and the communities they serve each day.

Nominations open on the **2nd March 2022** and close on the **6th April 2022**.

The role of Health and Care Organisations at the NHS Parliamentary Awards

We are asking you to call upon your local MP(s) to nominate individuals or teams in your organisation for the NHS Parliamentary Awards.

Please visit the [UK Parliament website](#) to find out who your MP is and their contact details.

NB: *In order to foster strong relationships between local NHS organisations and MPs, you may like to invite your local MP(s) to visit the people you are nominating, or to arrange an event where they can announce the nominations which they are passing on to the judging panels.*

Should you wish to do this, we would advise that your Communications team leads this work in order to ensure that both sides benefit as much as possible from the opportunity. It might also be prudent to coordinate these opportunities with others in your health and care system.

How to submit your suggestions to MPs

The NHS Parliamentary Awards will be launched in Parliament on **2nd March 2022**. This is the day that nominations will open.

MPs will be encouraged to reach out to their local health and care organisations, as well as members of the public, to seek nominations.

We strongly recommend that you also take a proactive approach to think about appropriate individuals or teams to put forward to your MP and to contact counterparts in partner organisations to ensure a co-ordinated approach where appropriate. You may, for suitable categories, like to think about whether it would be a good idea to put forward winners from your own staff awards or other awards you may have entered.

The nomination process has been designed to make it as easy as possible for individuals and organisations to complete, and to encourage local MPs to nominate. There are 10 categories in which you can put forward nomination suggestions to MPs. Each category will have three specific questions to guide the nominator and there is a 300-word limit for each nomination. This is a limit only; answers may be shorter.

The nomination process is open from Wednesday 2nd March 2022 until midnight, Wednesday 6th April 2022. We would advise local and health care organisations to submit their nomination suggestions, via the forms below, to their MP's at least two weeks before the nomination window closes to give MPs time to review and choose which applications to submit. Please be aware that MPs' inboxes and offices are very busy and that emails can often get missed; be prepared to phone ahead and/or follow up to make sure you're on their radar.

In order to submit a nomination suggestion to your MP, please fill in the nomination form and email it to your MP using the email template. We have provided an email template so that your MP can transfer the information in your nomination to their own nomination forms correctly. The nomination form and email template [can be downloaded from the NHS Parliamentary Awards website](#).

The website also contains information about [previous winners](#), should you need some inspiration as to the calibre expected of nominees.

Key dates

Wednesday 2nd March 2022: Public launch and nominations open

The NHS Parliamentary Awards programme launches with an event in Parliament for all MPs representing constituencies in England. MPs will receive resources to support them in making a call for nominations through their local media and other channels.

National and regional media releases will be issued by NHS England and NHS Improvement. MPs will be sent template media releases and other materials for their use locally.

Wednesday 6th April 2022: Nominations close

The deadline for MPs to submit their nomination(s) is midnight, Wednesday 6th April 2022.

This is not a formal deadline; however, we would suggest submitting your nomination suggestions to MPs at least **two weeks** before the nomination window closes to give them time to review and choose which applications to submit.

Monday 13th June 2022: Shortlist announced

The shortlist will be announced on Monday 13th June 2022.

The shortlist will be published on the [NHS Parliamentary Awards website](#) and in [The House magazine](#) (a political magazine covering the House of Commons which is widely read by MPs) in June and will be press released to national and regional media.

Wednesday 6th July: NHS Parliamentary Awards Ceremony

The winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony, to which all nominees, their relevant MPs and other key figures will be invited. The ceremony will be held in Westminster.

The Judging Process

After the nomination window closes on Wednesday 6th April, nominations will be sent to the relevant NHS England and NHS Improvement teams for initial sifting. Successful nominations at this stage will then go forward to a regional panel comprised of senior regional NHS England and NHS Improvement representatives.

The regional panels will each choose one nomination in each category to go forward to the national judging panel. The regional champions will be announced in June as per the timeline above.

Membership of the national judging panel will then score each of the shortlisted nominations and select an overall winner for each category.

The national judging panel [can be found on the NHS Parliamentary Awards website](#).

Each judge at every stage will mark each application out of five for each of the three questions answered, giving a total score out of fifteen. They will then discuss and agree on a winner based on aggregate scores. Scores will not be carried forward from one stage to the next.

The decision of the judges at each stage is final.

Due to the expected volume of entries, we will not be able to provide feedback to nominees, or information on the progress or scores of any entry.

Categories and criteria

Awards criteria

The NHS Parliamentary Awards aim to celebrate the work of all NHS staff and those who work with NHS staff to improve and provide care in local communities.

We are looking for nominees who have made a real difference to the care provided to patients through dedication, innovation or compassion.

