



UK Social Enterprise Awards 2019 | Awards Guidelines

Please read the information below before completing any award application.

This sheet provides information about the:

- 1.0 Categories**
- 2.0 Eligibility and criteria**
- 3.0 Individual Award: Women in Social Enterprise Award**
- 4.0 Application process**

1.0 Main Award Categories

This year there are 14 main award categories:

- Category 1 UK Social Enterprise**
- Category 2 One to Watch**
- Category 3 Prove It: Social Impact**
- Category 4 'Buy Social' - Market Builder**
- Category 5 Social Investment Deal of the Year**
- Category 6 Health & Social Care Social Enterprise**
- Category 7 Consumer Facing Social Enterprise**
- Category 8 Education, Training & Jobs Social Enterprise**
- Category 9 Environmental Social Enterprise**
- Category 10 Tech for Good: Technology Social Enterprise**
- Category 11 Women in Social Enterprise**
- Category 12 International Impact**
- Category 13 Transformative Community Business**
- Category 14 Employee Engagement**



All categories, not including category 11, are open to social enterprises. There are also specific awards categories that investors, corporates, public sector bodies and charities may also apply for. All the categories are open to organisations from England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Category 11 is open to women working in the social enterprise sector.

The winners of all the categories will be announced at an awards ceremony being held on Wednesday 9 December at Guildhall – City of London.

2.0 Eligibility and Criteria

This section sets out eligibility and criteria for each of the awards and some broad criteria to consider when making your application.

This checklist is required for social enterprises entering all categories excluding categories 4, 5 and 11. This information is not required for other types of organisations entering categories 4, 5 or 11.

If you are entering categories 1-10, 12, 13 and/or 14 (not including categories 4, 5 or 11), your organisation must be a UK based business that defines itself as a social enterprise using the following criteria:

1. The business has a clear social or environmental mission that is set out in its governing documents.
2. It is an independent business and earns more than half of its income through trading.
3. It is controlled or owned in the interests of the social mission.
4. It invests or gives away at least half your profits or surpluses towards your social purpose.
5. It is transparent about how it operates and the impact it has.

**Please do not enter a social enterprise specific award if you do not meet these above criteria.*

The awards that social enterprises can enter are:

All categories 1 – 14, excluding category 11, the Women in Social Enterprise Award, which must be entered by a woman in the sector (or someone nominating this individual).

The awards that non-social enterprises can enter are:

Category 4 ('Buy Social' - Market Builder), Category 5 (Social Investment Deal)

Please see Appendix below for the full criteria.



3.0 Individual Award: Women in Social Enterprise Award

Social enterprises are much more likely to be run and led by women than traditional businesses. This is a very important characteristic of the sector, and one that many people believe is key to its strength, growth and sustainability. To champion the success of our female entrepreneurs and leaders, this award will be presented to a woman within the world of social enterprise who exhibits some or all the criteria listed below.

We're looking for someone who has created significant positive change for society by demonstrating socially entrepreneurial behaviours, beyond the day-to-day expectations of any job that they may have, to tackle any social and/or environmental issue. We're also looking for someone who has helped strengthen the voice, raise the debate, or shine a spotlight on what the social enterprise movement is achieving either nationally, within a sector or industry or within a sphere of influence.

For a full breakdown of all the organisation awards and their criteria, refer to the appendix on this information sheet below.

4.0 Application Process

There are a few dates that are important with regards to your application:

- **13 May** – UK Social Enterprise Awards open for nominations
- **7 July** – UK Social Enterprise Awards nominations close
- **early September** – shortlisted organisations notified
- **early September** – shortlisted organisations to return governing documents, management accounts (for more information see below)
- **October / early November** – heat finals of select categories held in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales plus nominations for the individual awards
- **4 December** – UK awards ceremony for all 14 categories

How to apply

Complete the online application form, along with any supporting documentation (maximum 2 pieces) by **7 July 2019**.

