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# NHS Parliamentary Awards 2024

An information pack for health and care organisations. It 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.

# NHS Awards timeline

Nominations will be sent to the relevant NHS England teams for initial sifting. Successful nominations at this stage will then go forward to a regional judging panel comprised of senior regional NHS England representatives.

**Monday 10 June 2024**

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

**Monday 10 June 2024**

Shortlist announced



**29<sup>th</sup> Feb.  
2024**

**19<sup>th</sup> April  
2024**

**May  
2024**

**June  
2024**

**1<sup>st</sup> July  
2024**

National and regional media releases will be issued by NHS England. This pack includes template media releases and other materials for you to use locally.

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

The winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony. The ceremony will be held at the QEII Centre in Westminster.

# Introduction

The NHS is one of our country's proudest achievements which has been built on the hard work of its dedicated staff. Whether it is our doctors, nurses, pharmacists, medical scientists, cleaners, clerical staff, porters, or our amazing volunteers – all their hard work and commitment is essential to delivering excellent healthcare.

The NHS Parliamentary Awards launched in 2018 to celebrate the NHS's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and recognise the outstanding contribution of staff, volunteers and others working in the health and care sector. Now in its seventh year, the awards have been an overwhelming success with over 750 nominations being submitted by over half of MPs representing constituencies in England last year alone.

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 build or 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 in your constituency. Therefore, we would encourage all health and care organisations to encourage with their local MPs 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.

Please note, nominations open on **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024** and will be closing at **midnight on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024**.

# 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 to ensure that both sides benefit as much as possible from the opportunity. It might also be prudent to co-ordinate these opportunities with others in your health and care system.*

There are also over 230 NHS charities throughout the UK supporting acute, specialist, ambulance, mental health and community NHS services with whom you might also want to engage. NHS charities have played an important role in the NHS throughout its history and rose to prominence during Covid-19 thanks to huge public support.

NHS Charities Together is the membership organisation for the UK's NHS charities, leading national fundraising campaigns and supporting NHS charities in their work. You can find your Trust's associated NHS charity via the NHS Charities Together website [here](#).

# How to submit your suggestions to MPs

The NHS Parliamentary Awards will be launched in Parliament on **29<sup>th</sup> February 2024** and the nominations window will open then. Nominations will be open for 7 weeks and will close at **Midnight on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024**. 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 also strongly recommend that you take a proactive approach to thinking 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.

There are 10 categories in which you can put forward nomination suggestions to your local MP. Each category will have three specific questions to guide the nominator and there is a 300-word limit for each answer on the nomination form.

We would advise local healthcare organisations to email their nomination suggestions via the form which can be downloaded using the link below, to their local MP **at least three weeks before the nomination window closes** to give MPs time to review and choose which nomination suggestion 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.

The nomination form and email template [can be downloaded from the NHS Parliamentary Awards website](#).

The website also contains information about previous winners on our [winners page](#), should you need some inspiration.

# Judging process

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

The regional judging panels will then each choose one nomination in each category to go forward to the national judging panel. The national shortlist will be announced in June.

The national judging panel – made up of healthcare leaders – will then score each of the national shortlisted nominations and select an overall winner for each category. The winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony.

Each judge at every stage will mark applications 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 and, 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.

# Criteria

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 healthcare.
- Do not have to be frontline workers. Over half of people employed by the NHS do not have frontline or clinical roles.
- Can be either individuals, teams or even entire organisations.

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

**What has been done?** – detail the exceptional work to benefit patients and/or staff.

**What was the impact?**– detail how the work has had a positive impact on patients and/or staff, including particular groups where applicable and to what extent (including statistics or case studies).

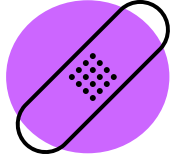
**What happens next?** – detail how this work will be developed further, or best practice shared locally, regionally, or nationally to benefit more patients and/or staff.

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## Questions to be answered when submitting a nomination for the Lifetime Achievement 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?

