

# BRITISH BUSINESS AWARDS

The UK's Largest Business Dinner

# 2026

In association with



NatWest Group

## Application Pack

Closing date for entries

March 13<sup>th</sup> 2026, 5pm



[Britishbusinessawards.co.uk](http://Britishbusinessawards.co.uk)

"The British Business Awards is a vital event. For one night, the leaders of British business come together in Edinburgh to celebrate success and make a difference. I look forward to seeing you on the night."

**Sir Bob Geldof,**  
British Business Awards Patron

### PARTNER ORGANISATIONS



# Introduction

from Awards Chairman,  
Alan Jope CBE

The strength of the British business community is vital to the health of our society. Our businesses drive economic growth and innovation, they create employment, and they generate the tax revenues that pay for our public services.

The British Business Awards recognises the best of British business and, at the same time, raises significant funds for those most in need.

For one amazing night in Edinburgh, we bring together entrepreneurs and leaders from across British business to celebrate their achievements. Following an incredible performance from Sting last year, this year we raise the ambition of the event yet again. With George Clooney, Sir Bob Geldof, Rob Brydon and Elaine C. Smith all joining us this year, we can promise you one thing – The British Business Awards will be the very best night in the business calendar.

To be nominated, shortlisted or even crowned a winner is a proud distinction for all participating companies and individuals. But more than this, just by participating you are helping to raise vital funds for the most vulnerable people in society – with this year's event raising funds for the acclaimed homelessness charity, Social Bite.

So, I would encourage you to join 2,000 other leaders in British business, in this unforgettable celebration of all that is great about Britain's businesses and entrepreneurs.



Yours sincerely

**Alan Jope CBE**

Former CEO of Unilever, Director of Accenture, not-for-profit Chair, and Chairman of the British Business Awards Judging Panel

## Raising Funds

This year's event will be raising funds for homelessness charity Social Bite



**NatWest**  
Group

The British Business Awards is organised in partnership with NatWest Group – the biggest supporter of business across the nations and regions of the UK.



# **Turbocharge** **your business** **with Accelerator**

Join our community via the NatWest Accelerator app and unlock access to thousands of other business owners, our co-working space, practical support, events and more.

Download the **NatWest Accelerator** app today

Tomorrow begins today



NatWest

# The British Business Awards

The British Business Awards is the national cross-industry business awards platform recognising distinguished businesses for their achievements in innovation, leadership, ESG impact and commercial success.

If you or your company is a trailblazer within the British Business community, the British Business Awards is the considered choice for recognising your success and celebrating your business on a national scale.

The ceremony attracts up to 2,000 guests from the UK's leading companies, representing over £200bn in turnover, making it the largest business dinner in the UK. This year, guests will hear a keynote from the actor and humanitarian, George Clooney. The event will be co-hosted by A-list comedians Rob Brydon and Elaine C. Smith.

Last year's event raised over £1.3m for charity, demonstrating the impact of the business community on wider society.

With an exclusive keynote from George Clooney at this year's ceremony, the British Business Awards will have significant national media reach and is an unmatched opportunity to highlight your success, as well as an opportunity to network with the UK's business elite.



# How to Enter

Our award categories encompass a broad spectrum of business accomplishments and their contributions to the UK economy and society.

All applicants are required to submit a 1000-word written presentation adhering to the Category Criteria (marked 1-2) for each award.

Please focus your 1000 word written presentation on the criteria outlined in this pack.

Roughly 250 words should be allotted to the Commercial Success criteria and roughly 750 words should be allotted to the Category Specific Criteria.

You may submit your entry by email only or if you prefer to email and post (if you wish for judges to also have a hardcopy of your submission).

Email submissions must be sent to [entries@britishbusinessawards.co.uk](mailto:entries@britishbusinessawards.co.uk) by the closing date of March 13th 2026, 5pm.

Postal Submissions must be made by the closing date of March 7th 2026, 5pm to:

Entries Team  
British Business Awards  
1 St Colme Street  
Edinburgh  
EH3 6AA

Postal submissions should also include an email submission so that judges can also have an electronic version.



The British Business Awards raises the profile of enterprise in the UK and highlights the impact our business community makes to the economy and to wider society. The event provides an unrivalled marketing opportunity for sponsors and awards entrants and the ceremony makes a significant charitable contribution to a very worthy cause.”

**Graeme Watt** Chairman of Softcat PLC  
and British Business Awards Judge

# Awards Categories and Criteria



## Entrepreneur of the Year

This award acknowledges the exceptional entrepreneur who can showcase outstanding vision, leadership and entrepreneurial flair in founding and advancing a business.

Judges will evaluate the candidate's entrepreneurial attributes through a blend of the following factors:

### 1. Commercial Success (weighted 25%)

Participants must exhibit measurable proof of growth and commercial performance.

We advise you to submit figures and percentage rises in turnover and profit. You can also provide other details of commercial success and growth such as: staffing levels, expansion of operations, market share, profitability. This information should be provided over a three-year period.

