

The PRCA DARE Awards strive to seek out and reward the very best PR and communications professionals across the UK, decided by a panel of highly respected industry experts across six regions. The awards uncover impeccable talent and celebrate PR professionals far and wide, and are your chance to display and celebrate your successes over the last year, being recognised by the world's largest PR and communications professional body.

- **Promote the industry** – We're a not-for-profit, so all the profits from our awards are invested back into our industry to help teams and individuals maximise the value they deliver to clients and organisations.
- **Encourage your team** – These awards are a great platform to shine the limelight on your team's fantastic work and reward every member.
- **Expand your network** – Win new business and open opportunities for new clientele by rubbing shoulders with award-winning businesses.

## ENTRY GUIDELINES

The PRCA DARE Awards are open to all parties involved in the use of PR for communications purposes, including; PR consultancies, in-house communications teams, digital agencies, marketing teams and media owners.

You will have the choice to enter into one of the six following regions and nations:

- Midlands
- North England and North Wales
- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- South East
- South West England and South Wales

If you are unsure which region to enter, please email the awards team at [dareawards@prca.global](mailto:dareawards@prca.global)

Do ensure you have sought permission for the right to use the intellectual property of the brand or client entered.

Organisations can submit multiple entries into all categories. Companies or individuals can submit entries on behalf of themselves or others.

Organisations can enter the Awards as many times as they like per category, but can be shortlisted a **maximum of three times per category**.

## KEY DATES AND PRICING

<b>Early Bird Deadline</b>	<b>4th March 2025</b>
<b>Final Deadline</b>	<b>24th March 2025</b>
<b>Finalists Announced</b>	<b>25th April 2025</b>
<b>Awards Ceremonies</b>	<b>May – July 2025</b>
<b>Early Bird Entry</b> <i>Member</i>	<b>£140+VAT</b>
<b>Early Bird Entry</b> <i>Non Member</i>	<b>£225+VAT</b>
<b>Final Entry</b> <i>Member</i>	<b>£185+VAT</b>
<b>Final Entry</b> <i>Non Member</i>	<b>£285+VAT</b>
<b>Professional of the Year Award</b> <i>Member £100+VAT   Non member £150+VAT</i>	
<b>Rising Star of the Year Award</b> <i>Member FREE TO ENTER   Non member £50+VAT</i>	
<b>Team Culture and Community Award</b> <i>Member FREE TO ENTER   Non member £50+VAT</i>	

## ELIGIBILITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

All entries that are made into the Campaign Award Categories must be focused on work carried out **between the 20th March 2024 and 24th March 2025 (the closing date)**. A substantial amount of the campaign work must have occurred during this time, but the campaign does not need to have been started or completed during the eligibility period.

Please ensure that for categories recognising the performance of teams or consultancies, financial figures should relate to your most recent financial year.

Please be aware that campaign category entries do not have to relate to a specific campaign or project but can be a component of on-going work or a combination of activities.

Judges will assume that campaigns using celebrities or other associations have been paid for their involvement unless stipulated otherwise.

## YOUR ENTRY

*The PRCA DARE Awards encourages you to be as creative as you wish, as there is no 'official' format that you must use for your Award entry. Your written entry must be no more than 1,000 words, size 10 font and a maximum of 4 sides of A4. However, we would advise that you follow the [judging criteria on page 3](#).*

### **Mandatory:**

- The company logo must be uploaded alongside your entry. Images can also be included in the body of your entry to support your case.
- The campaign budget must be stated. When PR is part of an integrated campaign, please state the PR budget. The approximate campaign budget must be clear.
- If the campaign is integrated, when demonstrating results please state the PRs involvement and outline the activity of the other marketing disciplines.
- Please ensure that for categories recognising the performance of teams or consultancies, financial figures should relate to your most recent financial year.

### **Supporting Materials (Optional):**

Supporting documentation such as press cuttings and video/URL links are optional – all relevant information should be included in your main entry. If choosing to include a video, it must not run for longer than 4 minutes and be uploaded to our entry website alongside your entry. Please do remember that supporting documentation will only be consulted where judges are unable to distinguish between two entries.

## JUDGING CRITERIA

Judges will mark your entry on the following criteria:

### CAMPAIGN CATEGORIES

Strategy and research, execution, creativity, originality, effectiveness and results.

*\*The campaign budget must be stated. All entrants must include any agencies or teams involved in the campaign.*

### INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES

Leadership, initiative, performance and contribution, and colleague/client references.

