

Prime Minister's strategic priorities for the honours system

The work of the independent honours committees is guided by the Prime Minister's priorities.

Mr Johnson reaffirmed that honours should be awarded 'merit first' – to those who give service above and beyond – and not to those who are just doing their job. Honours are not to reward longevity in a role, seniority or age.

In supporting the Government's levelling up agenda, the Prime Minister would like to see representation from the length and breadth of the UK, reflecting the extraordinary contributions made across every part of this country, with a real focus in recognising parts of the country often overlooked.

In awarding honours, the Prime Minister would like to see individuals who have provided outstanding service with clear and specific examples of how their results have delivered real change to people's lives or had a positive impact on the country.

Individuals must represent values which reflect the UK and recognise the exceptional role the UK plays in the world.

He would like to see the system especially recognise those:

- innovators and entrepreneurs who create thriving businesses and deliver growth across the country and export to new markets
- individuals who are unleashing our potential in emerging sectors, striving to find new technologies, deliver a cleaner environment as well as improve global biodiversity
- who deliver excellence in culture and education
- charities and groups which deliver meaningful change locally in tackling crime, improving the local environment and delivering integration as well as individuals who support the aim of increasing the chances of female education across the globe
- individuals who have put their own lives at risk to protect and defend the lives of others
- public servants and those in public life who have delivered an exceptional service to provide help and support to the people of the United Kingdom
- individuals who worked to support the Union of all four constituent nations of the United Kingdom

The Prime Minister is grateful for the support of everyone involved in adhering to this guidance.

Secretaries of State's strategic objectives

Secretaries of State of Government departments are also asked to consider setting strategic objectives for their own areas of policy, which will usually prioritise types of activity which reflect the Government's aims in that area.

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