

Nomination Categories and Judging Criteria for North East Accountancy Awards 2012

Thank you for considering a nomination.

Practices, employers, institutes, suppliers, colleagues together who all who have positive contact with the accounting profession are encouraged to make nominations. Accountancy professionals can also make their own entry. Throughout this document the term "Accountant(s)" can also be taken to mean "Auditor(s)".

- Entry qualification of work from 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012.
- Entries are open to all sectors of the industry operating within North East England.
- All shortlisted nominees will be expected to attend the judging event on Wednesday 9th May 2012.

Please note nominations will be accepted for one category per individual in categories 1 to 5.

1 Finance Director of the Year

This award is open to registered directors of all organisations who have dedicated overall responsibility for finance.

2 Accountant of the Year

This award is open to all professionally qualified accountants from all sectors with more than 5 years post qualification experience.

3 New Accountant of the Year

This award is open to accountants of up to 5 years post qualification experience including students of professional qualifications with relevant work experience.

4 Tax Advisor of the Year

Open to any professional working within the taxation field.

For the categories above, evidence of the following should be shown in entries:

- Increased/sustained financial achievement for the company
- Heightened quality of service since being in position
- Enterprise and added value
- Dedication
- Innovation and initiative
- Strong leadership qualities
- Approachability
- Integrity
- Commitment
- Enthusiasm
- Team working and flexible working skills

5 Accounting Technician of the Year

This award is open to student and full members of the AAT who have made a significant impact to their employer's or client's business (evidence of this will be required). The judges will be looking for evidence that the student or member has shown a high level of:

- Professionalism
- Innovation
- Responsiveness to customer needs (internal or external)
- Commitment to quality
- Leadership and team working

6 Branch of the Year

Branches of national and international organisations with North East offices providing accounting and audit services should enter this category.

7 Independent Firm of the Year

To enter this category a firm must be an accounting practice head-officed in the North East and can be of up to six offices.

Nominations for categories (6) and (7) should outline:

- Added value to clients
- Raised clients competitive advantage
- Developed company structure and enhanced customer effectiveness, client focus and innovation
- Increased the client base
- Developed unique services
- Provided a positive working environment

8 Accounting and Finance Employer of the Year

Supply quantitative and qualitative evidence showing how your organisation provides and offers the best possible opportunities for your accounting and finance employees.

The judges are looking for evidence of:

- Supportive structure and environment
- Investment in employees including training
- Caring and staff well-being ie health and wealth
- Presenting opportunities, identifying and promoting potential
- Flexible working practices
- Employee benefits
- Promoting good practice, beliefs and values
- Innovation in work practice
- Good internal communication
- Demonstrating equality and diversity

9 Corporate Finance Deal of the Year

This award is open to corporate finance departments operating within accountancy firms, smaller boutique corporate finance firms where qualified accountants account for the majority of professional staff and corporate financial advisors.

The nomination must show that the finance team has been instrumental in securing the deal for the client as well as showing evidence of:

- Innovation in initiating the deal
- How the deal has maximised benefit to the regional economy
- Strong team work and dedication
- Flexibility in job roles to ensure the end result
- How the financial strength of all interested parties including advisors, customers, employees, financiers and owners is increased by the deal

10 Business Finance Team of the Year

This award is open to teams of two or more people from commerce and industry. Within the nomination please show evidence of the following, including quotes and testimonials from clients and customers where relevant.

Judges will assess the nomination on the following areas:

- Ability to work well as a team
- How your results have benefited your company and/or clients
- Increased business/retained client base through team work
- Increased productivity as a team
- Evidence of flexibility and colleague support

11 Public Sector Finance Team of the Year

This award is open to teams of two or more people from public and third sector organisations. Within the nomination please show evidence of the following, including quotes and testimonials from internal and external customers where relevant.

Nominations judged on:

- Ability to work well as a team
- How your results have benefited your organisation and/or customers
- Increased organisational performance, efficiency and effectiveness as a result of the teams work
- Increased productivity/ enhanced service delivery
- Evidence of flexibility and colleague support

12 Outstanding Achievement

This Award is open for nominations for individuals who have shown significant achievement over many years and made an outstanding contribution to the accountancy profession or the company which they are part of.

For this category the judges will be looking for demonstrations of superior working in the following areas:

- Significant achievement over many years
- Determination
- Enterprise
- Strategic development
- Leadership
- High quality of service
- Integrity
- Clear thought
- Attitude
- Innovation

For 2012 judges across all panels will also be able to submit nominations within the separate categories for the Outstanding Achievement of the Year Award based on showing evidence on all of the above.