

National Clinical Impact Awards (NCIAs) – England

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clinical-excellence-awards-application-guidance/guide-for-applicants-national-clinical-excellence-awards-2021-awards-round>

1. There are now no nominating bodies. You will need support from your employer but there are now no citations from external bodies.
2. Awards will be for 5 years
3. Awards will not be pensionable (be aware that local awards started before 2018 are pensionable and this will be lost on moving to national award)

	Number of awards	Value per annum	Equivalent current award
National 1	330	£20,000	Silver
National 2	200	£30,000	Gold
National 3	70	£40,000	Platinum

4. Applicants complete a similar application form to before but Delivering and Developing Service are combined in a single new domain there will be a domain 5 which will be for all other national contributions not included in 1-4. There will be no separate “sheets” for additional information.
5. The character limit has been increased to 2000 for each domain.
6. Applications are non-stratified – that is you will not apply for a level you just apply for an award, all applications are marked and then the scoring determines what award (if any you get).
7. Applicants can apply after one year of being a consultant and do not need to have held a local employer based award.
8. There will be transitional arrangements to limit financial impact on current award holders;
 - a. If you apply for a first new award **before your national CEA would have been due for renewal under the old scheme** and are unsuccessful, you keep your existing CEA until its expiry. You may apply for an NCIA again up to the year before your CEA’s expiry. If your CEA would have been due for renewal and you are unsuccessful, the reversion arrangements to receive a legacy, pensionable local CEA will continue to apply. The level of the local award depends on the score you get in your NCIA application.
 - b. If you apply in the year your NCEA expires, your NCEA will lapse before the annual NCIA award round is completed and you will not be eligible for the transition arrangements.

- c. If you successfully gain a new NCIA before your NCEA expires, the NCIA will start when your NCEA expires. The value of legacy CEAs and its pensionable benefits are protected for the duration of your first new award at an equivalent level. If you gain an NCIA at an equivalent or higher level to your national CEA, the payment you get will be no less than the payment of your existing national CEA. If you gain an NCIA at a lower equivalent level you will receive no less than the legacy national CEA payment at that level. You will have to accept your new NCIA and give up any unexpired NCEA.

Wales

In Wales, all of the above reforms will be implemented with the below exceptions (for further detail see section 4, 'Government response and summary'):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clinical-excellence-awards-application-guidance/guide-for-applicants-national-clinical-excellence-awards-2021-awards-round>

- number of available awards – in Wales there will be approximately 37 awards granted per year once the transition process has completed, proportionate to the size of the consultant workforce
- the total number of awards granted will be adjusted each year depending on the level of commitment awards consultants hold as under the new arrangements consultants in Wales will be able to hold a national award and retain their commitment award
- structure of awards levels – in Wales the scheme will continue with 4 levels: Level 0, Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3

In Wales, consultants will be able to access both commitment awards and hold a National Clinical Impact Award concurrently from 2022 onwards.

Scotland

The distinction awards scheme in Scotland has been frozen to new awards since 2010. 5-yearly reviews are carried out for those already in the scheme but it is no longer possible to progress to a higher award.

There is no nationally agreed application process for discretionary points. Arrangements vary between employers. Distinction award holders are ineligible.

Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland there has been no award scheme run for several years.

Key messages/tips for successful NCIA application in England

1. National Clinical Impact Awards are recognition of work over and above your “day job”.
2. Use the guidance on the NCIA website when you complete your form as this reflects how sections are marked

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clinical-excellence-awards-application-guidance/guide-for-applicants-national-clinical-excellence-awards-2021-awards-round>

3. Make a note of all your work over and above what you are paid to do and then divide into NCIA form sections
4. Do not use the same content for multiple sections, but you can use different aspects of the same piece of work in different sections
5. **Date** all achievements with the year(s) and **say what impact it has had**. Often applications are unsuccessful because they are undated or record activity (eg member of a committee) without the impact.
6. Comparison with national benchmarks, results in national audits are particularly powerful
7. Use bullet points, "&" for "and", to save characters but do not go over character limits
8. You do not have to score highly in all sections to receive an award, but you must represent yourself strongly
9. You can include innovation in the research section
10. Domain 5 – Do not repeat what is other domains – put in impact that you have not included elsewhere