



# THE NORTHERN ASIAN POWERLIST 2023

Celebrating the Contribution of Asian Influence and  
Impact Across the North of England

#NAPowerlist

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# Introduction

The Northern Asian Powerlist 2023 showcases the brilliance and the excellence of the top Asian businesses, professionals, influencers, and politicians across the North of England. This Powerlist not only highlights the achievements of a diverse UK, and the North in particular, but also acts as an inspiration for generations to come.

## Our Supporters

We would like to thank our key supporters who have contributed their time and energy to this project from its inception.



The North has a long history of fostering innovation, as the birthplace of the industrial revolution. It contributes nearly 19% of the UK's GDP and represents over 15 million people with more than one million private sector businesses.

Not only is the British Asian community a force for good, but it also plays an integral role in Britain's economic prosperity, generating over 10% of the country's GDP despite making up less than 10% of the population, according to research published by the CBI.

The Northern Asian Powerlist is an important recognition of this timely celebration of this contribution and seeks to share the multitude of wonderful and inspiring stories that have come to light during the production of this Powerlist.

I would personally like to thank our patrons Squire Patton Boggs, and all our NAP premier partners who have supported me and my team in the production of this report and each and every one of the NAP independent judging panel members, who come from the best of industry, commerce and academia – I am grateful.



**Sharon Jandu OBE**  
**Managing Director**  
NAP Ethnic Minority Policy & Research Group

### This year's categories include:

- Business Leaders
- Cultural Icons
- Digital and Technology
- Emerging Entrepreneurs
- Emerging Leaders
- Food and Drink
- Inspiring Professionals
- Politics and Diplomacy
- Social Changemakers
- Thought Leaders
- Women in Business

## Our Judges

Our independent judging panel had the unenviable task of deciding who made the Northern Asian Powerlist. The judges based their decisions on leadership, innovation, impact, success and community contribution. Thank you so much for your time and ongoing support.





## Message From Lord Bilimoria CBE DL FCA FRSA

It gives me great pleasure to support the celebration of the contribution and impact British Asians are having across the North of England.

Not only is the British Asian community a force for good, but it also plays an integral role in Britain's economic prosperity; generating around 10% of the country's GDP despite making up only 4% of the population, according to research published by the CBI. Moreover, the upcoming conclusion of the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations will see the bond between South Asia and Britain continue to strengthen, as the FTA is expected to help more than double India-UK bilateral trade by 2030.

As the birthplace of the industrial revolution, the North has a long history of fostering innovation. Contributing to nearly 19% of the UK's GDP, the North represents over 15 million people and more than one million private sector businesses. Over the past year, the British Asian community of Northern England has reinforced its status as a true powerhouse of ingenuity, making its presence felt in every field – ranging from media and the arts to science, technology, and medicine.

I was delighted to host and speak at the publication of the last Northern Asian Power list in 2022 in Parliament. This year we will not only be celebrating the Northern Asian Powerlist 2023 but also launching the Northern Asian Power Ethnic Minority Business Barometer Report. It is an annual survey of Ethnic Minority owned businesses across the UK's Northern Powerhouse which will determine their business confidence levels. It will also give a vital insight into emerging economic trends which will help with forecasting and forward planning.

The Northern Asian Powerlist 2023 list has profiled the achievements of the top Asian businesses, professionals, influencers, and politicians. This list not only highlights the achievements of a diverse UK, and the North in particular, but also acts as an inspiration for generations to come.






### Lord Bilimoria CBE DL






**Founder and Chairman | Cobra Beer**  
**Independent Crossbench Peer | House of Lords**



# Northern Asian Powerlist 2023 Overall Winners

It is an honour and a privilege to present our overall winners. These individuals topped the 2023 list of the most influential people of Asian heritage across the Northern Powerhouse.