In cases where entrants are not realizing profit or experiencing commercial growth, they should offer an explanation along with evidence outlining when growth and/or profit is anticipated to occur.

### 2. Entrepreneurial Attributes (weighted 75%)

- Entrepreneurial spirit: willingness to take risks, overcome obstacles, display perseverance
- Pioneering: introduction of innovative approaches
- Strategic direction: formulation of a clear business vision, establishment of growth objectives
- Leadership: establishment of a conducive company culture, and demonstration of effective leadership qualities
- Impact: influence on the business landscape and within their respective industry and wider community

## CEO of the Year

This award celebrates the individual influence of the UK's most accomplished CEOs and business leaders. Distinguished CEOs are invited to join as industry champions representing the private, public, and third sectors.

Judges will evaluate the candidate's CEO leadership through a blend of the following factors:

### 1. Commercial Success (weighted 25%)

Participants must exhibit measurable proof of growth and commercial performance.

We advise you to submit figures and percentage rises in turnover and profit. You can also provide other details of commercial success and growth such as: staffing levels, expansion of operations, market share, profitability. This information should be provided over a three-year period.

In cases where entrants are not realizing profit or experiencing commercial growth, they should offer an explanation along with evidence outlining when growth and/or profit is anticipated to occur.

### 2. Demonstration of Leadership (weighted 75%)

- Performance: The CEO's accomplishments and impact on the performance of their organization in the past two years
- Company Culture: How the candidate has fostered a positive company culture
- Vision: An overview of the candidate's leadership approach and their vision for the future
- Stand Out: Evidence of how the CEO stands out as a leader in the business community
- Evidence of a commitment to values based leadership

## SME of the Year sponsored by EDF | EDF Small Business

This award honours the finest SME in the UK, spotlighting exemplary small-to-medium-sized enterprises that serve as the backbone of the UK's economy.

Judges will seek evidence of exceptional SME performance based on a combination of the following criteria:

### 1. Commercial Success (weighted 25%)

Participants must exhibit measurable proof of growth and commercial performance.

We advise you to submit figures and percentage rises in turnover and profit. You can also provide other details of commercial success and growth such as: staffing levels, expansion of operations, market share, profitability. This information should be provided over a three-year period.

In cases where entrants are not realizing profit or experiencing commercial growth, they should offer an explanation along with evidence outlining when growth and/or profit is anticipated to occur.

### 2. SME Excellence (weighted 75%)

- Expansion: Expansion of operations
- Industry Leader: Demonstrated excellence within their respective industry
- Subject matter experts, evidence that you are an authority in your field
- Company Culture: Evidence of a positive company culture

## Large Business of the Year

This award acknowledges the UK's premier large businesses, showcasing the achievements of both public limited companies and enterprises with a turnover exceeding £100 million.

Judges will seek evidence of exceptional performance from large companies based on a combination of the following criteria:

### 1. Commercial Success (weighted 25%)

Participants must exhibit measurable proof of growth and commercial performance.

We advise you to submit figures and percentage rises in turnover and profit. You can also provide other details of commercial success and growth such as: staffing levels, expansion of operations, market share, profitability. This information should be provided over a three-year period.

In cases where entrants are not realizing profit or experiencing commercial growth, they should offer an explanation along with evidence outlining when growth and/or profit is anticipated to occur.

### 2. Large Company Excellence (weighted 75%)

- Evidence of job creation
- Demonstrated social responsibility
- Company Culture: Evidence of a positive company culture
- Industry Leader: Demonstrated excellence within their respective industry

## Family Business of the Year sponsored by BLACKGOLD INTERNATIONAL

This award acknowledges the exceptional family businesses that are integral to the UK's economy, ranging from multi-generational companies to family-run SMEs and prominent family run employers.

Judges will assess the excellence of the family business by considering a combination of the following factors:

### 1. Commercial Success (weighted 25%)

Participants must exhibit measurable proof of growth and commercial performance.

We advise you to submit figures and percentage rises in turnover and profit. You can also provide other details of commercial success and growth such as: staffing levels, expansion of operations, market share, profitability. This information should be provided over a three-year period.

In cases where entrants are not realizing profit or experiencing commercial growth, they should offer an explanation along with evidence outlining when growth and/or profit is anticipated to occur.

### 2. Family Business Excellence (weighted 75%)

- Family leadership: Presence of a family member or members in senior leadership positions
- Details of the family history associated with the business
- Evidence demonstrating how the family's values and dynamics contribute positively to the business's success
- Evidence of how the family's influence supports a positive company culture

## Socially Responsible Business of the Year

This award celebrates businesses that prioritize their responsibility to the environment, local communities and wider world. The award highlights the positive impact of businesses on broader society and the social impact that businesses can have.

In addition, judges will evaluate corporate social responsibility achievements based on the following criteria:

### 1. Commercial Success (weighted 25%)

Participants must exhibit measurable proof of growth and commercial performance.

We advise you to submit figures and percentage rises in turnover and profit. You can also provide other details of commercial success and growth such as: staffing levels, expansion of operations, market share, profitability. This information should be provided over a three-year period.