It is worth noting that nominees:

- Do not necessarily have to work within the NHS. They can also work alongside the NHS provided that they help to deliver high-quality health care.
- Do not have to be frontline workers. Over half of people employed by the NHS do not have frontline or clinical roles but instead work behind the scenes.
- Can be either individuals, teams or even entire organisations.

Nominations can be submitted for all the categories listed below. In order to submit a nomination, the following questions will have to be answered:

Questions to be answered when submitting a nomination for the Lifetime Achievement Award and the NHS Rising Star Award:

- Outline of this person's career/relationship with, or how they have supported, the NHS.
- How have they made the NHS better for patients?
- How have they made the NHS better for past, present and future staff?

Questions to be answered when submitting a nomination for any other category:

- **What has been done?** – detail the improvements made and why this is important.
- **Who benefitted?** – detail how many patients/communities and/or staff this has had a positive impact on, including particular groups where applicable, and to what extent.
- **What happens next?** – detail how this improvement can be sustained and/or developed further or shared with others locally, regionally or nationally to benefit more patients and/or staff.

The Award Categories

The Excellence in Healthcare Award

The top causes of early death for the people of England are - heart disease and stroke, cancer, respiratory conditions, dementia, and self-harm. This award recognises individuals or teams who go above and beyond to improve outcomes and experiences for patients living with and beyond these major health conditions or work to prevent them.

This could be through:

- establishing a new process to identify and prevent major conditions earlier;
- developing effective ways to share and spread awareness of a major health condition;
- working with patients and their families to support people to stay well and recover in their own homes, with the right support in place in their communities.

The Excellence in Mental Health Care Award

To the individual or team that has worked across organisational boundaries to develop new and effective services to help people living with mental health problems in their community.

This could be through:

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- developing new and effective kinds of services for those experiencing or at risk of crisis;
- working with local partners to put in place effective prevention strategies that promote better mental health;
- working with their communities to address stigma and help design services for those who are hardest to reach, reducing health inequalities;
- engaging effectively with young people who have needed mental health support during the pandemic.

The Excellence in Urgent and Emergency Care Award

To the individual or team that has made improvements to how the NHS treats people in life or death situations.

This award seeks to celebrate the amazing work of our emergency care services across the country whether that's A&E doctors and nurses, Ambulance Service paramedics and technicians, out-of-hours GPs or the 999 and 111 teams who take calls from worried members of the public. We are looking specifically for nominees who have made improvements to how the NHS treats people who need urgent care in their areas.

This could be through:

- developing new protocols, including working with other agencies and/or volunteers to improve response times or increase capacity in A&E;
- increasing the effectiveness of care;
- putting in place different services which are more convenient for people needing urgent treatment.

The Excellence in Primary Care and Community Care Award

Primary care services are the 'front door' of the NHS and are often our first port of call when experiencing symptoms. Primary care practitioners are GPs, community pharmacists, dentists, optometrists, community midwives and health visitors, family planning or sexual health clinic staff.

Equally, community care services are pivotal in supporting people to stay well and independent at home, preventing unnecessary admissions to hospitals and ensuring that people can return home safely after being in hospital.

As the needs of patients and the wider NHS evolves, so does the role of these professionals, and this award seeks to recognise practitioners and their teams in primary or community care that are working with patients to help them stay healthy, deliver better healthcare and avoid long stays in hospital or being admitted in the first place.

This could be through:

- bringing in different kinds of professionals and/or working with voluntary groups to broaden the range of services in their local practice or area;
- working closely with colleagues in hospitals and the third sector to plan patient care better;
- joining together with other practises to jointly deliver more convenient appointments for patients;

- delivering enhanced health in care homes to ensure residents have the same level of support as if they were living in their own home.

The Future NHS Award

To a person or team that has successfully trialled and embedded change to make better use of data and digital technology, provide more convenient access to services and information for patients and improve support for staff.

This award seeks to highlight individuals, teams and organisations that are successfully embracing the opportunities that come from advances in medical technology, data, and connectivity.

This could be through:

- developing ways of using wearable devices and apps to monitor patients or support them to manage their own conditions;
- harnessing technology to make their services more connected, efficient and effective, freeing up staff time and resources to improve patient care;
- using data to provide analysis and evidence which helps professionals better target services to prevent ill health or the need for crisis care.

The Health Equalities Award

The disproportionate impact that COVID-19 is having on our black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) patients, friends, and colleagues has brought into stark and urgent focus the layered impacts of years of disadvantage and inequality.

Health inequalities also impact many other people, including LGBT+ communities, women and people with disabilities amongst others.

We know there is more we can do to prevent or delay ill health and treat people quicker.

This award is for an individual or organisation that helps the NHS to do its bit by bringing together different groups and organisations to reduce health inequalities and prevent ill health in their community.

