



Award Categories for Nomination

Businesses may choose to enter up to three of the following categories (See below details of specific criteria applicable to certain categories of awards).

- AGE FRIENDLY BUSINESS AWARD **NEW**
- CAFÉ, BAR OR RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR **NEW**
- CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE
- DESIGN & CRAFT AWARD
- eCOMMERCE & DIGITAL BUSINESS EXCELLENCE
- EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR
- EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR
- FAMILY BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
- HOTEL & ACCOMMODATION PROVIDER OF THE YEAR AWARD **NEW**
- INNOVATION IN BUSINESS
- INTERNATIONAL TRADE AWARD
- INVESTMENT IN DEVELOPMENT & PROGRESSION OF STAFF
- NIGHTTIME EXPERIENCE AWARD **NEW**
- RETAILER OF THE YEAR
- RURAL TOURISM AWARD **NEW**
- SALON OF THE YEAR **NEW**
- SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
- SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE AWARD
- TASTE OF KILKENNY AWARD
- VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT AWARD

Kilkenny Business of the Year

The winner of this award will be selected from overall category winners, as decided by the Independent Judging Panel based on scoring awarded from assessment of application and Shortlisted Interview Process.

In addition to the Business of the Year award and the above category awards, the Chamber President, supported by the Board and its Independent Judging Panel will present the following awards on the evening of the Kilkenny Chamber Awards Gala Black Tie Dinner on **23rd November 2024**.

- Lifetime Achievement Award. *Sponsor: Kilkenny Chamber*
- President's Award. *Sponsor: Kilkenny Chamber*

Entry Criteria/Application Process

1. Entry to the Awards is FREE of charge and open to all registered businesses operating in Kilkenny.
2. Businesses must have offices or a base in Co. Kilkenny and be in operation for at **least 12 months**. Category sponsors, event partners and Chamber Board Members are excluded from entering their businesses in the awards. However, individuals within their organisation(s) may participate under the Employee of the Year category.
3. **Nominations** for awards (using the official Kilkenny Business Awards 2024 Online Nomination Form) can be made through the Kilkenny Chamber website www.kilkennychamber.ie and **must be received no later than 5.30pm on 20th September 2024**.
4. A business can be nominated for up to 3 categories. Businesses are also allowed to self nominate and are encouraged to put forward internal teams/departments for consideration.
5. **Category Descriptions and criteria for entry** for Kilkenny Business Awards 2024 can be downloaded from www.kilkennychamber.ie or are available by emailing admin@kilkennychamber.ie.
6. **Completed application forms** must be submitted on line. Completed applications must be received no later than **4th October 2024** or such other date decided by Kilkenny Chamber if an extension is introduced. All applications must be signed and dated by the business nominee, owner or manager/managing director of the business.
7. All applications received will get a confirmation of entry email verifying receipt of entry.
8. If in the opinion of the awards adjudication panel and Independent Judging Panel, nominations and applications received for a particular category do not meet the laid down criteria or reach an appropriate standard of application and are thereby deemed not to meet standards required for short listing for that particular category award, it may be the case that no such award will be made in that particular category. The awards adjudication panel, on review of applications received, also reserve the right to advise applicants that they are being considered for alternative or additional award categories short listing than those originally entered.
9. The Awards Adjudication Panel in conjunction with the Independent Judging Panel will review all applications in October and **a shortlist of applicants** in each category will be identified for Interview. This shortlist **will be announced in October 2024**.
10. **All shortlisted applicants must be available for final judging interviews on Wednesday 23rd October 2024.**
11. Winners for each category will be announced at the official Kilkenny Business Awards 2024 Gala Dinner at Lyrath Estate Hotel on **Saturday 23rd of November 2024.**
12. The judging panel's decision is final and binding. Each applicant will have access to the judging panel's scoring of their application and interview by way of feedback on their application if they so wish, and must officially request this in writing.
13. Canvassing of Adjudication Panel, Independent Judging Panel or Awards Organisers will lead to automatic disqualification.