### TEAM CATEGORIES

- Clients: retention, growth, and performance.
- People: commitment to development and diversity, innovative practices and employee engagement.
- Financial: performance, growth, and acquisitions must be disclosed.
- Innovation: investment in infrastructure, new client products, and/or new approach to staffing.

### TEAM CULTURE AND COMMUNITY AWARD

- Leadership: how are the organisation pushing culture/community forward as the gold standard for the industry, and empowering their entire team to do the same.
- Initiative(s): what have they done to push community, equality, diversity, mental health amongst staff, etc.
- Impact: How have the above impacted their workplace culture and community (internal and external), as well as staff/client/colleague/client/community/charitable partner references.

#### Contact Details:

For Awards information please contact: [dareawards@prca.global](mailto:dareawards@prca.global) or call 020 723 36026.

For sponsorship information contact [Debbie.Little@prca.global](mailto:Debbie.Little@prca.global)

## TIPS AND TRICKS TO WIN

### 1. FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES

Read the entry guide and read it again! The judges will stick closely to the criteria set out in the guide and so please read it carefully to give you the best start in the judging process, this does include the word count!

### 2. RESULTS

Results and effectiveness from a whole segment of the marking criteria, meaning if you do not show the judges clear measurement and evaluation, you could be missing a chance of winning!

### 3. CHOOSE WISELY

The variety, depth, and breadth of the PR industry alongside the large range of award categories to choose from means there will always be a slight overlap. Choose the category wisely to ensure you're entering the best possible choice for you.

### 4. BE HONEST

Whether it's campaign costs, over-inflated measurements and results, or any other use of false information, the judges will be able to notice immediately! Don't waste the opportunity to have a winning entry by providing the judges with an unrealistic submission.



### 5. PLAN, PLAN, PLAN

Think how many other entries you may be up against and know that a last-minute entry may not be the best path to a win. A good entry that has sufficient time, thought, and energy put in will stand out from the other submissions.

### 6. TRY NOT TO ASSUME

Despite the judges being industry experts in their sector, they may not have in depth knowledge of your entry. This being said, aim to provide as much detail as you can, keeping your entry clear from the start for the judges.

### 7. STAND OUT AND BE CREATIVE

Give the judges something interactive to look at and engage with to help them better understand your entry. Whether that's through the use of language, image or video, bring your entry to life by using different mediums.





## **CAMPAIGN AWARDS CATEGORIES**

### **B2B AWARD**

This award recognises work focused on services or brands targeted at the business or not-for-profit markets and relates to work that involves the promotion of products and services from one business to another.

### **CHARITY/NOT FOR PROFIT AWARD**

This award recognises exceptional PR campaigns delivered by or on behalf of charities or social enterprises.

### **CONSUMER RELATIONS AWARD**

This award recognises work that involves the promotion of products or services to consumers, delivered by the private, public or charitable sectors.

### **EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT OR INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS AWARD**

This award recognises campaigns that use internal communications to engage staff, drive organisational change, deliver increased stakeholder value, or change an organisation's ethos.

### **BEST USE OF DATA AND ANALYTICS AWARD**

This category is aimed at establishing the best campaign or programme using reporting and measurement. You should detail how the reporting or measurement programme was innovative, how it was conceived, and the benefits gained. This could be a one-off campaign or for an ongoing programme. Details of the campaign, including outcomes achieved and approximate budget, should be included in the submission.

### **DIGITAL AND SOCIAL MEDIA AWARD**

This award recognises campaigns that include a large element of digital and social media work, whether on their own or as part of an integrated programme of PR and targeted marketing activity.

### **INTEGRATED CAMPAIGN OF THE YEAR**

This award recognises work that uses integrated communications, led by public relations, in order to achieve excellent results.

### **DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND PURPOSE AWARD**

This award celebrates campaigns that champion diversity, inclusivity, and/or positive societal impact. This could be any internal or external campaign. Open to PR agencies and in-house PR teams, it recognises efforts addressing key issues such as representation, employee engagement, CEO activism, and/or links to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Entries must demonstrate clear evidence of the campaign's impact and alignment with business objectives.

### **EVENT/ LAUNCH OF THE YEAR**

Entries in this category should demonstrate how PR has been effectively used to launch a new product or service, built an audience for an event or developed a relationship with the public to secure the reputation of the event, product or service.

### **LOW BUDGET CAMPAIGN AWARD**

This award recognises campaign on a budget of less than £10k that has been delivered to achieve excellent results.

### **MEDIA RELATIONS AWARD**

This award recognises campaigns that use targeted media relations to achieve excellent results.