This could be through:

- developing new services for groups that traditionally struggle to access the NHS;
- working with partners to plan services across an area to improve the health and wellbeing of those who suffer poorer outcomes – rather than picking up the pieces afterwards;
- finding new ways to identify and tackle unwarranted variation;
- using data to reduce health inequalities.

The Nursing and Midwifery Award

We see the best of the NHS when its professionals are putting patients at the heart of care, engaging with patients and families, listening to their views, and ensuring people are treated with care and compassion.

This award is for any nurse or midwife who has used their skills to ensure that patients experience care and compassion. This award is also open to any one of the

thousands of student midwives and nurses who started their careers early to support the NHS' response to coronavirus.

This could be through:

- providing excellent clinical care to patients
- changing how healthcare staff communicate with patients and their families;
- driving improvements to hospital environments, or maternity wards, to make them more pleasant places for patients and their loved ones;
- identifying ways that trusts can address health inequalities in maternity care to ensure better outcomes for patients;
- ensuring that patients and their families are well-informed and empowered to play an active role in deciding what type of care they receive;
- guiding patients and families through important conversations around vaccination and improving access for pregnant women to get the COVID jab.

The Covid-19 Response Award

The pandemic has created unprecedented health challenges, especially for the most vulnerable among us. Our health and social care professionals have risen to the task time and time again. Staff and volunteers have shown their flexibility and innovative approach to getting the best for patients throughout the pandemic.

The brand new Covid Response Award is for any individual or team who have met the challenges of the pandemic with creativity and innovation to provide the best care possible for their patients.

This could be through:

- designing new approaches to enhance infection control;
- identifying creative ways to provide personalised, effective care to patients despite the limitations of COVID restrictions;
- introducing new methods to support patients requiring treatment for conditions other than COVID;
- supporting the vaccine rollout to ensure all communities are supported to get the vaccine.

The NHS Rising Star Award

This award looks to celebrate younger members of staff, volunteers or members of the public who give up their time, lend their experiences and deliver better services for themselves and others in their area.

We are looking for young members of staff (**under 30 years old**) or members of local groups, such as local Healthwatches, Maternity Voices Partnerships or lay/patient representatives on NHS boards, who have worked hand in hand with local services to ensure they better meet the needs of those they serve. This award is also open to any one of the thousands of student midwives, nurses and medical students who started their careers early to support the NHS' response to coronavirus.

This could be through:

- providing critical but constructive feedback on performance;

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- donating their time and expertise to the NHS;
- augmenting the NHS' ability to reach out to different communities;
- fundraising for new or improved facilities or treatment options.

The Lifetime Achievement Award

For an individual who has worked within a health or care setting for 40 years or more who has left a legacy.

This award seeks to honour those who have given their life to the NHS and have left it – whether just in their area or nationally – a better service for patients and/or a better place to work for those who will follow them. We are looking for someone who has worked or volunteered within or in support of a health or care setting for 40 years or more, and who has left a lasting legacy. This award is also open to any of the thousands former NHS workers across the country who have come out of retirement to tackle the coronavirus outbreak.

This could be through:

- championing diversity and inclusion at work in how the NHS treats patients;
- leading improvements in care or working conditions in challenging circumstances;
- simply bringing a smile to patients' faces day in, day out.

FAQs

The following is a selection of questions and answers which may be useful in discussing your organisation's participation with colleagues internally.

If you would like to suggest other questions, please contact nhs.stakeholderengagement@nhs.net

Who organises the NHS Parliamentary Awards?

NHS England and NHS Improvement, in partnership with Dods Group, are running the awards to thank staff for their dedication, hard work and commitment by recognising and honouring their achievements.

How are the awards funded?

The NHS Parliamentary Awards do not cost the NHS anything to run. All costs are met by Dods Group, who run the programme on behalf on NHS England and NHS Improvement with support from the Award Sponsors.

Why are the Awards only open to individuals or teams based in England?

Responsibility for healthcare in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales is devolved to the Northern Ireland Assembly, the Scottish Government, and the Welsh Assembly Government respectively. The NHS Parliamentary Awards are run by NHS England and NHS Improvement to celebrate achievements in health care based in England.

Who can be nominated?

Anyone who fits the criteria of the categories can be nominated; they do not need to work for a traditional NHS organisation like a hospital.

Do I have to tell the person or people that I am nominating them?

Yes. Nominees should be informed that they are being nominated and involved in their nomination prior to submission.

How will MPs select someone to nominate?

It is up to MPs to decide who, if anyone, they wish to nominate for each of the categories, and how best to go about this. For example, they may want to find their nominees through a local competition, a poll on their websites, or by partnering with a local newspaper or radio station.

As only an MP can nominate someone for an award, we would urge you to get in touch with your MP(s) to tell them about the work you are doing. In the MPs' pack we have suggested that MPs also get in touch with CCGs, ICSs, Providers, charities and local groups to crowdsource nominees, but of course the best way to ensure they know about you is to tell them yourselves.

