

**Mr Mohammed Saddiq
HM Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset**



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Dear Town and Parish Councillors,

UK Honours System: Do something amazing for someone amazing

I am writing to you and to every town and parish council, community and voluntary organisation across this historic county of Somerset from Bath to Taunton and from Weston-super-Mare to Frome. Please help me find and celebrate the amazing people who deserve recognition through the UK Honours system.

As Lord-Lieutenant, my role spans Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset and North Somerset and whichever council area or community you belong to, you are very much part of this invitation. I am keen that nominations should reflect the full breadth and character of this wonderful county of ours.

Each year, honours are awarded to individuals across the country for outstanding achievement or to those people who go "**above and beyond**" in the service of others. In my time as Lord-Lieutenant, I have become increasingly conscious that the system works best when it hears about the widest possible range of people and this is something that we, together, have the power to make happen. We have such amazing people across all our communities including the volunteer who has run the village hall committee for twenty years, bell rings and bakes cakes for fundraising, the bereaved parent who has channelled their grief to campaign, raise awareness and fundraise tirelessly for brain cancer, the retired teacher who quietly mentors and tutors young people outside school hours cultivating a lifelong love of learning in them, the carer who has supported neighbours through illness and bereavement without ever asking for thanks. The sports coach, the choir leader, the community first responder, the person who organised flood relief when the river broke its banks. These are the people who hold our communities together and who do wonderful things locally day after day. Honours are for them just as much as for those in the public eye.

I want to be clear about something important: anyone can nominate, and anyone can be nominated.

You do not need to be a public figure, hold a particular title, or have special connections to put someone forward.

A nomination can come from a colleague, a friend, a fellow committee member, or an organisation like yours that has seen someone's contribution first-hand. It costs nothing to nominate, and the process though it asks for some thought and care in the writing, is more straightforward than many people think.

This is where I hope you can help. As councils and local organisations, you are often the people best placed to know who in your community is quietly making a difference. I would be enormously grateful if you would consider whether there is someone in your own organisation, or in the wider community you serve, whose contribution deserves wider recognition. Share this letter, or the message behind it, with your fellow members, staff, volunteers and networks and encourage people who might not think of themselves as "the honours type" to think again.

Please look at our website [The Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset](https://www.gov.uk/honours) and get in touch with my office by emailing honours@somerset.gov.uk if you would find it helpful to talk through a potential nomination, or if you are unsure where to start.

Nominations can be made at any time of year, and my office is very happy to offer informal guidance on the process, including how to write a strong supporting citation.

Full details and the nomination form can be found at www.gov.uk/honours.

I am keen that the honours list should reflect the true breadth of talent, dedication and generosity that exists across every town, village and community in Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset and North Somerset. Excellence exists in every postcode.

People like you, who know your communities best, are ideally placed to help bring these stories forward.

Thank you for considering this request, and for all that you and your organisation already do for Somerset.

I would be delighted to hear from you, whether with a nomination in mind or simply a question about the process.

With my very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicky Sadler'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Nicky' written in a stylized, overlapping manner.