Shortlisted organisations will need to provide their most recent set of management accounts (including a profit/loss account and balance sheet) and governing documents. The accounts and governing documents are required to confirm that your enterprise meets the initial eligibility requirements.

Your accounts need to clearly demonstrate that:



- The organisation earns at least 50% of its income through trading
- The organisation reinvests or gives away at least half of the profits or surpluses towards its social purpose.

Your governing documents need to clearly demonstrate that the business:

- Has a clear social or environmental mission that is set out in its governing documents.
- Is an independent business
- Is controlled or owned in the interests of the social mission.

Remember the criteria!

Please remember that your application will be judged against a set of generic criteria, including:

- Business/sustainability of the organisation
- Impact/evidence
- Mission/values
- Strength of reason to win

Please see category specific criteria to consider in the Appendix below.

Any questions?

If you have any questions or queries about the Awards, please email the team at info@seukevents.org



APPENDIX

Category 1	UK Social Enterprise of the Year
<p>This award is open to a social enterprise that has been operating for more than 2 years that can evidence the criteria below but that has also demonstrated and promoted social enterprise beyond the sector.</p> <p>Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent vision and strategic direction • Clear leadership and management of the organisation • A high degree of customer satisfaction • A clearly evidenced social, environmental and community impact • Show sustainability in terms of profit and growth • Good brand awareness and communication outputs • Evidence of creativity and innovation 	

Category 2	One to Watch
<p>This award is open to a social enterprise that has been operating for less than 2 years as of April 2018 that can clearly demonstrate the criteria but also articulate their future vision and how they are going to achieve it showing growth in their model.</p> <p>Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear vision for the social enterprise • A creative approach to problem-solving • Excellence in impact, design or growth since inception • Potential for future success, in the judges' view 	



Category 3	Prove It: Social Impact
<p>This award is designed for any social enterprise that can truly demonstrate and communicate their impact with their stakeholders. This award is not comparing the scale of different enterprises' impact, but their measurement and reporting process.</p> <p>Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear articulation of theory of change and impact, proving the organisations mission and objectives • Transparency in the process of findings (including stakeholder engagement) • Includes good quantitative and qualitative evidence • Demonstrates its impact on a specified community, be it geographic or community of interest • Has communicated its impact in accessible and creative ways • Includes how it will utilise evaluation to improve its work 	

Category 4	'Buy Social' - Market Builder
<p>This award is open to any social enterprise, public sector body or private sector organisation that has demonstrably made efforts within its own organisation and remit to create more opportunities to buy from social enterprises. This could be a local authority implementing a council-wide Social Value Act strategy, a company changing its procurement processes, or a social enterprise seeking to support the movement through buying social.</p> <p>Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to articulate the steps taken to improve the buying environment for social enterprises • Explain their key aims and objectives in trying to 'buy social' in their work • Explain the technical and cultural challenges that had to be overcome and how they did that. • Articulate any progress on spend / impact to date 	



Category 5	Social Investment Deal of the Year
<p>This is the award to enter if you have been part of a great investment deal in the last 12 months that has helped a social enterprise to grow, or the movement as a whole to develop and flourish. Both the investee and investor will be recognised.</p> <p>Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the deal from both investor and investee perspective • Pioneering in model, scale, type, participants or other aspect • Additional support by the investor in the deal other than the funding • Articulate the existing / potential impact for the community, social enterprise or sector • Describe and explain the risk element of the deal <p><i>NB – shortlisted deals may be asked for further information ahead of the judging day, if appropriate and necessary</i></p>	

Category 6	Health and Social Care Social Enterprise
<p>This is open to social enterprises that have been operating for more than 2 years in the health and social care sectors that can demonstrate excellence in the following criteria:</p> <p>Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent vision and strategic direction • Clear leadership and management of the organisation • A high degree of customer satisfaction • A clear evidenced social, environmental and community impact • Show sustainability in terms of profit and growth • Good brand awareness and communication outputs 	