In cases where entrants are not realizing profit or experiencing commercial growth, they should offer an explanation along with evidence outlining when growth and/or profit is anticipated to occur.

### 2. Corporate Social Responsibility (weighted 75%)

- Demonstrated strong and consistent commitment to corporate social responsibility
- Positive impact on the environment or evidenced reduction in carbon footprint
- Positive impact in the community
- Positive impact on charities
- Effective implementation of ethical sourcing in the supply chain
- Actions and impact extending beyond the business's bottom line
- Establishment of a robust corporate social responsibility culture

## Green Business of the Year sponsored by **SNPX**

This award honours businesses that have demonstrated exceptional leadership in accomplishing environmental objectives alongside their business goals. The recipient will have effectively aligned business and environmental aims.

Additionally, judges will evaluate the environmental credentials of the business based on the following factors:

### 1. Commercial Success (weighted 25%)

Participants must exhibit measurable proof of growth and commercial performance.

We advise you to submit figures and percentage rises in turnover and profit. You can also provide other details of commercial success and growth such as: staffing levels, expansion of operations, market share, profitability. This information should be provided over a three-year period.

In cases where entrants are not realizing profit or experiencing commercial growth, they should offer an explanation along with evidence outlining when growth and/or profit is anticipated to occur.

### 2. Environmental credentials (weighted 75%)

- Evidence of a well-defined and integrated environmental strategy
- Innovative methods employed in environmental management
- Promotion and provision of green products and services
- Measurable evidence demonstrating the organization's achievement of environmental goals alongside business success
- Evidence of reduced carbon footprint

## Customer Satisfaction Award

This award acknowledges the business that exemplifies a customer-centric approach at the core of its operations and demonstrates high levels of customer satisfaction.

Additionally, judges will evaluate the quality of the business in terms of customer care based on the following factors:

### 1. Commercial Success (weighted 25%)

Participants must exhibit measurable proof of growth and commercial performance.

We advise you to submit figures and percentage rises in turnover and profit. You can also provide other details of commercial success and growth such as: staffing levels, expansion of operations, market share, profitability. This information should be provided over a three-year period.

In cases where entrants are not realizing profit or experiencing commercial growth, they should offer an explanation along with evidence outlining when growth and/or profit is anticipated to occur.

### 2. Customer Satisfaction (weighted 75%)

- Evidence of acquiring new customers
- A substantial level of repeat and referral business
- Description of how a robust customer friendly culture has been established
- Evidence of exceeding customer expectations and anticipating new customer needs through innovation in products and services
- Evidence of customer satisfaction
- Social Responsibility: Evidence of a commitment to values and social responsibility

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## Growth Strategy of the Year

This award honours the business that exemplifies the most effective growth strategy, resulting in exceptional achievements in sales, profit, and market share enhancement, whether through organic means or via integration and acquisition.

The judges will evaluate the effectiveness of the business's growth strategy based on a combination of the following factors:

### 1. Commercial Success (weighted 25%)

Participants must exhibit measurable proof of growth and commercial performance.

We advise you to submit figures and percentage rises in turnover and profit. You can also provide other details of commercial success and growth such as: staffing levels, expansion of operations, market share, profitability. This information should be provided over a three-year period.

In cases where entrants are not realizing profit or experiencing commercial growth, they should offer an explanation along with evidence outlining when growth and/or profit is anticipated to occur.

### 2. Growth Strategy (weighted 75%)

- Specifics of the growth strategy employed, such as adding new locations, investing in customer acquisition, or expanding a product line
- Evidence of successful impact of growth strategy
- Evidence that strategy is sustainable and will have lasting impact
- Social Responsibility: Evidence of a commitment to values and social responsibility

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## Employer of the Year

This award celebrates the exceptional employers in the UK, regardless of their size, who have fostered job creation and provided working environments where employees can excel and thrive.

Additionally, judges will evaluate the company's excellence as an employer based on evidence of one or more of the following:

### 1. Commercial Success (weighted 25%)

Participants must exhibit measurable proof of growth and commercial performance.

We advise you to submit figures and percentage rises in turnover and profit. You can also provide other details of commercial success and growth such as: staffing levels, expansion of operations, market share, profitability. This information should be provided over a three-year period.

In cases where entrants are not realizing profit or experiencing commercial growth, they should offer an explanation along with evidence outlining when growth and/or profit is anticipated to occur.

### 2. Employer Credentials (weighted 75%)

Please provide evidence of some or all of the below criteria:

- Contribution to job creation locally or nationally
- Ongoing provision of education and training for employees across the organisation
- Cultivation of an environment or company culture conducive to employees thriving
- Providing employment to youth or underrepresented groups
- Introduction of a specific human resources innovation

## International Business of the Year

This award celebrates the accomplishments of UK businesses that demonstrate a significant level of international sales or operations.

Judges will seek evidence of the company's exceptional international success through a combination of the following criteria:

### 1. Commercial Success (weighted 25%)

Participants must exhibit measurable proof of growth and commercial performance.

