



Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport

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Dear all,

Every one of us has someone who helped us get to where we are. These are the unsung heroes who change lives, support their communities and build a country that works.

For too long the UK Honours system has not put them at its heart. It has been skewed towards people who are well-connected, live in particular parts of the country, come from particular backgrounds and belong to particular disciplines. It has favoured those who got to the top, and ignored those who helped them get there. And it has ignored the ordinary, extraordinary contribution of people across the country who are concerned with a different kind of success – the success of our communities, of our children and our ability to know, trust and understand one another. This must change.

That is why I am asking for your help, beginning with the 2027 New Year Honours List so that together we can ensure it properly reflects our whole country and the ordinary, extraordinary people who go the extra mile for the first time in our country's history.

I am particularly keen to receive nominations for people who have shown outstanding courage and conviction, resilience and perseverance. In short, people who have done more than could have been asked of them – not just those who have done their job, or have risen to the top.

I am also asking for nominations for:

- People who live in parts of the country outside of London and the South East, who are vastly under-represented in the nominations we receive. Talent and contribution is everywhere and our Honours system should be able to recognise it.
- People who come from particular backgrounds – especially people from working-class backgrounds who are vastly underrepresented especially at the higher levels. In addition, I am keen to see more women, ethnic minorities and disabled people recognised at the higher levels.
- People who are contributing at the grassroots and in communities. We intend to prioritise them over people who are well known and have reached the top of their professions in reflection of the imbalance that has been allowed to persist for many years.



- People from disciplines that have been overlooked consistently. Whether it is rugby league, local news or spoken word, we will prioritise nominations to those disciplines that have been too invisible to decision makers for too long.

Last year we ensured Sir Billy Boston became the first rugby league player to receive a knighthood in British history. I am proud that we were able to finally recognise his achievements but appalled that it took until he was 89 years old to recognise the greatest rugby league player this country has ever known. If he had not been a working-class, black man from Cardiff who played in a working-class sport, I am certain he would have been recognised decades ago.

We have righted one historic injustice. Now I am asking for your help, to call time on an assumption that the UK Honours List exists for other people, and to demonstrate to the nation that it can reflect the excellence, courage and contribution of all of its people.

For our part, we are making it easier to nominate, and providing more help on how to do so. We want to demystify this process and empower people to get involved. Details on how and when to submit a nomination are provided below my letter and I am looking forward to working with you all to ensure we reflect and recognise the brilliance of our entire country.

Yours sincerely,



Rt Hon Lisa Nandy MP
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport

How and when to submit a nomination

We advise focusing on a small number of high-quality nominations. Spending time setting out your nominee's contribution will help the Independent Honours Committees make their decision and increase their chance of success. This is particularly helpful for more senior levels of award.

If you're uncertain whether to nominate someone for this round or wait for a future opportunity, please contact the Honours Team for guidance. We welcome nominations at any time of year to build a strong pipeline for future Honours lists.

If you would like to submit a nomination, please complete the attached form and send it to honours@dcms.gov.uk by 31 March. The nomination form remains the same as in previous rounds. As always, we will need the nominee's full name, date of birth, nationality, home address, email, and phone number (mobile or home) to process the nomination. We cannot move forward with a nomination without these details. The long citation has a strict limit of 2,700 characters (including spaces).

The DCMS Honours team will run the following information sessions, covering what committees look for and how to write a strong nomination, as well as the history of the Honours system. Details and joining instructions are:

- Monday 16th March - 11:00-11.30
 - Google Meet joining info
 - Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/zin-vwru-uty>
- Wednesday 18th March 16:30-17:00
 - Google Meet joining info
 - Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/hrf-jsdz-tfq>
- Friday 20th March 13:30-14:00
 - Google Meet joining info
 - Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/agj-pxsi-zum>

We encourage you to make your wider stakeholder groups and networks aware that they can submit Honours nominations, but please do not the nomination form, attached to this letter, directly to them. Instead, direct them to the public nomination route: <https://www.gov.uk/honours/nominate-someone-in-the-uk>.

The DCMS Honours Team is available to assist with any questions you may have about the process. Please reach out to honours@dcms.gov.uk if you need further information.

Previous nominations

Finally, you may have submitted nominations previously for which there has not been an obvious outcome. Nominations can take 18 months to work their way through the system, particularly as DCMS deals with a very large number of nominations. Should you be unsure whether to renominate an existing nomination after 18 months, please ask the DCMS Honours team for advice. Note that updates on individual nominations can only be provided to the original nominator.