

Further information on each individual award

Health Scrutiny Award

This award celebrates how scrutiny has improved either public health and well-being or health and care services. The judges will be looking at ways in which scrutiny has influenced the executive in engaging and meaningful ways. We will assess the ways in which the health scrutineers engaged with the general public (particularly people who have previously been considered 'hard to reach') and enabled their concerns about health or social care to be heard. Judges will look at how scrutiny has either improved services or has laid foundations for improvement. We will also be interested to hear about innovative approaches to health scrutiny.

Financial Scrutiny Award

In the current economic downturn, public bodies face a twin challenge of supporting local economies to minimise the impact of the crisis, while seeking efficiencies to reduce costs to taxpayers. The complexity of public finances in this challenging environment is not to be underestimated. Billions of pounds are spent every year and scrutineers involved in overseeing the processes often face huge challenges both in understanding accounts and in getting to the bottom of spending. This award celebrates non-executives who have helped to ensure that the way in which finances have been managed has been responsible and in the public interest, or who have contributed to finding imaginative solutions to economic development and regeneration challenges.

Community Engagement through Scrutiny

One of the striking features of scrutiny work is its consistent ability to engage with local communities. Scrutiny does not just voice the concerns of the public but also, frequently, engages the public to enable them to voice their own concerns. This award will seek to celebrate the ways in which an organisation, group or committee has helped people to be active citizens, shaping services that affect them. The judging panel will look at how communities have been actively engaged rather than just consulted and will also look for engagement with diverse and hard to reach communities.

Best Use of Resources Award

The Centre for Public Scrutiny is well aware that the availability of both financial and human resources varies widely from organisation to organisation and is a particular challenge to smaller bodies such as District Councils. This award is about creative thinking and overcoming the obstacles that limited resources may pose through innovative approaches to scrutiny. Judges will not be looking necessarily at the size of the authority, organisation, committee or group but rather at how those involved can demonstrate that they have used the resources available to them to make the maximum impact through scrutiny.

Scrutiny Chair of the Year

This award acknowledges the important role chairs play in making scrutiny effective. Chairs help build a scrutiny team and guide those involved to focus on the most important issues. They can often play an important role in navigating the party political or personal frictions that can occur, coordinating activities and ensuring that often busy work programmes and meetings are kept on schedule. Judges will be looking for applicants that have made an exceptional contribution, having shown leadership and enthusiasm in the promotion of scrutiny.

Scrutiny Team of the Year

This award celebrates the achievements made by a whole scrutiny team. This can be interpreted as a contribution made by a committee or group as a whole; recognition of officer teams that support scrutineers or celebration of how larger scrutiny structures, with several arms, have coordinated their activities for maximum effect. Judges will be looking for evidence that suggests that the team has managed to achieve something which the individuals alone would not have been able to achieve.

Please complete the attached submission form and email to events@cfps.org.uk by 31 March 2009.

If you have any further queries about submitting an example please contact 020 7296 6451.