### **PUBLIC SECTOR AWARD**

This award recognises work by or on behalf of central government, local authorities, NHS trusts, fire authorities, police forces, executive agencies, non-departmental bodies.

## INDIVIDUAL AWARDS CATEGORIES

### PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

This category is open to any individual, agency head, freelancer or independent consultant. The individual will have shown outstanding performance, made a significant contribution to the industry and to their organisations. Judges will look for an impressive client list, client retention, evidence of quality work and results, innovation and implementation of creative ideas.

### RISING STAR OF THE YEAR

Open to NextGen\* Individuals in both consultancies and in-house teams. The winner will be recognised for an outstanding performance within their organisation and to the wider PR industry. Nominations for this award can be made by the individual themselves, a colleague, or employer. Organisations can enter any number of entries.

*\*A NextGen individual is anyone under the age of 30 years old at the time of the final entry deadline on 24th March 2025.*

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## TEAM AWARDS CATEGORIES

### IN-HOUSE TEAM OF THE YEAR

This category is open to any UK in-house private, not-for-profit or public sector PR and communications team. Judges will look for the role of PR and communications play in the wider organisation, effective use of resources, implementation of creative ideas and general contribution to the organisation's objectives. As with all team categories, judges will mark your entry against the following criteria: team performance, staff, financial, and innovation.

### SMALL CONSULTANCY OF THE YEAR

This category is open to any consultancy up to 10 staff, whether multi-discipline or niche. Judges will look for evidence of financial performance, staff and client retention/acquisition, innovation and implementation of creative ideas.

Please cover:

- Essentials to include: number of employees, date of incorporation, and details of turnover (acquisitions must be disclosed).
- Client list showing retention, consultancy growth, and PR performance.
- Emphasis should be made on staff retention strategies and consultancies will be commended for their dedication to diversity. Please outline initiatives you may have in place to promote diversity and inclusion within the workplace.
- Reference to commitment to professionalism will be favoured.
- Financial performance and growth will be assessed. Acquisitions must be disclosed
- Innovation within the consultancy will be looked at. For example, investment in infrastructure, new client products, new approach to staffing.

## TEAM AWARDS CATEGORIES

### MEDIUM CONSULTANCY OF THE YEAR

This category is open to any consultancy up to 11-25, whether multi-discipline or niche. Judges will look for evidence of financial performance, staff and client retention/acquisition, innovation and implementation of creative ideas.

Please cover:

- Essentials to include: number of employees, date of incorporation, and details of turnover (acquisitions must be disclosed).
- Client list showing retention, consultancy growth, and PR performance.
- Emphasis should be made on staff retention strategies and consultancies will be commended for their dedication to diversity. Please outline initiatives you may have in place to promote diversity and inclusion within the workplace.
- Reference to commitment to professionalism will be favoured.
- Financial performance and growth will be assessed. Acquisitions must be disclosed
- Innovation within the consultancy will be looked at. For example, investment in infrastructure, new client products, new approach to staffing.

### LARGE CONSULTANCY OF THE YEAR

This category is open to any consultancy with 26 staff or over, whether multi-discipline or niche. Judges will look for evidence of financial performance, staff and client retention/acquisition, innovation and implementation of creative ideas.

Please cover:

- Essentials to include: number of employees, date of incorporation, and details of turnover (acquisitions must be disclosed).
- Client list showing retention, consultancy growth, and PR performance.
- Emphasis should be made on staff

retention strategies and consultancies will be commended for their dedication to diversity. Please outline initiatives you may have in place to promote diversity and inclusion within the workplace.

- Reference to commitment to professionalism will be favoured.
- Financial performance and growth will be assessed. Acquisitions must be disclosed
- Innovation within the consultancy will be looked at. For example, investment in infrastructure, new client products, new approach to staffing.

### TEAM CULTURE AND COMMUNITY AWARD (OPEN TO AGENCIES AND IN-HOUSE TEAMS ALIKE)

Businesses aren't just money-making enterprises, they're places people come together, pool resources and – hopefully – make a difference in the world. In recent years, institutions have come to terms with a growing need for discussion around mental health, around inclusiveness, around the gender pay gap and a number of social issues.

A Culture and Community Award highlights the agencies and in-house teams who are going beyond serving their clients and customers. They're serving their people and the societies they're part of and trying to make a difference.

To celebrate and recognise agencies and in-house teams leading the way in fostering positive workplace cultures and community impact, this category is free to enter for PRCA members. For non-members, the entry fee has been set at a reduced rate of £50+VAT.

You can find the judging criteria for this award on [page 3](#).