

Clinical Impact Awards 2024: Applications open

We are writing to let you know that the 2024 National Clinical Impact Awards application window is **now open** in England and Wales. Applications close at 5pm on Monday 15th April.

I have listed some helpful links below:

- Webinar for applicants and employers - <https://tinyurl.com/ACCIA2023webinars>
- ACCIA [Gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) home page- [Advisory Committee on Clinical Impact Awards - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/advisory-committee-on-clinical-impact-awards)
- 2024 Timetable- [Clinical Impact Awards 2024: application timetable - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118422/2024-clinical-impact-awards-application-timetable)
- Applicants' guide- [Clinical Impact Awards 2024: applicants' guide - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118422/2024-clinical-impact-awards-applicants-guide)

Three levels of award are available in England, from lowest to highest:

- National 1 (N1) £20,000*
- National 2 (N2) £30,000*
- National 3 (N3) £40,000* * *non-pensionable*

In Wales there is also a lower level (National 0, £10,000*).

Pay protection arrangements operate for those applicants who have an existing legacy National Clinical Excellence Award. These are detailed in our full guidance documents.

Consultants can apply for a new award at any time after they have completed a full year in an eligible role, in a permanent NHS contract (fixed term and locum contracts are not eligible).

Applications need to show what has been delivered that has made an impact at a national level, over and above the expectations defined in an applicant's job plan.

Register now for access to the Vascular Surgery NCIP Portal

<https://gettingitrightfirsttime.co.uk/national-rollout-of-ncip-portal-to-consultant-vascular-surgeons-is-now-under-way/>

Filling in the online application

Rules

A consultant must fill in their own application form – nobody else can do it for them.

The Vascular Society cannot proofread or provide detailed comments on wording of applications. Applicants can indicate on their form if they have sought advice.

Job Plan

It is vitally important that the job plan is clear, as it allows assessors to determine the extent of the paid role. It acts as a benchmark for what would be expected within such a role.

Applicants should use the job plan to cover:

- DCC, academic, SPA, APA, and total programmed activities in their agreed job plan.
- Specific details of activities covered by the paid contracted PAs and whether they are paid from the NHS, an academic institution, or another source.
 - Any unpaid sessions.
 - Any additional income from wider roles outside the job plan; explaining how it relates to evidence in the application (or if it does not).
- **Any changes in the last 5 years should be explained.** PA numbers can be rounded up or down to one decimal point. Numbers in each field must add up to the total.

We do not expect to see the amount of any additional payment received but will check industry databases for any payments. We expect applicants to be transparent about what activities they may have received payments for within the last 5 years.

Five domains of evidence

Domains for applicants to tell us about their contributions and provide supporting evidence:

1. **Developing and delivering a high-quality service.**
2. **Improving the NHS through leadership.**
3. **Education, training and people development.**
4. **Innovation and research.**
5. **Additional impact, in which applicants can provide other evidence, particularly if it relates to published NHS or other relevant health objectives.**

There is a single online application form for all awards, so every applicant can highlight their contributions in the same way. There is no longer input from Professional Societies.

“Top Tips” for success

In all five domains, applicants should consider providing evidence of **national impact** relating to equality, diversity and inclusion.

Regional sub committees score each application on the strength of the evidence provided. The individual scores are combined and then all applications within each region are ranked. Based on the number of awards available our main committee will recommend applicants for national awards to health ministers, for final approval.

Regional subcommittees contain a mix of lay, employer and professional scorers.

It is essential that applications are written in accessible language for lay scorers to understand the evidence presented. To make their job easier:

- Read the guidance and provide the information requested in each section.
- Make your NHS job plan clear in terms of the activities you undertake:
 - Number of paid PAs (DCC/SPA/etc) and total PAs must be stated clearly.
 - Totals must add up.
- Inclusion and description of any additional paid and unpaid work you undertake.
- **Date your activity** to ensure that it can be considered (covers last 5 years).
- Explanation of impacts and outputs as opposed to activities and inputs.
- Ensuring evidence is national and not local. Provide clarity of how the impact described is over and above the expectations of your job and how it has expanded beyond your locality (i.e. national adoption of an initiative or education programme).
- Define national, regional or local impact of work NOT lengthy descriptions of activity.
 - Speciality-specific quality and activity metrics for benchmarking can be included (NVR, GIRFT, NCIPs etc).
 - Innovation and research work that has changed practice.
- Only include international work of direct benefit to the NHS reputation or the UK health economy.
- **Avoid repetition.**
- **Avoid acronyms** that may mean nothing to non-specialists (or explain meaning).

Consider standing for Vascular Society Elected Council

A position on the VS Council and one of the Society’s Committees is an excellent way to contribute to vascular surgery. If Council’s not for you the perhaps involve yourself in ASPIRE, a SIG, the Circulation Foundation or another Society activity.