

The background of the entire page is a soft-focus photograph of several people in white lab coats or professional attire clapping their hands. The focus is on the hands in the foreground, with others visible in the background, creating a sense of a celebratory event.

CIPFA

performance
in public services

rewarding excellence in public service audit

The Cliff Nicholson Award 2012
For innovation and excellence in public service audit

what the judges are looking for

1 Background

Every year entries to the Cliff Nicholson Award cover a wide range of topics, methodologies and issues from across the public sector. Despite this variety there are clear characteristics attached to those entries that attain high marks and so the following criteria should be taken into account by those preparing entries to the award in maximising the potential of the entry.

2 Clarity

On the most basic of levels, if the judges don't understand it they can't give it high marks!

Highly marked entries are likely to:

- have determined and clearly presented specific and appropriate objectives for the work;
- clearly demonstrate how the work undertaken and the results achieved relate to and fulfil those objectives;
- draw appropriate conclusions from the results of the work and make appropriate recommendations linked to these conclusions.

3 Originality

A key element of the award is the recognition of innovation. Highly marked entries are likely to show one or more of the following:

- expanding the scope and horizons of audit;
- development of novel techniques in support of the audit;
- application of existing techniques in new audit areas;
- raising the profile of audit.

4 Content

The judges will look at what you have done, what you have found out and what use you have made of this information.

Highly marked entries are likely to:

- use or develop appropriate techniques to address the objectives;
- make and interpret comparisons with alternative techniques or work undertaken elsewhere or alternative approaches to the activity/service under review;
- draw appropriate conclusions from the data generated.

5 Impact

What was the point of all that hard work? Did you achieve what you set out to do (or even exceed it)?

Highly marked entries are likely to:

- demonstrate clear and evidenced benefit to the organisation. Evidence might include testimonials/endorsements from external auditors/senior management/others, agreed action plans for implementing recommendations, and details of actual implementation and the benefits gained;
- demonstrate potential benefits to other public sector organisations;
- make practical and achievable recommendations.

the Cliff Nicholson award 2012

One of CIPFA's primary awards, the Cliff Nicholson Award recognises innovation and excellence in public service audit. The award provides an excellent opportunity for audit to demonstrate the valuable contribution it can make, which is of particular significance given the current focus on better governance and better use of resources. Entries will be judged by the Chair and members of CIPFA's Audit Panel.

What's in it for my organisation and me?

Apart from the opportunity to demonstrate the good work of your audit team to the wider audit community and more widely within your own organisation, the winner receives the Cliff Nicholson Award trophy – a beautifully engraved crystal bowl – and a framed certificate for the winning organisation/team.

There is also an added bonus of one free residential place at the **2012 Audit Conference** and discounted places for additional members of the winning team. As award winners you will be asked to make a short presentation of your winning entry. Also as award winners you and your team will be invited to the formal awards dinner on the first evening of the conference. Last year there were two highly commended entries, this was recognised by the commended teams receiving certificates and discounted rates for the Audit Conference.

But it's a lot of work to put an entry together isn't it?

Actually no, the nature of the entry is not prescribed and it is likely that reports, presentations, press releases and other documents that would make up your entry will already be in existence. This said, the entry must be sufficiently full and freestanding to enable the judges to evaluate it without the need to request additional information.

The more evidence you provide to back up your entry, the easier it is for the judges to mark against the criteria set.

So what is required?

The work must relate to the internal or external audit of any organisation delivering public service audit and can be from the perspective of a practitioner, researcher, commentator, academic funding body, auditor or regulator. You do not need to have a CIPFA member on the team.

How do I enter?

Please use the nomination form appended to this flyer. Details can also be found on the Audit Panel website at www.cipfa.org.uk/panels/audit/cliff_nicholson_award.cfm or from Matthew Allen, CIPFA, 3 Robert Street, London, WC2N 6RL, email: matthew.allen@cipfa.org.uk

CIPFA would prefer entries to be received in electronic format; however you may also send your copies in hard format (**four copies required**) if necessary. Entries should be sent to Matthew Allen at the above address.

Completed nomination forms and entries, countersigned by the chief officer responsible for the audit function, should be returned to Matthew Allen by the closing date of **9 March 2012**. CIPFA are keen to receive entries from smaller organisations that have excellent good practice ideas and innovation that can be transferred to others

If I have any further questions?

Please refer to the guidance shown or contact Keeley Lund on **01995 678200**. For administrative enquiries please contact Matthew Allen on **020 7543 5608**.

Nomination Form

The Cliff Nicholson Award 2012

For innovation and excellence in public service audit

If you wish to nominate yourself, your team, somebody else, or a team from another organisation for the Cliff Nicholson Award, then please complete this form, including seconder's authorisation, and send to the address below.

Name of Nominee(s) (Individual or Team)

Contact details of nominee(s)

Name:

Organisation:

Position:

Address:

Telephone:

 Fax:

Email:

Seconder

Name:

Signature:

Status:

Contact Details:



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