



HSJ AWARDS 2026

THE STANDARD FOR HEALTHCARE EXCELLENCE

ENTRY GUIDE

Deadline for submission:
29 May 2026

WHY ENTER?



Gain national recognition by showcasing your achievements: gain a stamp of approval for your projects from a brand that makes your chief executive take notice. Establish your organisation as a leader in the sector, and develop the employer branding needed to inspire, retain and recruit top talent.



Benchmark your success: measure your projects against the country's leading projects and set a standard for excellence. Show your colleagues that everyone has a role to play in driving better quality and safer care.



Improve staff culture and boost morale: recognise the hard work of your team, shifting the conversation from challenges to achievements and recognising the real impact on patient care.



Strengthen your organisation's reputation: shape how your organisation is viewed in the health and care community. Winning or being shortlisted reinforces your organisation's standing and builds trust with patients, staff and partners.

“We'd had previous success with awards for individuals within the team and shortlisted for the clinic model but 2yrs on, we saw a clear step-change in impact, along with growth in partnerships and collaboration. This combination of measurable outcomes and external praise created a natural moment to enter, and we felt it important to share our service mapping, supporting other healthcare providers nationally, to offer a better-informed quality of care with evidence-based knowledge and the crucial element of lived experience.”

Brownlow Health

WHAT DID LAST YEAR'S WINNERS SAY?



ENTER NOW AT: awards.hsj.co.uk

For more information on entering or help completing your entry, please contact entries@hsj.co.uk

ARE THESE AWARDS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Categories are designed to recognise work conducted within public sector organisations. Solution providers helping the NHS are invited to enter the **HSJ Partnership Awards**, which honour collaborative efforts between the public and private sectors.

HOW YOU'LL BE JUDGED



Ambition - The challenge and context within which your project, person or organisation is set alongside your goals and targets whether quantitative or qualitative, and how this aligns with national priorities.



Collaboration - The stakeholders' involvement in co-designing and delivering the project. How have patients, staff at all levels, communities and other parties worked together to realise the outcomes?



Impact - The measurable benefits delivered to patients, staff, your organisation or the wider system. Provide data and evidence showing improvements to outcomes, quality, access, equity or efficiency.



Scale - How your work has been shared, adopted or replicated beyond your immediate team or organisation. This includes dissemination through publications, presentations, toolkits, partnerships or inspiring similar initiatives elsewhere.



Sustainability - The potential for the project/work to continue and create lasting impact. Evidence of how it can be sustained or built upon.



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CATEGORIES

EXCELLENCE IN PATIENT CARE AND INNOVATION

Recognising initiatives that improve clinical outcomes, patient safety, and service transformation through technology and new models of care.

- 🏆 Patient Safety Award
- 🏆 Acute Sector Innovation of the Year
- 🏆 Mental Health Innovation of the Year
- 🏆 **NEW:** Neighbourhood and Community Care Innovation of the Year
- 🏆 Modernising Diagnostics Award (partnered by Agito)
- 🏆 Medicines, Pharmacy and Prescribing Initiative of the Year
- 🏆 Digitising Patient Care Award
- 🏆 Driving Efficiency Through Technology Award (partnered by Vodafone)
- 🏆 Data-Driven Transformation Award
- 🏆 Performance Recovery Award
- 🏆 **NEW:** Clinical Pathway Redesign Award
- 🏆 **NEW:** Using AI to Enhance Care Quality and Efficiency Award
- 🏆 HSJ Partnership of the Year
- 🏆 HSJ Independent Healthcare Provider of the Year

LEADERSHIP AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Celebrating outstanding leadership, workforce wellbeing, and initiatives that support NHS staff in delivering high-quality care.

- 🏆 Trust of the Year
- 🏆 Clinical Leader of the Year
- 🏆 Workforce Initiative of the Year
- 🏆 Staff Wellbeing and Culture Award
- 🏆 NHS Communications Initiative of the Year
- 🏆 Provider Collaboration of the Year
- 🏆 Primary Care Provider of the Year

TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

Highlighting projects that address disparities in healthcare access, outcomes, and inclusion.

- 🏆 Early Intervention and Prevention for Children, Young People and Families Award (partnered by Barnardo's)
- 🏆 NHS Race Equality Award (partnered by NHS Race and Health Observatory)
- 🏆 **NEW:** Excellence in Narrowing the Health Inequalities Gap (partnered by Novartis and NHSConfed)
- 🏆 Towards Net Zero Award
- 🏆 Transforming Care for Older People Award

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WHAT MAKES A WINNING ENTRY?

TOP TIPS FROM JUDGES



Start with a clear overview

- Begin with a concise summary that highlights your project's main achievements and outcomes.
- Use key data points to make an immediate impact, helping judges quickly grasp the core of your entry.



Provide evidence of real-world impact

- Show both quantitative outcomes, such as reduced wait times or improved patient outcomes, and qualitative insights like testimonials from patients or colleagues.
- Include a clear before-and-after comparison to demonstrate specific improvements your project has achieved.



Keep it patient-centric

- Add real-life stories from patients or clinicians to illustrate the human impact of your project.
- Highlight outcomes that align with broader goals, like patient experience, staff well-being, or operational efficiency.



