

The Herald
**SCOTTISH
FAMILY BUSINESS
AWARDS 2026**

 **business
gateway**
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Celebrating Scottish Family Business

**ENTRY
DEADLINE**

Thursday,
September 17.
6pm

ENTRY GUIDE

Headline Partner



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Welcome

The Herald Scottish Family Business Awards 2026
in association with Business Gateway will celebrate the vibrant
and inventive Scottish family business sphere.

Enterprises which not only drive diversity and dynamism but also
play a crucial role in enriching the communities they serve.

Why Enter?

CELEBRATE YOUR LEGACY:

Shine a spotlight on
the generations of
dedication, values,
and resilience that
define your family
business.

SHOWCASE YOUR STORY:

From innovation
and succession
to community
impact and long-
term growth, share
what makes your
business unique
within Scotland's
thriving family
business landscape.

STRENGTHEN FAMILY PRIDE:

Recognise the
contribution of
family members
and employees
who have helped
shape and sustain
your success.

RAISE YOUR PROFILE:

Finalists and
winners gain
valuable exposure
through The Herald,
enhancing your
reputation with
customers, partners,
and the wider
business community.

EARN TRUSTED RECOGNITION:

All entries are
judged by an
independent panel
of experts, ensuring
a credible and
respected mark of
excellence.

**Join us in celebrating Scotland's most outstanding family
businesses at a prestigious awards ceremony on Thursday,
November 19, 2026, bringing together generations of success and
some of the country's most inspiring business leaders.**



Key dates:

ENTRY DEADLINE

Thursday,
September 17, 2026

FINALIST ANNOUNCED

End September
2026

EVENT DATE

Thursday,
November 19, 2026

EVENT LOCATION

Grand Central Hotel,
Glasgow

How to enter

Once you have decided on the category, or categories, you would like to enter, please click the Enter Now button on the [website](#) where you will be directed to our Awards Entry form. Alternatively, you can access it [here](#).

A Word document version of the form will be available for working offline to this - if you would prefer to work offline via a word document version of the entry form please email Charlotte Jebson at charlotte.jebson@newsquest.co.uk with the category/categories you would like to enter.

If you have any questions regarding the entry process, please see the FAQ section below or get in touch via the details at the bottom of this page.

DEADLINE

All entries must be received by 6pm Thursday, September 17, 2026



Judging Process

All entries will be independently assessed by a panel of experienced professionals and industry experts. Judges will review submissions based on criteria relevant to each category, including evidence of impact, innovation, teamwork, and results achieved. Judges will meet to review all entries and a shortlist will be agreed.

Successful finalists will receive notification by end of September and the shortlist will be announced in The Herald.

All finalists are encouraged to attend the awards evening on Thursday, November 19, 2026 at the Grand Central Hotel in Glasgow.

Entry Rules

1. The awards are free to enter.
2. Award sponsors or companies affiliated with award sponsors may not enter the category they sponsor.
3. You must have permission of the organisation or individual to nominate them to win an award.
4. Entries are treated in confidence.
5. The word count must be adhered to; judges are looking for clear and concise answers.
6. Supporting information can be included please ensure written material does not exceed two A4 pages.
7. You can submit multiple entries across the categories, but a separate submission must be made for each nomination.
8. Incomplete entries will not be judged.
9. All entries will be acknowledged on receipt. Entries will become the property of The Herald and entries will not be returned.
10. The Herald reserve the right to withdraw an award from any applicant supplying false information within their entry. Judges reserve the right to audit any information supplied.
11. The Herald reserve the right to withdraw an award or nomination from any applicant whose actions may bring the reputation of The Herald, its affiliated companies, the Judges, or our Sponsors in disrepute.
12. Judges reserve the right to move entrants within categories if they feel their criteria is better suited to another award, to remove categories or to update or add new categories during the awards process.
13. Information supplied will be shared with the judging panel and all information will be treated as confidential. It will not be used for any purpose other than judging the competition. Finalist organisations may be included in related media coverage and may be required to take part in promotional activities about The Herald Scottish Family Business Awards 2026.
14. The judges' decisions are final.
15. By registering and completing an entry for the awards you agree to these terms and conditions.

Categories & Criteria

COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY

sponsored by Allied Vehicles

A business which makes a sustainable contribution to the community in which they operate. Examples of this could include supporting local initiatives, charity work, demonstrating commitment to their industry sector or taking extra care of employees and their families.

CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

sponsored by Azets

This category will recognise a company which has excelled in the provision of customer service as an integral part of their business. Judges will be looking for evidence of how this has been achieved and contributed to the success and development of the organisation.

FASTEST GROWING FAMILY BUSINESS AWARD

sponsored by Business Gateway

A business which has achieved sustained expansion over recent years, against the toughest economic backdrop for decades. Growth could be in terms of turnover and profit, an increase in employee numbers, and/or through expansion into new market-places at home or abroad.

RURAL FAMILY BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Businesses in rural areas play a vital role in providing employment and wealth in the communities in which they operate. This category recognises family businesses in rural Scotland (outwith Glasgow City, City of Edinburgh, Aberdeen City and Dundee City) from any sector.

GREEN FAMILY BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

This category looks to recognise family businesses who have demonstrated an innovative approach and made it their goal to reduce their environmental impact on the world.

BUSINESS INNOVATION AWARD

This category will reward a company which have embraced innovation, whether through the development of products and services, or by making changes to service delivery, production processes, or working practices, or by altering the direction of the business radically to adapt to a changing environment.

Categories & Criteria

NEXT GENERATION AWARD

sponsored by AAB

This award will be presented to an individual who plays a pivotal role in shaping and securing the future of their family business for the next generation. The award will highlight an individual who has demonstrated commitment to and understanding of their family business and the successful future of that enterprise. Individuals can enter this themselves or be nominated by a colleague.

RECOGNITION AWARD

This award will be presented to an individual who has shown loyalty and dedication to the family business in which they work in. We understand that most businesses wouldn't be where they are without the strong workforce behind them. We want to hear about an employee that has gone above and beyond the call of duty over the last year. Let's celebrate their hard work, achievements and outstanding contribution to their role and business. The award will highlight an individual who has become "one of the family".

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION

This award recognises an individual or team which has made an outstanding contribution to a Scottish-headquartered family business over the years, from any level of seniority within the business.

SCOTTISH FAMILY BUSINESS OF THE YEAR (MIRCO)

sponsored by Business Gateway

This category is for a family business headquartered in Scotland with 10 employees or fewer, operating in any sector of the economy, which has enjoyed outstanding success.

SCOTTISH FAMILY BUSINESS OF THE YEAR (SMALL/MEDIUM)

sponsored by Virgin Money

This category is for a family business headquartered in Scotland with 100 employees or fewer, operating in any sector of the economy, which has enjoyed outstanding success.

SCOTTISH FAMILY BUSINESS OF THE YEAR (LARGE)

sponsored by Malcolm Group

This category is for family business headquartered in Scotland with more than 100 employees, operating in any sector of the economy, which has enjoyed outstanding success.

Last Years Winners

JOIN THE RANKS OF FORMER WINNERS WHO HAVE HELPED
SHAPE THE FUTURE OF SCOTTISH FAMILY BUSINESS



PG Paper





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For any queries relating to your entry or attendance at the awards please contact Alana Massie, Event Manager, on 0141 302 6035 or at alana.massie@newsquest.co.uk

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