We advise you to submit figures and percentage rises in turnover and profit. You can also provide other details of commercial success and growth such as: staffing levels, expansion of operations, market share, profitability. This information should be provided over a three-year period.

In cases where entrants are not realizing profit or experiencing commercial growth, they should offer an explanation along with

evidence outlining when growth and/or profit is anticipated to occur.

### 2. International Excellence (weighted 75%)

- Specifics detailing growth from exports and/or international business within the past two years
- Demonstration that a meaningful percentage of revenue is derived from overseas operations
- Evidence of successful operations internationally
- Details of future growth strategy to develop international markets
- Social Responsibility: Evidence of a commitment to values and social responsibility



## Financial Services Company of the Year

This award honours the most exceptional companies in the financial services industry and is available to any financial service company operating in the UK.

Judges will evaluate the calibre of the financial services company based on a combination of the following factors:

### 1. Commercial Success (weighted 25%)

Participants must exhibit measurable proof of growth and commercial performance.

We advise you to submit figures and percentage rises in turnover and profit. You can also provide other details of commercial success and growth such as: staffing levels, expansion of operations, market share, profitability. This information should be provided over a three-year period.

In cases where entrants are not realizing profit or experiencing commercial growth, they should offer an explanation along with evidence outlining when growth and/or profit is anticipated to occur.

### 2. Financial Services Excellence (weighted 75%)

- Contribution of the company to the UK's reputation as a financial services hub
- Evidence of customer satisfaction
- Evidence of positive company culture
- Evidence of social responsibility
- Evidence of being a good employer

## Business Leader of the Year

This award celebrates an exceptional individual whose leadership has driven outstanding business performance, transformation, and impact. Honouring visionary leaders who inspire teams, champion innovation, and navigate change with purpose, this category recognises those shaping the future of British business through bold strategy, integrity, and lasting influence. This award will honour leaders who make a wider contribution beyond their organisation.

Judges will evaluate candidates based on the following factors:

### 1. Commercial Success (weighted 25%)

Participants must exhibit measurable proof of growth and commercial performance. We advise you to submit figures and percentage rises in turnover and profit. You can also provide other details of commercial success and growth such as: staffing levels, expansion of operations, market share, profitability. This information should be provided over a three-year period. In cases where entrants are not realizing profit or experiencing commercial growth, they should offer an explanation along with evidence outlining when growth and/or profit is anticipated to occur.

### 2. Investment Impact (weighted 75%)

- Visionary Leadership and Strategic Impact – Demonstrated ability to set a clear, ambitious vision and successfully steer their organisation toward exceptional growth, innovation, or transformation.
- Business Performance and Results – Proven record of delivering measurable achievements under their leadership, from operational excellence to market expansion or brand elevation.
- People and Culture Leadership – Evidenced commitment to building strong teams, fostering inclusive cultures, and empowering people to reach their full potential.
- Influence and Broader Impact – Demonstrated leadership beyond the organisation, contributing to sector advancement, community development, or responsible and sustainable business practices.

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## Technology Company of the Year

This award celebrates the UK's most dynamic tech and digital companies that are spearheading innovation in the UK economy and globally, spanning from apps to cloud computing to Ecommerce to Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Judges will seek evidence of excellence in a tech company based on a combination of the following factors:

### 1. Commercial Success (weighted 25%)

Participants must exhibit measurable proof of growth and commercial performance.

We advise you to submit figures and percentage rises in turnover and profit. You can also provide other details of commercial success and growth such as: staffing levels, expansion of operations, market share, profitability. This information should be provided over a three-year period.

In cases where entrants are not realizing profit or experiencing commercial growth, they should offer an explanation along with evidence outlining when growth and/or profit is anticipated to occur.

### 2. Technological Excellence (weighted 75%)

- Development of a scalable business model facilitated by technology
- Successful commercialization of technology
- A successful track record in either researching, developing, manufacturing, or supporting tech tools
- Evidence of future growth potential of technology business
- Social Responsibility: Evidence of a commitment to values and social responsibility

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## Business Innovation of the Year

This award honours the company that most effectively showcases its capacity to develop new products, innovations, or processes that enhance the commercial performance and future prospects of the company.

The judges will evaluate the innovation credentials of the business by considering a combination of the following:

### 1. Commercial Success (weighted 25%)

Participants must exhibit measurable proof of growth and commercial performance.

We advise you to submit figures and percentage rises in turnover and profit. You can also provide other details of commercial success and growth such as: staffing levels, expansion of operations, market share, profitability. This information should be provided over a three-year period.

In cases where entrants are not realizing profit or experiencing commercial growth, they should offer an explanation along with evidence outlining when growth and/or profit is anticipated to occur.

### 2. Innovation (weighted 75%)

- Commercial success of the new product or innovation, including sales performance or enhanced efficiency resulting from the innovation.
- Customer Focus – evidence of how your innovative approach meets your customer needs
- Specific details regarding the new product or innovation
- Evidence illustrating how the company culture or environment fosters innovation
- Social Responsibility: Evidence of a commitment to values and social responsibility

## Inspiring Women in Business Award

Women routinely face multiple barriers in the entrepreneurship and business sphere. For example, in 2022, of the UK's multi billion pound venture capital funding, female entrepreneurs routinely received less than a 2% share of the investments made each year. This award recognises the female business leaders and entrepreneurs, running exceptional companies. In addition, this award celebrates those who are providing inspiration and empowerment to female business leaders in a range of industries.