Category 7	Consumer Facing Social Enterprise
<p>This is open to a social enterprise that produces or delivers a retail product or service to the general public.</p> <p>Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to clearly explain what the brand is, what it stands for and its social mission • Be able to demonstrate brand recognition in its market place through research, results, achievements and recognition • Be recognisable as a brand either at a national level, or with plans and ambitions to achieve this • Have achieved a particular status or point in its market where it is competing successfully • Demonstrating growth in the last 12 months in sales, customers, brand awareness or other relevant metrics 	

Category 8	Education, Training & Jobs Social Enterprise
<p>This is open to social enterprises that have been operating for more than 2 years in the education, training or employment sectors that can demonstrate excellence in the following criteria:</p> <p>Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent vision and strategic direction • Clear leadership and management of the organisation • A high degree of customer satisfaction • A clear evidenced social, environmental and community impact • Show sustainability in terms of profit and growth • Good brand awareness and communication outputs 	



Category 9	Environmental Social Enterprise
<p>This is open to social enterprises that have been operating for more than 2 years in the green and environmental sectors that can demonstrate excellence in the following criteria:</p> <p>Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excellent vision and strategic direction• Clear leadership and management of the organisation• A high degree of customer satisfaction• A clear evidenced environmental impact• Show sustainability in terms of profit and growth• Good brand awareness and communication outputs	

Category 10	Tech for Good: Technology Social Enterprise
<p>This is open to social enterprises that have been operating for more than 2 years that uses technology in either of the following ways and meets the criteria below:</p> <p>a) Usage of new technology to develop new products or services.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>OR</u></p> <p>b) Usage of new technology in core business model to enhance service delivery.</p> <p>Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excellent vision and strategic direction• Clear leadership and management of the organisation• A high degree of customer satisfaction• Demonstrates clear evidence of impact made by any of the above ways (a or b)• Show sustainability in terms of profit and growth	



Category 11	Women in Social Enterprise
<p>This award recognises a woman working in the senior leadership team of a social enterprise who meets the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Represents excellence in her field of work• Inspires and empowers other women to achieve• Demonstrates a commitment to diversity• Exhibits enterprising spirit and drive• Provides impactful vision within an organisation and/or the wider social enterprise sector• Displayed moral courage and vision in making and delivering tough choices <p><i>Please note that the online application form is different for this category.</i></p> <p>Please click here to apply for Category 11 Women in Social Enterprise Award</p>	

Category 12	International Impact
<p>This is open to social enterprises that have been operating for more than 2 years which are working internationally and having a big impact in their field. This award is open to UK-based organisations only with existing international operations.</p> <p>Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excellent vision and strategic direction• Clear leadership and management of the organisation• A clear evidenced social and/or environmental impact• Show sustainability in terms of profit and growth• Good brand awareness and communication outputs• Operating internationally (including direct sales, franchising or subsidiaries)	



Category 13	Transformative Community Business
<p>This is open to social enterprises that have been operating for more than 2 years and are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. locally rooted 2. trading for the benefit of the local community 3. accountable to the local community 4. making community impact <p>Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent vision and strategic direction • Clear leadership and management of the organisation • Transformative impact on a place and community • Show sustainability in terms of profit and growth • Good brand awareness and communication outputs 	

Category 14	Employee Engagement
<p>This is open to a social enterprise that has minimum of 10 employees that is genuinely engaging employees in all aspects of the business. Organisations should be able to evidence high quality feedback and how employees are involved in decision making, service improvement and governance in a way that leads to enhanced quality of products or services, greater social impact and/ or overall business growth.</p> <p>Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate how employees are at the heart of organisational strategy and vision • A high degree of employee satisfaction • Demonstrate clear evidence of employee engagement in governance and decision making, implementation of policies and impact made • Evidence of creativity and innovation in employee engagement • Demonstrate how employee engagement has led to organisational growth and social impact 	