Can multiple MPs nominate the same person or team?

Yes. Lots of services operate across constituency boundaries. While judges will be aware that a nominee has been nominated more than once, this will not be considered as part of the judging criteria.

Can the same organisation be nominated in more than one category?

Yes. Some organisations provide many different services or are involved in many different areas of work. If the nominations in each category fit the criteria of said category, they will be considered.

Can one project or team be nominated for multiple categories?

Yes. If you find that your project or programme fits more than one category you can be nominated in all relevant categories. Please read the category criteria closely to ensure that your project or person fits the specific criteria for each award.

Do MPs have to nominate someone for each category?

No. MPs can nominate a person or team for as many or as few categories as they like. As an MP can only put forward one nomination per category it will be up to them decide who, if anyone, they wish to nominate for each of the categories.

Can MPs submit multiple nominations for each category?

No. They can only place one submission per category; this can be for an individual, an organisation or a team.

Can you supply extra information as appendices, links, or graphics?

No. To ensure that all nominations are assessed in a consistent manner all nominations must use the same format. We may ask shortlisted nominees for further information after they have been announced for promotional use; this will not be used as part of the judging process.

What is the deadline for nominations?

The Awards open for nominations on Wednesday 2nd March 2022. The deadline for MPs to submit nominations is midnight, Wednesday 6th April 2022.

Does it cost anything to enter?

No. Neither the nominee nor the nominating MP will be charged. Further, tickets to the awards ceremony will also be free for shortlisted nominees. The Awards will include refreshments.

What is the judging process?

After the nomination window closes on Wednesday 6th April, nominations will be sent to the relevant NHS England and NHS Improvement teams for initial sifting. Successful nominations at this stage will then go forward to a regional panel comprised of senior regional NHS England and NHS Improvement representatives.

The regional panels will each choose one nomination in each category to go forward to the national judging panel.

A national judging panel will then score each of the shortlisted nominations and select an overall winner for each category.

When will the shortlist be announced?

The shortlist will be announced on Monday 13th June 2022.

The shortlist will be published on the NHS Parliamentary Awards website and in *The House* magazine (a political magazine covering the House of Commons which is widely read by MPs) in June and will be press released to national and regional media.

When do the NHS Parliamentary Awards take place?

The Awards Ceremony will take place on Wednesday 6th July 2022 with details to be confirmed in early 2022.

What if I am shortlisted but can't afford to attend the awards ceremony?

The awards ceremony will take place in the middle of the day to reduce the need for shortlisted nominees to stay overnight. Support for travel may be available where the cost would provide a barrier to attendance.

Annex A – Email Template for emails to MPs

The following is intended as a template you may wish to use when submitting your completed nomination forms to the MP(s) in the area that your project/organisation covers. Feel free to adapt the template or use a different means entirely. Remember to include your postal address, so that your MP knows that you are a constituent or represent a local organisation.

Dear [MP],

RE: NHS Parliamentary Awards 2022 – nomination/s from [individual/team/organisation]

As you may be aware, since 2018, NHS staff have been honoured for their commitment and dedication to the NHS at the NHS Parliamentary Awards. I would like you to nominate [individual/team/organisation] for this year's awards.

The NHS Parliamentary Awards recognise the difficult but vital work that all NHS staff undertake in their daily lives, and every nomination recognises that work. NHS staff are always humbled by the appreciation that MPs demonstrate for their work.

Two years after the first COVID case in the UK, NHS doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, porters, volunteers and others have gone above and beyond not only to treat COVID patients but also to ensure that those with other conditions continue to get the medical care that they need. I believe that there is no better way to recognise the work of the NHS staff in your constituency than by considering them for your nominations at the NHS Parliamentary Awards. This is particularly the case given that staff are continuing to go above and beyond for patients as they work to reduce the COVID backlog across England by providing 17 million extra diagnostic tests over the next three years. Nationally, we will also be adding to the 122 surgical hubs already in operation across the country over the next three years.

Please find attached our completed nomination form(s) which includes all the information required by the nomination website. We hope you can submit these and nominate [insert name of suggested nominee] for the [insert award].

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you in more detail, and we would also be keen to welcome you to [place] to meet those involved and to discuss the impact of the NHS' work on your constituents. If you would like us to participate in any promotional activity related to the awards, we would also be more than happy to oblige.

The deadline for you to submit your nominations is **midnight on Wednesday 6th April 2022**. The Awards' organisers (Dods Group) will have already emailed you with your personal link to the nominations' portal, but if you have not received this please contact them on nhsawards@dodsgroup.com for a new one.

We will also be in touch with your office to check you have received our recommendation.

Many thanks in advance for your consideration.

XXX

Chief Executive
[Insert organisation]