The judges will evaluate your entry by considering a combination of the following

### 1. Commercial Success (weighted 25%)

Participants must exhibit measurable proof of growth and commercial performance.

We advise you to submit figures and percentage rises in turnover and profit. You can also provide other details of commercial success and growth such as: staffing levels, expansion of operations, market share, profitability. This information should be provided over a three-year period.

In cases where entrants are not realizing profit or experiencing commercial growth, they should offer an explanation along with evidence outlining when growth and/or profit is anticipated to occur.

### 2. Other (weighted 75%)

- Performance: The leader's accomplishments and impact on the performance of their organization in the past two years.
- Company Culture: How the candidate has fostered a positive company culture
- Vision: An overview of the candidate's leadership approach and their vision for the future.
- Demonstrated evidence of their positive influence on other women in business, whether through inspiration, mentoring, public speaking, or efforts to encourage more women to enter their industry.
- Evidence that they have been trailblazers or opened new doors for women in business.

## Legal Firm of the Year sponsored by Law Society of Scotland

The legal sector is critical to the ecosystem of the business sphere and interacts with every commercial industry. In 2023, the sector had a strong year with firms achieving an average of 8-10% in fee income growth. This award recognises the outstanding contributions of legal firms and teams shaping the landscape of law.

The judges will evaluate your entry by considering a combination of the following:

### 1. Commercial Success (weighted 25%)

Participants must exhibit measurable proof of growth and commercial performance.

We advise you to submit figures and percentage rises in turnover and profit. You can also provide other details of commercial success and growth such as: staffing levels, expansion of operations, market share, profitability. This information should be provided over a three-year period.

In cases where entrants are not realizing profit or experiencing commercial growth, they should offer an explanation along with evidence outlining when growth and/or profit is anticipated to occur.

### 2. Other (weighted 75%)

- Performance: The legal firm's key accomplishments and performance of the organization in the past two years.
- Company Culture: How your firm has fostered a positive company culture
- Stand Out: Evidence of how your legal firm stands out as a leader in the legal community
- Social Responsibility: Evidence of a commitment to values and social responsibility

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## Leadership Team of the Year

This award honours the UK's most outstanding senior executive or partner teams, showcasing collaborative leadership at the highest level. Whether steering through transformation, innovation, or scaling success, this category recognises the collective strength, vision and agility of a C-suite or leadership group that delivers business excellence.

Judges will evaluate candidates based on the following factors:

### 1. Commercial Success (weighted 25%)

Participants must exhibit measurable proof of growth and commercial performance. We advise you to submit figures and percentage rises in turnover and profit. You can also provide other details of commercial success and growth such as: staffing levels, expansion of operations, market share, profitability. This information should be provided over a three-year period. In cases where entrants are not realizing profit or experiencing commercial growth, they should offer an explanation along with evidence outlining when growth and/or profit is anticipated to occur.

### 2. Team Excellence (weighted 75%)

- Team Cohesion and Aligned Strategic Vision - Recognises leadership teams that demonstrate strong unity, shared purpose, and clear alignment around a compelling strategic vision that drives organisational success.
- Delivering Strategy and Overcoming Challenges Collaboratively - Celebrates teams that have successfully executed their strategic goals through collaboration, agility, and effective decision-making — particularly when navigating complex challenges or change.
- Commitment to Culture, Values, and Long-Term Growth - Honours teams that foster a positive organisational culture built on integrity, inclusivity, and shared values, while maintaining a strong focus on sustainable, long-term performance.
- Commitment to High Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Standards - Highlights leadership teams that embed ESG principles into their strategy and operations, demonstrating accountability, ethical leadership, and a commitment to positive impact.

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## Investment Partner of the Year

This award honours the investment partnership firm whose capital, expertise, and ecosystem support have driven exceptional growth and transformation across UK businesses. From scaling ambitious start-ups to unlocking mid-market potential, this category celebrates the catalytic role of strategic investors and partners in powering Britain's business success.

Judges will evaluate candidates based on the following factors:

### 1. Commercial Success (weighted 25%)

Participants must exhibit measurable proof of growth and commercial performance. We advise you to submit figures and percentage rises in turnover and profit. You can also provide other details of commercial success and growth such as: staffing levels, expansion of operations, market share, profitability. This information should be provided over a three-year period. In cases where entrants are not realizing profit or experiencing commercial growth, they should offer an explanation along with evidence outlining when growth and/or profit is anticipated to occur.

