



## RCN Northern Ireland Nurse of the Year Awards 2026 - Nomination guidance

The RCN Northern Ireland Nurse of the Year Awards will take place at the Culloden Hotel, Holywood on Thursday 4 June 2026. This will be the 28<sup>th</sup> awards ceremony to take place in the awards' prestigious 30-year history.

The RCN Northern Ireland Nurse of the Year Awards provide an opportunity to highlight excellence within nursing in Northern Ireland and the contribution that nurses make to the health and wellbeing of the people of Northern Ireland. Nursing staff are leading the way in delivering high quality, innovative and person-centred care.

### Award categories

[Cancer Nurse Award](#)

[Chief Nursing Officer's Rising Star Award](#)

[Directors of Nursing Award](#)

[Health Care Support Worker Award](#)

[Independent Sector Nursing Award](#)

[Leadership Award](#)

[Learning in Practice Award](#)

[Nursing Research Award](#)

[Palliative Care Award](#)

[Patient's Choice Award](#)

[RCN Northern Ireland Nurse of the Year Award](#)

[Student Award](#)

[Team Manager Award](#)

### How to nominate

Online nominations and the criteria for each award are available on the RCN website.

The online nomination form must be completed at one time. There is no function available to save the form, therefore, please ensure you have all of the information you require, including the correct contact details before you complete the application.

With the exception of the Nursing Research Award which allows a higher word limit, you will be asked to submit in no more than **500 words** evidence of how the nominee meets each of the award criteria. It would be useful to have this information completed and saved in a text document before you complete the online form.



The closing date for applications is **Friday 27 February 2026**. Nominations received after this date will not be considered.

Please note:

- Selection will be made by a panel of judges. All awards and prizes are non-transferable.
- The judges' decision is final.
- If short-listed, the candidate will be required to attend an interview on a date to be confirmed by the RCN.
- The awards ceremony will take place at the Culloden Hotel on 4 June 2026. **Attendance at the interview and awards ceremony is mandatory.**
- **Any candidate who withdraws from the awards ceremony after interview will be disqualified.**
- Application forms received after the closing date will not be considered.
- The RCN reserves the right to disqualify candidates at any stage of the competition should it judge that it is in the best interest of the nursing and midwifery professions to do so.
- **The closing date for entries is 27 February 2026.**