

The Kerry Irish Novel of the Year 2026
in association with Listowel Writers' Week

- Entries are strictly limited to full-length novels published within the current award year i.e. between **1st January 2025 and 1st January 2026**.
- The closing date for entries is **Friday 30th January 2026**.
- The Prize is worth €20,000 to the winner. It will be awarded to an Irish author of the best eligible full-length novel in the opinion of the Adjudicators. Each shortlisted author will be awarded €500.
- Six copies (6) of the Book must be submitted to: Listowel Writers' Week, The Kerry Irish Novel of The Year, 24 The Square, Listowel, Co. Kerry, Ireland V31RD93.
- **NO** application form is required – **please submit novels by post**. The covering letter must clearly state that the book is being entered for the Kerry Irish Novel of the year award.
- The Prize may **NOT** be divided or withheld.
- The author must be an Irish writer from the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland or holds a valid Irish Passport.
- Authors must be living at the time of the award.
- Books submitted for the award must be works of **literary fiction**.
- Kindly ensure that the contact information for the author's publicist is included when sending the books.
- If the book reaches the shortlist in **April 2026**, publishers will be required to submit further copies for publicity purposes.
- Books will be accepted **only** from publishers and agents.
- Self-published books are eligible where the author is the publisher or where a company has been specifically set up to publish the submitted book.
- Online submission will only be accepted from an established imprint and on the condition that copies are downloaded for the adjudicators' consideration. If an online book is shortlisted the publisher must undertake to produce hard copies and make these available for sales within 10 days of the announcement of the shortlist.
- No entry shall be ineligible because its author has won either the prize or any other prize previously.
- The decision of the Chairperson as to whether a book is eligible shall be binding and no correspondence shall be entered into.
- The adjudicators will be responsible for compiling a shortlist of five outstanding books submitted for the award.
- The adjudicators are appointed by Listowel Writers' Week.
- Publishers must use their best endeavours to ensure that authors whose books are submitted make themselves available for publicity from the short-list stage in **April 2026**.
- The winner will be announced at the Listowel Writers' Week Opening Ceremony on the 27th of May 2026.
- Publishers must ensure that **The Kerry Irish Novel of the Year Award** is included in the winning author's biography and on the cover of future reprints of the winning book.

If you have any queries regarding the above award, please do not hesitate to contact us at competitionslistowel@gmail.com