### 2. Strategic Impact (weighted 75%)

- Portfolio Company Success, Transformation - Demonstrated ability to drive significant growth and transformation within portfolio companies.
- Value-Add Contributions - Clear evidence of strategic, hands-on support (e.g., board guidance, talent development, ESG integration, or market expansion) that created measurable value.
- Positive Economic, Sectoral, or Community Outcomes - Proven contribution to broader economic, industry, or community impact through sustainable and inclusive investment practices.
- Scale and Impact of Capital Deployment or Value Creation Efforts - Demonstrable scale, reach, and effectiveness of capital deployment or value-creation activities leading to sustained performance.

## Professional Services Firm of the Year

This award recognises the professional services firm that has demonstrated exceptional client impact, innovation, and industry leadership. Celebrating organisations that combine excellence in delivery with a commitment to people, culture, and thought leadership, this category honours those shaping the future of professional services in Britain.

Judges will evaluate candidates based on the following factors:

### 1. Commercial Success (weighted 25%)

Participants must exhibit measurable proof of growth and commercial performance. We advise you to submit figures and percentage rises in turnover and profit. You can also provide other details of commercial success and growth such as: staffing levels, expansion of operations, market share, profitability. This information should be provided over a three-year period. In cases where entrants are not realizing profit or experiencing commercial growth, they should offer an explanation along with evidence outlining when growth and/or profit is anticipated to occur.

### 2. Other (weighted 75%)

- Client Success Stories and Sector Influence – Demonstrated ability to deliver outstanding client outcomes, build enduring partnerships, and show measurable influence and leadership within their sector.
- Innovation in Delivery Models or Service Excellence – Proven record of redefining service excellence through innovation, digital transformation, or new approaches that create measurable client value.
- Internal Talent Development and Culture – Evidenced commitment to investing in people, fostering growth, collaboration, and a culture that attracts and retains top talent.
- Thought Leadership and Industry Impact – Demonstrated contribution to advancing the profession through thought leadership, research, or initiatives that shape industry standards and best practices.

## Investor in Britain

This award recognises the company that has made a substantial and lasting contribution to the UK through major investment and job creation. Celebrating both domestic and international companies, this category honours those whose commitment of capital, talent, and innovation has strengthened Britain's economy – driving regional growth, advancing industry capabilities, and creating meaningful employment opportunities across the nation.

Judges will evaluate candidates based on the following factors:

### 1. Commercial Success (weighted 25%)

Participants must exhibit measurable proof of growth and commercial performance. We advise you to submit figures and percentage rises in turnover and profit. You can also provide other details of commercial success and growth such as: staffing levels, expansion of operations, market share, profitability. This information should be provided over a three-year period. In cases where entrants are not realizing profit or experiencing commercial growth, they should offer an explanation along with evidence outlining when growth and/or profit is anticipated to occur.

### 2. Investment Impact (weighted 75%)

- Scale and Impact of UK Investment – Demonstrated record of significant capital investment in the UK, delivering measurable economic impact and long-term value creation.
- Employment and Skills Contribution – Proven commitment to job creation and workforce development through training, upskilling, and meaningful career opportunities.
- Regional and Sectoral Growth – Evidence of investment that supports regional development or sectoral transformation, driving innovation, competitiveness, and resilience across the UK.
- Commitment to Sustainable and Responsible Investment – Demonstrated leadership in responsible investment aligned with ESG principles, ensuring sustainable and inclusive prosperity for the UK.

# Be Recognised by The Best in British Business

## Judging Panel



### Chairman:

**Alan Jope CBE**, Former CEO of Unilever, Director of Accenture, not-for-profit Chair.

Alan joined Unilever in 1985 and worked for a total of 11 years in the UK, 14 years in North America, and 13 years in Asia (Thailand, China, Singapore). He was appointed as Chief Executive Officer in 2019 and retired from Unilever at the end of 2023. He joined the Board of Accenture in April 2023, is Chair of The Leverhulme Trust, the UK's largest private sector funder of non-medical academic research. He is also on the Board of the Global Energy Alliance for People & Planet and is a Commissioner on the Global Commission on Modern Slavery.



### Co-chair of the panel: Emma Crystal

Emma is the CEO of Coutts Bank. Before moving to NatWest Group, she was Lead, Sustainable Finance Group at UBS and Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) at Credit Suisse. Before joining Credit Suisse, Emma worked in Global Markets at Deutsche Bank for 10 years.



### Graeme Watt

Having served 5 years as CEO, Graeme Watt is currently the Chairman of Softcat plc, a software services and support company in the FTSE 250 and ranked 10th Best Workplace in the UK. Graeme was ranked top 3rd best CEO in the UK in a 2021 Glassdoor Award.



### Josh Littlejohn MBE

Josh is the founder of Social Bite and a founding partner of the British Business Awards. He has led on efforts to raise over £25M for homelessness causes and has been awarded an MBE, a Pride of Britain Award and a Robert Burns Humanitarian Award.



### Shaf Rasul

Shaf Rasul is a prominent entrepreneur and business columnist for The Sun. Following the success of his various business ventures, he was named Ernst and Young's Scottish Young Entrepreneur of the Year in 2006 and ranked 19th among the UK's top 100 entrepreneurs. Shaf was a Dragon on the BBC's online Dragons' Den and an advisor to the UK government.



