



Sole Trader of the Year

Stage 2 Judging Date: **Wednesday 16th September 2026, 09:00-18:00 at Eco-Power Stadium**

Eligibility

- This award is open to sole traders. If entering this award you cannot also enter micro, small, medium, large business of the year.
- Only businesses in DN postcode OR Doncaster Chamber members can apply.

Criteria

- Financials must be completed for your entry to be put forward for stage 1 judging. Should there be any discrepancies in your financials please ensure to explain in your answer.
- Entries must have a Doncaster focus specifically referencing impact your business has had on the area or community.
- Eligible organisations should be reflecting on the past 12 months activity prior to entry
- All completed entry forms must be submitted by Sunday 7th June 2026
- Stage 2 judging will take place on Wednesday 16th September 2026 at Eco-Power Stadium between 09:00-18:00. Please ensure to block this out in your diary should you progress to this stage. This cannot be moved.
- Maximum of 3 categories per company can be entered.
- Word count must be adhered to avoid disqualification

Questions & Guidance

You will be scored against these questions (Max 400 words per question).

1. Explain the vision and performance of the business/organisation, including financial performance
2. Describe how you consistently deliver outstanding service and value to your clients. What sets you apart from others in your field, and how do you go above and beyond to exceed expectations? Provide clear examples and evidence.
3. Outline how you have developed and grown your self-employed business. Include how you have adapted to your market, introduced new ideas, services, or approaches, and strengthened your personal brand or reputation.
4. Explain how you have invested in your own development and capability over the past 12 months. This could include training, new skills, qualifications, or ways you have improved your service offering and professionalism.
5. Describe any challenges you have faced as a self-employed individual and how you have overcome them. How have you demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and strong management of your workload, clients, or finances?
6. Detail how your work has contributed to Doncaster's economy and communities. This may include supporting other local businesses, creating opportunities, or giving back through community or social initiatives.

Apply here

This will open a Google Form.

Please do not rely on the form to auto-save your submission. We suggest writing your submission externally and pasting into the form.

If you have any questions, please email: awards@doncaster-chamber.co.uk

Non-member fee: £100 +VAT