



## **CSR Awards Judging Process 2016**

Chambers Ireland's Corporate Social Responsibility Awards seek to recognise the outstanding work of businesses that are engaged in making a difference in their communities and further afield. The CSR Awards are a chance for businesses to showcase their achievements in a variety of action categories, from volunteer programmes to environmental initiatives and more. The Awards are open to businesses of all sizes engaged in CSR, from MNCs to SMEs.

### **Judging Process**

Chambers Ireland is committed to ensuring that the judging process is both robust and transparent. For 2016 Chambers Ireland has changed some aspects of the CSR Awards; with updated application forms and judging criteria, and a new category added, we aim to ensure that the Awards reflect developments in the CSR world.

Judges are looking in particular for projects which are innovative, engage staff at all levels, are well thought out and communicated, utilise a variety of resources, and have positive impacts on the business and the target sector.

The CSR Awards applications are reviewed by two separate and independent judging panels, made up of experts in the field of CSR and business leaders. Judges are provided with support and information on scoring criteria and methodology in advance of the judging process.

The judges are independent and Chambers Ireland does not have a representative on either panel nor is it involved in the short listing process. The judging panels are chaired by an independent chairperson.

### **Judging Panel One**

Judging Panel One scrutinises all applications to the Awards. The judges review the applications independently and provide a score. This judging panel then meets to discuss the highest scoring projects and create a shortlist of the strongest projects. These projects are then passed on to Judging Panel Two for review.

### **Judging Panel Two**

Judging Panel Two independently reviews the shortlisted projects and then meets to deliberate and decide on the category winners. This Judging Panel will also shortlist a small number of companies for the Overall Award for Excellence in CSR.

## **Overall Award for Excellence in CSR**

Each year, one company wins the award for overall excellence in CSR. This year, companies shortlisted for the overall award will be invited to make a presentation on their company's CSR strategy to a panel of judges selected from Judging Panel One and Judging Panel Two. This presentation will help the panel to decide on the winner for overall excellence in CSR.

## **2016 Guest Category: Excellence in Promoting Youth Employment**

With youth unemployment unfortunately still a huge social and economic issue in Ireland, this year Chambers Ireland would like to acknowledge the efforts of companies working to promote increasing employment among young people. Companies that are actively engaged in helping young people to find work, be it through training and employment schemes or high quality placements, are eligible for this category. Many companies are involved in programmes whose goal is to assist young people in getting started in employment, and we would like to acknowledge the positive impact these projects can have. This category will replace the International Category for the 2016 Awards.

## **Key Judging Criteria**

The judges evaluate each project on its individual merits, but there are a number of criteria that will be key factors in their evaluation:

- Innovation: Projects avoid stereotypical actions and make an effort to think outside of the box when addressing the relevant issues. Projects are capable of adapting as they progress.
- Engagement & Collaboration: Projects engage staff at all levels of the company and involve knowledge or skills sharing. There is strong and mutually beneficial collaboration with any partner charities, communities or other stakeholders.
- Strategy & Communications: Projects involve clear identification and prioritisation of goals and actions, and effective communications with all stakeholders.
- Social Impact: Projects have demonstrable, positive, long term impact on the relevant stakeholders and are sustainable.
- Business Impact: The company and staff benefit from engagement in the project. CSR projects support and complement core business strategy.

## **Company Categories**

We request that companies identify which category they fall under during the application process. Should there be any uncertainty in relation to categories please contact Chambers Ireland for guidance.

- A multinational Corporation (MNC) is defined for the Corporate Social Responsibility Awards as a corporation that was originally established outside of Ireland with more than 50 employees.
- A Large Indigenous Company (LIC) is defined for the Corporate Social Responsibility awards as a company which has more than 50 employees and was originally established in Ireland.

Companies considered partnerships which are Irish owned and operated are eligible for this category.

- An SME is defined for the Corporate Social Responsibility Awards as any company having 50 employees or less.

### **Projects Categories**

- Community – Partnership with charity
- Community – Volunteering
- Community – Community Programme
- Environment
- Marketplace
- Workplace
- CSR Communication
- SME
- Youth Employment (2016 Guest category)

### **Entering the Awards**

Application forms are found on our website [www.csrawards.ie](http://www.csrawards.ie) and should be submitted via email.

### **Important Dates**

- 10<sup>th</sup> March: Applications Process Opens
- 21st April: Closing date for Applications for all entrants
- 1<sup>st</sup> September: Chambers Ireland Corporate Social Responsibilities Awards Ceremony