### Patrick Graham

Paddy Graham leads an investment team for Business Growth Fund (BGF) covering Scotland and Northern Ireland. BGF was set up to address the SME funding gap in the UK. They now back hundreds of companies across a variety of investment stages, sectors and regions—with a well-capitalised, evergreen balance sheet of £3bn.



### John McGlynn

John McGlynn is the founder of Scottish Capital and has been responsible for establishing over 80 new ventures, and was the founding Director of the Entrepreneurial Exchange in London.



### Vinodka "Vin" Murria OBE

Vinodka "Vin" Murria is a renowned software entrepreneur often known as the "Queen of Tech". In the past three decades Vin Murria's career highlights include the building and/or founding of three tech companies that with 2500 employees and combined a "multi unicorn" valuation of in excess of \$2.5bn. In 2018, Murria received an OBE for her services to the British economy, as well as for her work advancing women in the software sector.



### Judith Cruickshank

Judith Cruickshank has worked with NatWest for 14 years in a variety of roles, focused on customer solutions for both Retail and Commercial customers. She is currently MD of Commercial Mid-Market Banking, Chair of the Scotland Board and Climate Sponsor.

## Our Patron



### Sir Bob Geldof

Born in 1951, Sir Bob Geldof is one of Ireland's most successful exports and is known throughout the world for his many talents and passions. He has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize 8 times, and was honoured with a knighthood by HM Queen Elizabeth II; received the Nobel Man of Peace award from Mikhail Gorbachev; was awarded The North-South human rights award in Portugal; and awarded the medal of Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in France.



### Sharan Pasricha MBE

Sharan Pasricha MBE is an Indian born entrepreneur based in London, England. He founded the creative hospitality company Ennismore, with brands including The Hoxton and Gleneagles.



### Phil Urban

Phil is the CEO of Mitchells and Butlers plc, a hospitality company that runs over 1,700 managed pubs, bars and restaurants throughout the United Kingdom and owns brands including All Bar One, Toby Carvery, Browns and Nicholson's Pubs.



### Conor O'Leary

Conor O'Leary is the managing director of Gleneagles Hotel. The 233-bedroom, five-AA-star Gleneagles, set within 250 acres of Perthshire countryside, has been fêted as one of the world's most luxurious destination hotels since it opened in 1924. Conor was crowned the 2023 Hotelier of the Year.



### Ross Mitchison

Ross Mitchison is the Co-CEO of Numis Corporation plc (Numis). The bank has the largest client base by number of corporates in the UK. Through combining leading component services such as M&A solutions, equity sales and trading and debt advisory, it operates at the very forefront of the industry with specialist expertise in the UK market.



### Will de Winton

William de Winton is a retired member of Lansdowne Partners and a former Managing Director of Morgan Stanley. He sits on a number of charity boards and is a founding Trustee of Unlocking Potential. He is also a founding Trustee of the SpringBoard Bursary Foundation which is the UK's largest boarding school bursary charity.



### Sir Andrew Cubie

Sir Andrew Cubie is Chair of the Board of the Social Bite Fund. In his business career he was the senior partner of 2 law firms and Chair of, and a non-executive Director, of a number of public and private companies in the UK, involved in manufacturing, finance and the service sector. His involvement currently is entirely in the governance of charities.



### Oli Norman

Oli is the founder and CEO of itison and itison venues. Today, itison speaks to 1.5 million members and connects them with over 5,000 businesses. Oli creates experiences through itison's major events team, producing and directing events for over 300,000 ticket holders annually.



### Jennifer Cheyne OBE

Jennifer Cheyne, the founder of Cheynes Salons in Scotland and 42 Hairdressing Academies in England, is recognised as an industry leader and one of the most influential business women in Hair and Beauty in the UK. Jennifer has won many prestigious Hair and Business awards. Jennifer was awarded an OBE for her service in hairdressing and for her charity work.



### Simon Davis

Simon Davis was the 175th president of the Law Society for England and Wales and was the commercial litigation partner at the law firm Clifford Chance for 26 years. He is a former president of the London Solicitors Litigation Association, deputy vice-president of the Council of the Law Society and Committee member of the City of London Law Society.

# With Gratitude to our partners

Supported by



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In partnership with



# Application Form

## Company Details

COMPANY NAME

BUSINESS ADDRESS

COUNTY

POSTCODE

TELEPHONE

EMAIL

WEBSITE

Main public contact (This is usually the MD or CEO. If you are applying for an individual category (i.e Entrepreneur of the Year), please use their name):

FIRST NAME

SURNAME

JOB TITLE

## Financial Information

DATE OF INCORPORATION: DAY MONTH YEAR

Please provide summary information for your most recent three years accounts in the table below (younger companies should provide as many years as possible). This information is mandatory. To support this information we also require you to provide a copy of your most recent accounts filed at Companies House. Please note that if you are entering more than one category, you will need to provide a separate copy for each category.

