

UK Best Managed Companies

Guide for companies

Background

The Best Managed Companies programme recognises private companies for their organisational success and achievement. The programme highlights best practice, supports growth and builds a community of the best private companies worldwide.

The Best Managed award is a well-regarded international stamp of quality which celebrates the world's best private companies. With programmes currently active in the Americas, Europe and Asia Pacific, the brand is widely recognised, and the awards attract an increasing number of applicants each year.

Companies apply for the awards for many reasons. The programme provides a distinct framework for management teams to challenge themselves and benchmark against some of the best private companies in the world. Companies which are awarded the Best Managed Companies status use it to attract talent, win business and investment and learn from other outstanding private companies.

Judging panel

For the credibility and integrity of the awards, there is an independent judging panel which comprises experts from various sectors including business, finance and academia. The panel will be chaired by a non-voting representative from Deloitte. The judges will assess the applicants' submissions against the Best Managed Companies criteria and award the Best Managed company designation to those that compare favorably against the benchmarks. Constructive and targeted feedback will be given to any applicants that do not meet the benchmark and companies can consider entering again in subsequent years.

For further information go to: www.bestmanagedcompanies.co.uk

Businesses are assessed across four pillars



Strategy

Best Managed Companies focus on purpose, vision, mission and values as guiding principles. They have a formal methodology for strategy development, have the right capabilities and metrics in place to execute their strategy, and clearly and consistently communicate the strategy to all levels of the organisation.



Capabilities and innovation

Best Managed Companies develop valuable capabilities and resources that allow them to compete to win. They are highly execution-oriented, focused on productivity, innovation, and sustainability, and thoughtful about hiring the right people to execute their business model and strategy.



Governance and financials

Best Managed Companies create strong governance structures, use KPIs to manage their progress, maintain a strong balance sheet, and apply the financial discipline required to drive revenue growth, improve operating margin, and increase asset efficiency.



Culture and commitment

Best Managed Companies disproportionately invest in their people by building a strong corporate culture and legacy, actively developing their people and leadership team, providing a holistic compensation system, and creating an inclusive culture and address continuity issues within the company.

Why companies apply

Through the awards application process, companies gain

- Independent view and constructive challenge of their business and its approach to the four pillars noted above
- Opportunity to benchmark against some of the best private companies from across the world
- Ability for its leadership to explore growth opportunities during a focussed coaching session with private enterprise specialists

Benefits observed and reported by winners

- Enjoy exclusive use of the Best Managed Companies' designation which is proudly displayed by other winners
- Join a community of Best Managed companies from across the world
- Strengthen their ability to attract and retain great talent
- Grow their business and enhance their value proposition in tenders
- Raise company profile to attain investment through mergers or acquisition, through listing, or private equity
- Access a range of business forums and discovery sessions

For further information and to hear from the 2025 winners go to: www.bestmanagedcompanies.co.uk

2025 Winners

”

The programme has enforced our belief in continual assessment; in a tough economic climate, this approach is vital for success.

Sean Donkin

The Inn Collection Group

”

This recognition is a powerful endorsement of our strategy, our values, and the incredible people who bring them to life.

Andy Radcliffe

Esh Group

”

Being named a Best Managed Company is a proud milestone that reflects our commitment to compliance-first AI and the dedication of our incredible team, partners, and customers.

Kenneth Paqvalen

Napier AI

”

The objective and rigous assurance from Deloitte as a Best Managed Company for QBS is incredible valuable external validation.

Dave Stevinson

QBS Technology Group

”

The programme has provided in-depth evaluation, valuable insights and a fresh perspective of our Company.

Nick Hobdey

Banks Group

”

Recognition by the programme is an independent endorsement of excellence, validating the strength of our strategy, leadership and culture.

Gordon Stark

Murgitroyd

Application process

September to November 2025

Invitation to join programme

- Businesses are invited by Deloitte to join the Best Managed Companies programme.

October 2025 to February 2026

Applicant workshop

- Deloitte coaches work with the company's senior leadership in a half-day in-person workshop to understand the company's business, values and priorities with a focus on the four pillars noted on page 2 and provide insights and thoughtful challenge. They will help the leadership benchmark against some of the strongest and most progressive private companies in the world.
- Benchmarks are based on best practice observed over 30 years of the awards' history across multiple geographies.

27 February 2026

Final application submission

- Applicants use insights derived from the workshop and ongoing support from the Deloitte team to complete their final application, which is the document the independent judging panel will view. It is anticipated that about 80% of the application process will be covered in the workshop.

March 2026

Judging

- An independent judging panel will review the applications and decide which businesses should receive the Best Managed Companies award.
- There is no limit to the number of companies who receive the award in any given year, but we anticipate around 20-25 businesses per year will become a UK Best Managed Company.
- Winners will be announced and all participating companies will receive direct feedback from the coaches on their submission.

June 2026

Celebration event

- The Best Managed Companies are invited to a celebration event along with the Deloitte team, the judging panel and award sponsoring partners.

Meet the judges



David Brown
Director & CFO



Professor Hannah Holmes
Dean of the Business School,
Manchester Metropolitan
University



Panos Kakoullis
Former CFO



Toby Wright
Board committee member

For further information about the judges go to: www.bestmanagedcompanies.co.uk

Get in touch



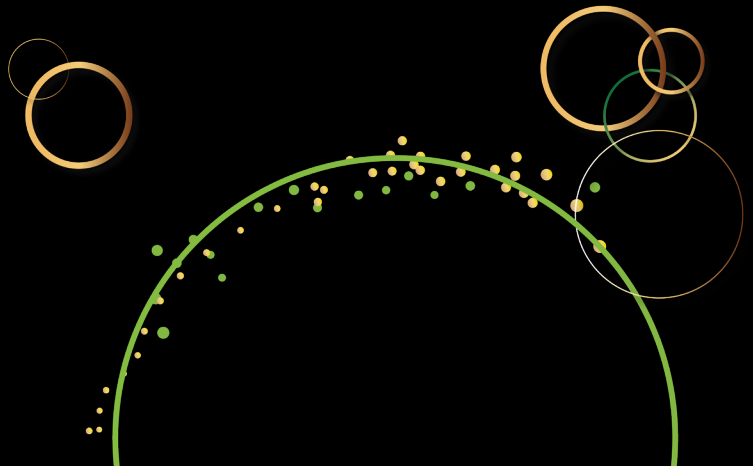
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