Emphasise long-term vision

- Describe the sustained value of your project and how it aligns with NHS priorities and long-term goals.
- Highlight potential scalability to demonstrate how your project can serve as a model for others.



Show what makes your project unique

- Explain what sets your project apart, whether it's innovative technology, fresh partnerships, or a novel approach to a problem.
- Link your project's impact to system-wide goals, such as digital transformation or interoperability.



Wrap up with strategic alignment

- Emphasise how your project aligns with NHS priorities, like improving patient care, supporting staff, or increasing efficiency.
- Position your project as a best-practice model that could benefit other organisations.



Save and submit thoughtfully

- Save your work frequently to avoid losing progress.
- Review each section before clicking submit, and confirm your entry appears in the list of submissions.

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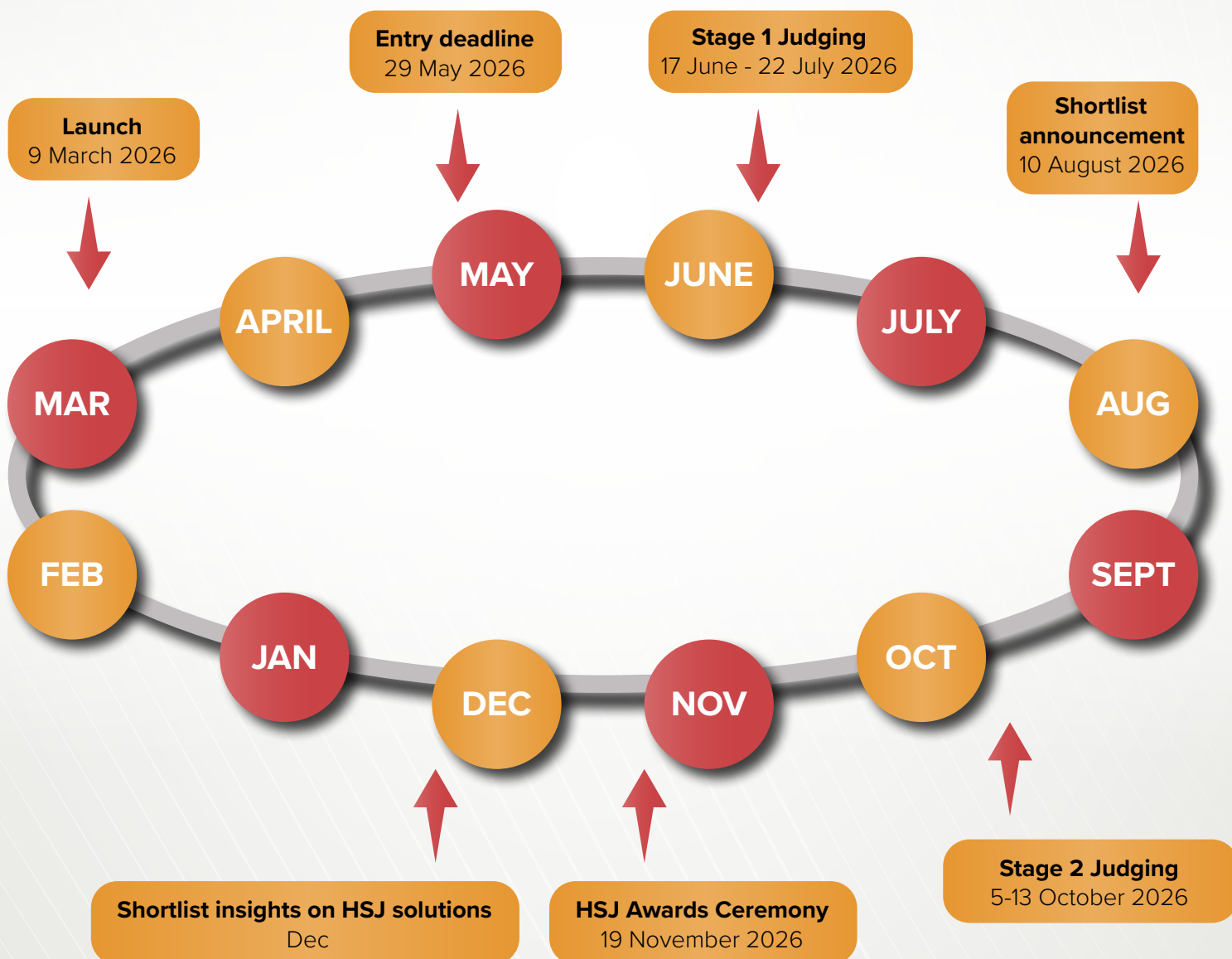
ENTRY AND JUDGING PROCESS

Judges are selected from across the NHS and wider healthcare sector. Judges contribute valuable time and effort to work through hundreds of entries, reviewing against strict criteria and attributing scores against a transparent system aimed at rewarding and recognising the best of the health and care sector across the UK.

Judging takes place over two stages: in the first stage, judges review entries via our awards platform to determine the shortlist. In the second stage, finalists are invited to present their projects remotely to our judging panels.



KEY DATES



Exact category dates can be found on our website

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HSJ

AWARDS

2026

ENTERING IS EASY



REGISTER YOUR DETAILS

SELECT THE CATEGORIES

SUBMIT COMPLETED ENTRY



GOOD LUCK!

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