	MOST RECENT ACCOUNTS DRAFT ACCOUNTS WILL SUFFICE	PREVIOUS YEAR'S ACCOUNTS AS FILED AT COMPANIES HOUSE	TWO YEARS PREVIOUS ACCOUNTS AS FILED AT COMPANIES HOUSE
FINANCIAL YEAR END DAY/MONTH/YEAR			
TURNOVER			
OPERATING			
PRE-TAX PROFIT			
NO OF EMPLOYEES			

## Applicant Details

FIRST NAME

SURNAME

COMPANY NAME (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE)

TELEPHONE

EMAIL

## Award Categories

- Eden Mill Entrepreneur of the Year
- CEO of the Year
- SME of the Year
- Large Business of the Year
- Family Business of the Year
- Socially Responsible Business of the Year
- Green Business of the Year
- Customer Satisfaction Award
- Growth Strategy of the Year
- Employer of the Year
- International Business of the Year
- The Stellar Omada Financial Services Company of the Year
- Technology Company of the Year
- Business Innovation of the Year
- Investment Partner of the Year
- Leadership Team of the Year
- Inspiring Women in Business Award
- Legal Firm of the Year
- Professional Services Firm of the Year
- Investor in Britain
- Business Leader of the Year

## Written presentation

Please prepare a word document with a maximum of 1000 words addressing each judging criterion of the category you are entering. Please ensure the document is not handwritten.

Note: If you are entering more than one category, kindly submit a separate written presentation for each category.

## Marketing details

Kindly email the following items to complete your entry. Please note that these assets will be used on the British Business Awards website and marketing assets if you progress as a finalist and/or winner:

1. A concise synopsis (maximum 75 words) describing your business. Ensure it is word-processed and appears exactly as you'd like it to appear in BBA marketing materials.
2. Company Logo: Submit a high-resolution (300 dpi)/print-quality logo.
3. Headshot: Provide a high-resolution (300 dpi)/print-quality image of your main public contact (e.g., MD or CEO) and/or one of your team. If entering the 'Entrepreneur of the Year' award, please submit an individual shot of the nominee.
4. Supporting Information: You may include additional information that bolsters your entry. Kindly note that entries are non returnable, so refrain from submitting original documents.

If you require special arrangements for your supporting information, please contact us.

## Entry Fee & Charitable Donation

This year, we are raising funds for leading homelessness charity, Social Bite. Therefore, we suggest an optional entry fee donation of £100, payable either by credit card or by cheque made out to the Social Bite Fund. Please note that entry fees are non-refundable.

Amount payable

Contact Name:

Phone Number:

The charity Social Bite Fund (registered charity no SC045232) can charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  Switch

Card number:

Expiry date:     Switch issue number:   Security code:

Card holder name:  Cardholder signature:

Registered card address (if different from above):

If you would prefer a staff member of the charity to make contact with you by telephone to take a card payment for the entry fee donation then please tick the box below and along with the relevant phone number and name for the charity to make contact.

I would prefer the charity to contact me:

## Check list

**I confirm that I have:**

- Emailed my business description, high resolution logo and picture
- included credit card payment information or a cheque made payable to the Social Bite Fund.

For each category you are entering, you must provide the following:

**I confirm that I have:**

- completed the entry form in full including the financial information
- enclosed the latest available set of audited accounts
- enclosed a business description and written presentation
- included supporting information (optional)
- emailed each entry (separately) to [entries@britishbusinessawards.co.uk](mailto:entries@britishbusinessawards.co.uk) by the closing date and posted a hardcopy (optional) to Entries Team, British Business Awards, 1 St Colme Street, Edinburgh, EH3 6AA

## Declaration

I confirm that I am the person submitting this entry on behalf of  
COMPANY NAME

To the best of my knowledge, all the information provided is accurate. I have ensured that all required information from the checklist above has been included. I understand and accept that the judges' decision is final and binding, and there will be no further correspondence regarding the result. I acknowledge that due to the volume of entries, the panel is not obligated to provide specific feedback on individual entries. I understand that the judges may decide to reallocate an entry to a different category if they deem it appropriate. Information provided in the 'Company's Details' and 'Marketing Details' sections of my entry form may be used for press and publicity purposes. All other information is treated as confidential and is only used for shortlisting and judging purposes.

SIGNATURE

DATE

## Keeping you informed

The sponsors would like to communicate with you about future events, products and services

I agree to telephone communication from the sponsors: Yes No  
I agree to email communication from the sponsors: Yes No  
I agree to postal communication from the sponsors: Yes No

By submitting this form you agree that: The organiser can use the details supplied to keep you informed about the British Business Awards event and associated events

## Additional Information

Please use the box below to indicate any additional information or special requests/needs.



**BRITISH  
BUSINESS  
AWARDS**

Keynote  
**George Clooney**

Patron  
**Sir Bob Geldof**

Hosts  
**Rob Brydon  
& Elaine C. Smith**

EICC, Edinburgh  
**30/04/2026**  
**5:30pm - late**

**[Britishbusinessawards.co.uk](https://britishbusinessawards.co.uk)**  
[info@britishbusinessawards.co.uk](mailto:info@britishbusinessawards.co.uk)

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