

RCN Wales Nurse of the Year Awards 2026 - Nomination Guidance



The RCN Wales Nurse of the Year Awards will be celebrating its 13th year, hosting its prestigious awards ceremony on **Thursday, 19 November 2026** at the **Cardiff Holland House Hotel and Spa by Sunday**.

We encourage applications across all areas of nursing as we aspire to be a world-class champion of equality, diversity and inclusion.

The awards are open to **registered nurses, nursing students, midwives and health care support workers** working in **Wales** who have **led/initiated changes in practice within 18 months** of entering the competition. An individual may be nominated for **one category only, self nominations will not be accepted**.

Joint nominations, of no more than two people, will only be considered if the nominees can clearly demonstrate that the work undertaken was of a joint nature.

On the night of the awards an individual Registered Nurse chosen from the category winners will be announced and given the accolade of RCN Wales Nurse of the Year 2026.

Awards Categories

Chief Nursing Officer in Wales
Community and Primary Care Nursing
Health Care Support Worker
Improving Individual and Population Health
Independent Sector Nursing
Nurse Education
Nursing Student
Registered Nurse - Adult
Registered Nurse - Child
Registered Nurse - Learning Disabilities
Registered Nurse - Mental Health
Research, Innovation and Digitalisation in Nursing
Specialist Nursing



ROYAL COLLEGE OF NURSING WALES NURSE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

How to Nominate

Online nomination forms and criteria for each award category, can be viewed on the RCN Wales website. See contact details below.

The nomination form should be completed in **one** application; you will not be able to save the form. Downloadable work sheets are available for your draft work. Please ensure you have the **workplace and contact details for the nominee and the verifier** ready before completing the form.

It is important to tell us the reasons **'why'** you have chosen to nominate this individual and to **provide sufficient evidence of how the nominee meets each of the award criteria**. We appreciate this takes time to complete and we would like to highlight the importance of using the **full 500-words**. To help with this, a word count has been built into the form, we recommend a minimum 300-word count to help make your nomination stand out. Any nominations under 300 words will be contacted to review the submission before it is progressed. Nominations under 300 words historically have not progressed to shortlisting stages.

The nominator should clearly set out in their submission how the nominee has given exceptional service as follows:

- address each point on the award criteria
- evidence how they exceed expectations; performing at a level beyond normal benchmarks, how they have made important and significant contributions in their role.

For more
info...

Visit www.rcn.org.uk/walesnurseoftheyear
or email nurseoftheyearawards@rcn.org.uk

Lifetime Achievement Award

We welcome nominations for the RCN Wales Lifetime Achievement award, which aims to recognise an inspirational nurse from the **Independent Health and Social Care Sector, Third Sector, NHS or Local Authority**, who has made a significant impact on the nursing profession or health care provision over a sustained period of time.

Further Guidance:

- The closing date for nominations is **Sunday 5 July 2026**. Nominations received after this date will not be considered.
- **Unsure what to include in your nomination?** Visit our website for helpful [hints and tips](#):
- We encourage nominations from patients. If you need guidance or support to choose a category be sure to contact us via 02920 680746.
- The selection of award finalists will be made by a panel of judges.
- Awards are non-transferable and the judges' decision is final.
- If short-listed, the candidate will be required to attend an showcase session in **September 2026**.
- Attendance at the showcase session and awards ceremony is **mandatory**. Inability to attend will disqualify candidates from the 2026 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.