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CIHT Scotland Annual Awards 2026 Unsung Hero of the Year

Deadline for entries: 20th August 2026

Click [here](#) to enter.

Overview

The new CIHT Scotland **Unsung Hero of the Year** award, recognises individuals working in or around the highways and transportation sector whose contribution is vital, but rarely visible. It is for people who go beyond their role to support colleagues, projects, communities or the profession. The award is designed to recognise and celebrate the practitioners, technicians, support staff, volunteers and frontline professionals whose efforts are often overlooked by conventional project or scheme based awards.

Eligibility

The award is open to any individual working in the highways and transportation sector in Scotland, regardless of their role, including engineers, technicians, planners, site supervisors, administrators, frontline operatives and volunteers.

CIHT membership is not required for nominees, however, nominations should be submitted by a CIHT member who can be an employer, colleague or from partner organisation. Self-nominations are not accepted, and all nominations must be made by a third party, such as a colleague, manager or client.

The contribution being recognised should normally have taken place within the preceding 24 months, although sustained long-term contributions may also be considered. Nominees should not have previously received significant formal recognition for the specific contribution for which they are being nominated.

If you wish to submit, but have questions regarding eligibility, please contact us at scotland@ciht.org.uk.

Entry Criteria

The award is **free to enter**.

Nominations should address the following criteria. While not every nomination is expected to demonstrate each criterion to the same extent, strong entries will provide clear, specific and evidenced examples across most areas.

The nominee should demonstrate a significant **behind-the-scenes impact**, where their role is not typically in the spotlight, yet their contribution has been vital to the success of a project, team, organisation or the wider profession. Judges will be looking for evidence that the nominee's efforts have made a meaningful difference, despite often being unseen or unrecognised.

Nominations should also provide evidence of the nominee **going beyond their role**, demonstrating effort, initiative, commitment or leadership that exceeds the normal expectations of their position. This may include taking on additional responsibilities, supporting colleagues, solving complex challenges or making exceptional contributions outside their day-to-day duties.

The nominee should have had a **positive impact on others**, with demonstrable benefits for colleagues, communities, safety outcomes, project delivery or organisational performance. Wherever possible, nominations should include evidence of these impacts and explain how the nominee's actions have contributed to positive outcomes.

Judges will also consider **consistency and dedication**, recognising individuals who have made sustained contributions over time. However, nominations relating to a particularly exceptional single act or achievement may also be considered where the impact is significant.

Nominations are encouraged to demonstrate alignment with **CIHT's values**: Professional, Inclusive, Collaborative and Progressive. Supporting evidence may highlight how the nominee embodies one or more of these values through their actions, behaviours, and contributions to the highways and transportation sector.

Finally, the **quality of supporting evidence** will be an important consideration. Strong nominations will include specific, personalised examples and testimonials from colleagues, managers, clients or members of the public, rather than relying on general statements of praise.

Judging

Entries will be assessed by a panel of judges comprising representatives of the CIHT Scotland Committee along with a representative from the award sponsor. In the case that the sponsor organisation submits an entry to this category, their representative

will be reassigned to a different category to ensure impartiality. The panel will consider all entries and determine which nomination to support for this years' Unsung Hero of the Year Award. Please note that the judge's decision is final.

Entries failing to meet the specified criteria, or which are not submitted in the requested format set out below will not be considered.

Award Details

The winning individual will receive a trophy, certificate and a full suite of press and promotion across CIHT Scotland channels, including on social media, CIHT website and the Dinner programme.

The winner will be announced at the **CIHT Scotland Annual Dinner on Thursday 1 October 2026 at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Glasgow** where they will be presented with their award.

How to enter

Submissions will be made via an online form on the CIHT Website

<https://www.ciht.org.uk/about-us/uk-nations-regions/scotland/ciht-scotland-awards/>

The following questions form the nomination template.

- Nominee name, job title and organisation
- Nominator name, relationship to nominee and contact details
- In one sentence, why does this person deserve the Unsung Hero of the Year Award? (max 50 words). If the person wins, this information may be included in the Dinner programme or on display boards during the evening.
- Describe the nominee's day-to-day role. Why does it typically go unrecognised? (max 150 words)
- Describe what the nominee did that went beyond their role, with specific examples, dates and context (max 400 words)
- What was the impact on colleagues, the project, the community, or the profession? Include evidence where possible (max 250 words)
- *Optional:* supporting photographs, letters or press coverage

Entries should be submitted no later than 17:00 BST on 20 August 2026.

If you have any questions about this award, please contact scotland@ciht.org.uk.