

The Scottish Optometry Awards are back for 2026!



Join us on Saturday 14th November for our second-annual Scottish Optometry Awards! This year we are delighted that newly appointed Minister for Community Care Alison Thewliss has agreed to open the awards. There will be a pre-drinks reception, short award ceremony, 3 course dinner with wine and Ceilidh.

Why Attend the Scottish Optometry Awards?

This is a great night for networking. You DO NOT need to be nominated to attend you can just be part of the craic. However if you do either nominate a peer or yourself then winning (or being a finalist which is also recognised) is a great marketing tool for your practice or brand and for yourself or your team as a recognition of your success. It can be used to build confidence in your brand and lets your peers know what you stand for.



**Is there any cost to
Apply or Attend the
Awards?**

This is a NOT FOR PROFIT event which is FREE to attend as sponsored by co-hosts SOC and Vision Scotland. If you want to contribute anything there is a VOLUNTARY donation of £30 for our Sight Saving Trust where patients with di"cult financial situations can get FREE surgery.

**When and Where are
the Awards?**

Following on from last years inaugural Scottish Optometry Awards with over 250 guests and all industry stakeholders we are again running this event at the Radisson Blu Hotel on Saturday 14/11/26 6pm – 12am the day before the Scottish Optical Conference. This year we are delighted that newly appointed Minister for Community Care Alison Thewliss has agreed to open the awards. There will be a pre-drinks reception, short award ceremony, 3 course dinner with wine and Ceilidh.



How do our Awards differ from others in the Optical Industry?

Our awards are innovative in that you can nominate either a colleague or yourself. The only rule is that you cannot apply for an award you were a SOA winner previously (Note you can apply again if you were a Finalist). The winner takes home a handcrafted elegant wooden plaque and the finalists receive a bespoke framed certificate.



Do you have to be Scottish based to Apply for the Awards?

Most of the awards require to be **Scottish based** but some are **UK or Scottish based**. There are 15 categories as outlined below. Pick a category and add just a simple statement why you or a colleague should win this with any additional information enclosed. It is as easy as that no long winded process just a simple box on the nomination form page. This is then sent to the judging panel of experts and awards are given out with our stakeholders present including the Scottish Government, GOC, OS, ABDO, AOP, FODO, BCLA, GCU, UCI and the Optical Industry.

New Practice Award (< 5 years trading)
Established Practice Award (> 20 years trading)
Enhanced Services Award
Independent Practice Award
Multiple Practice Award
Optometrist/Independent Prescriber Award
Dispensing Optician/Contact Lens Optician Award
Support Staff/ Team Member Award
Community/Charitable Practice Award
Outstanding Achievement Award
Contact Lens Practice Award
Rising Star Award
Hearing Award (UK or Scottish)
Dry Eye Practice Award (UK or Scottish)
Product of the Year Award (UK or Scottish)



**How do book a place
for myself and/or
colleagues?**

To book tickets and/or to nominate someone or
yourself for an award please visit the [Scottish
Optometry Awards 2026](#) page on the Vision
Scotland website.



Any additional queries please contact natasha@visionscotland.com



Book Your Space Now!



Copyright © 2026 SOC Optical Conference, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:
roisin@mackieconsultants.co.uk