# Awards categories



## The Excellence in Healthcare Award

The main causes of early death for the people of England are: heart disease and stroke, cancer, respiratory conditions, dementias, 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.

This could be through:

- 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, thereby reducing health inequalities;
- engaging effectively and innovatively with groups that face specific challenges, such as children and young people.



## The Future NHS Award

To a person or team that has successfully trialled and embedded change to make better use of innovations, research, 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;
- embracing new practices based on cutting-edge research to improve care for patients, management of staff, or cost effectiveness of treatment.



# Awards categories



## 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 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.



## The Health Equalities Award

The NHS aims to provide accessible, high-quality and safe healthcare to everyone, no matter where they live or their background and characteristics.

We know there is more we can do to prevent or delay ill health and treat people quicker. Teams across the country are working hard to address health inequalities, which impact people from ethnic minority groups, people living in deprived areas, LGBT+ people, women and people with disabilities, amongst others.

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.

# Awards categories



## 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 we feel ill. Primary care includes all staff working in general practice, optometry, community pharmacy and dentistry. There are also a wide range of professionals working in community health services including community nurses, allied health professions as well as health visitors, family planning or sexual health clinical staff, who 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 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 practices 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 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 – and 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 effective for people needing urgent treatment.

# Awards categories



## The Excellence in Education and Training Award

This award will recognise a team or individual that is leading the way in supporting the delivery of the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan through innovative approaches to education and training which benefit new and existing staff, support professional development and improve patient care. This award encompasses both clinical and non-clinical education and training and is open to all NHS sectors.

This could be through:

- Excellence in training and education of the next generation of NHS staff;
- Use of new, innovative technologies to support learning, such as virtual and augmented reality;
- New approaches to education and training to attract diverse staff, such as apprenticeships and blended learning;
- Effective use of training and professional development to improve patient care, support wellbeing and enrich careers.

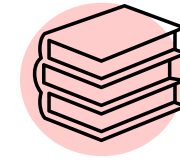


## The Volunteer Award

Volunteers have supported patients and staff in the NHS since its creation, doing everything from sitting with patients who are anxious or alone, to helping provide life-saving support after cardiac arrest. This award recognises the crucial role of volunteers in improving our health and care.

This award is for an individual, team or organisation that has supported local health and care services. This could be through:

- Providing additional support and advice to patients;
- Helping to ensure people have as high a quality of life as possible;
- Helping to keep people healthy and well;
- Helping to reduce inequalities;
- Helping staff working in health and care.



## 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 in recent years.

This could be through:

- Shown enduring commitment to the values of the NHS
- Championing diversity and inclusion at work and 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

# Things to consider

## Who organises the NHS Parliamentary Awards?

NHS England, in partnership with Dods Events (part of Total Politics), 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 Events, who run the programme on behalf on NHS England and 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 to celebrate achievements in health care based in England.

## 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.

## 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 a project or programme fits more than one category they can be nominated in all relevant categories. Please read the category criteria closely to ensure that the project or person fits the specific criteria for each award.

## 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.

## Does it cost anything to enter?

No. Neither the nominee nor the nominating MP will be charged.

If you would like to ask other questions, please contact [nhs.stakeholderengagement@nhs.net](mailto:nhs.stakeholderengagement@nhs.net)

# Email template to send to MPs

The following is 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 2024 – nomination/s from [individual/team/organisation]**

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

Nominations for the NHS Parliamentary Awards 2024 are currently open and I would be grateful if you could highlight the work which staff are doing in your local area. [You may wish to provide a brief overview of the nominations you are putting forward]

**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 be more than happy to take part.

The deadline for you to submit your nominations is **midnight on 19 April 2024**. The Awards' organisers (Dods Events, part of Total Politics) will have already emailed you with your personal link to the nominations' portal, but if you have not received this please contact them on [awards@totalpolitics.com](mailto:awards@totalpolitics.com) for a new link.

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]

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# Thank you!

Celebrating Healthcare Heroes  
Of The NHS