

RCN Scotland Nurse of the Year Awards 2024

Nomination guidance

We are delighted to invite applications in the following 13 categories :

- Adult Nursing
- Care Home Nursing
- Children's Nursing and Midwifery
- Clinical Leadership
- Inspiring Excellence - Nursing Innovation and Research
- Learning Disability Nursing
- Learning in Practice
- Mental Health Nursing
- Nursing Student of the Year
- Nursing Support Worker of the Year
- Nursing Team of the Year
- People's Choice
- Outstanding / Lifetime Achievement

Entries are accepted from nursing staff or midwives nominating themselves or their own teams, or can be submitted on behalf of colleague or nursing/midwifery team. Non-nursing colleagues such as managers or consultants may also nominate their nursing/midwifery colleagues. Entrants do not need to be a member of the RCN.

If you have any questions or queries regarding the awards, please get in touch by emailing scotlandnurseawards@rcn.org.uk

Online nomination forms, along with criteria for each award category, are available on the RCN website at rcn.org.uk/ScotAwards

You will need to complete the nomination form process in one application; you will not be able to save the form. Please ensure you have the contact details for the nominee before completing the form.

The closing date for nominations is Friday 12 January 2024. Nominations received after this date will not be considered.

The selection of award finalists will be made by a panel of judges. If shortlisted, the candidate will be required to attend a virtual interview in March 2024. Attendance at the interview is mandatory. Inability to attend will disqualify candidates from the 2024 judging process. However, candidates will be encouraged to resubmit their nomination in the following year.

The RCN reserves the right to disqualify any candidate at any stage of the selection process if it is considered to be in the best interest of the nursing and midwifery profession.

What makes a winning entry: Making your nomination stand out

- 1) Give us as much information as possible. Some great nominees and initiatives do not make the shortlist as the nominator has simply not given the judges enough information. Don't be afraid to use bullet points to get more information in. Remember, the finalists are chosen purely on the information you provide in this entry – no one will contact you for further information.
- 2) Start with their success: What's the headline? What are you proud of? Start with the attention-grabbing success to hook the judges immediately.
- 3) Demonstrate that the people they care for and support, have been at the centre of their work.
- 4) Describe the role they have played. Explain how they engaged with others in their work or won over managers for resources.
- 5) Don't be too modest – describe their role in designing innovations and overcoming challenges in difficult environments.
- 6) Describing the impact is crucial. What difference did their work make to the people being cared for or nursing practice? This might be feedback from people whose care has improved, savings, audit results or better nurse retention rates from training initiatives.
- 7) Try to include how they are sharing best practice with others. Examples of this could be working with colleagues in other areas, presentations, writing articles for internal use or for external organisations, or highlighting work on social media.
- 8) When writing your nomination, please refer to the award criteria for the category you are nominating for and make sure each point is covered by solid evidence. That way, you'll increase your chances of your nomination being shortlisted.
- 9) Last but not least, check your spelling and grammar. Spell out any acronyms to be as clear to the judges as possible, don't make any assumptions that they know what you're talking about.