Category	Name	Business	Profiles
<b>Business Leaders</b> 	<b>Mohsin and Zuber Issa</b>	Asda	<p>Mohsin and Zuber Issa are the co-CEOs and co-founders of EG Group, which now has more than 6,200 sites in 10 countries, after launching from a single petrol forecourt in Bury, Lancashire, in 2001.</p> <p>In February 2021, Mohsin and Zuber and investment funds managed by TDR Capital LLP, a leading UK-based private equity firm, completed the acquisition of Asda.</p>
<b>Cultural Icons</b> 	<b>Shobna Gulati DL</b>	Actress	<p>Shobna Gulati DL is an English actress and presenter. Shobna is known for her roles as Anita in <i>Dinner Ladies</i>, and Sunita Alahan in the soap opera <i>Coronation Street</i> from 2001 to 2013. From 2013 to 2014, Shobna appeared as a panellist on the lunchtime talk show <i>Loose Women</i>.</p>
<b>Digital and Technology</b> 	<b>Bobby Thandi</b>	XR Games	<p>Bobby Thandi is the founder and CEO of XR Games. XR Games is a multi-award-winning game development studio specialising in immersive AR and VR games. Bobby won Creative Entrepreneur of the Year at the 2022 Great British Entrepreneur Awards and Leeds City Region Leader at the 2021 Northern Leadership Awards. Bobby was also a 2022 EY Entrepreneur of the Year finalist.</p>
<b>Emerging Talent: Entrepreneurs</b> 	<b>Sarah Khan-Bashir MBE</b>	SKB Law	<p>Sarah Khan-Bashir MBE has over 20 years' experience in family and civil litigation law. Her innovative and inclusive approach has earned her a reputation as a strategic, discreet and powerful advocate for her clients and local community. She is a member of Resolution.</p> <p>Sarah is a recipient of the Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Law. She was awarded an MBE in the 2014 Queen's Birthday Honours List, recognising her work with Mosaic (a Prince's Trust educational charity).</p>
<b>Emerging Talent: Leaders</b>	<b>Furqan Alamgir</b>	Connexin	<p>Furqan Alamgir is the founder of Connexin.co.uk. Furqan currently leads an experienced board and a dynamic team designing, delivering and deploying digital infrastructure to connect people and "things" to the internet. To date, he has raised a total of £90 million in funding over three rounds.</p> <p>Furqan has also been appointed as an ambassador to the Goldman Sachs High Growth Business Development Program in association with the Said Business School and the University of Oxford.</p>
<b>Food and Drink</b> 	<b>Nagma Ebanks-Beni MBE</b>	Prima Cheese	<p>Nagma Ebanks-Beni MBE is the co-CEO at family-owned Prima Cheese, which specialises in the shredding, blending, packing and distribution of semi-hard cheese such as mozzarella and cheddar.</p>

Category	Name	Business	Profiles
<b>Inspiring Professionals</b> 	<b>Sharmishta Chatterjee-Banerjee</b>	Newcastle University Business School	<p>Sharmishta Chatterjee-Banerjee is an external and international relations leader with over 10 years in higher education management, with a record for driving sustainable growth in organisations through innovative thinking, creative operations and astute financial management, as well as by making a difference to the people she works with.</p> <p>Sharmishta has successfully recruited global business leaders to form three influential advisory boards for Newcastle University Business School in the UK, the US and India, which has positioned the school to gain greater visibility, expand brand presence, enhance student employability and build prestigious strategic academic and organisational alliances globally.</p>
<b>Politics and Diplomacy</b> 	<b>Umme Imam</b>	Angelou Centre	<p>Umme Imam led the Angelou Centre, the largest black organisation in the North East, as the executive director for 15 years.</p> <p>Not only did she see oversee the growth of the centre in this time, prior to commencing her director role, she served as a board member of the Angelou Centre for seven years and was part of the original cohort of inspirational women who set up the centre 30 years ago, in 1993. In her role, she demonstrated knowledge, experience, passion, hard work and a deep commitment to the black feminist ethos.</p>
<b>Social Changemakers</b> 	<b>Yasmin Khan</b>	Halo Project	<p>Yasmin Khan has worked with communities, and particularly women, in addressing inequalities in the fields of employment, education and training.</p> <p>Yasmin established a strategic community partnership to provide support for forced marriage and honour-based violence (HBV) victims in the North East of England that has resulted in developing the first forced marriage/HBV case scrutiny group in the UK.</p>
<b>Thought Leaders</b> 	<b>Noushin Aslam</b>	Moonlight Trust	<p>Noushin Aslam started out helping the homeless in the UK. Noushin has now designed, led and delivered humanitarian relief projects across the globe, supporting some of the world's neediest communities. Communities include those displaced due to violence and oppression and refugees in camps in France, Serbia, Greece, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Turkey and the Middle East.</p>
<b>Women In Business</b> 	<b>Saira Hussain</b>	HAD & CO Property Consultants Ltd	<p>Saira Hussain is one of the most influential Asian women in the construction and architecture industry with more than 45 awards under her belt.</p> <p>Saira is also the employment policy chair for the Federation of Small Businesses, where she advises the government on policies such as employment, childcare, maternity, menopause and more.</p>





## Message From Mayor Tracy Brabin

I would like to say a huge congratulations to all the inspirational and influential businesses and individuals included in this year's Northern Asian Powerlist.

By working more collaboratively and sharing ideas, we can support each other in highlighting what makes the business and cultural leaders of Asian heritage in West Yorkshire and across the North so remarkable.

This June, we launched the West Yorkshire Plan, our vision for a brighter West Yorkshire that works for all, setting out our long-term ambitions for the region for 2040 and five missions to inform our work, as we create a prosperous, happy, well-connected, sustainable, and safe region.

Our region is a completely unique, vibrant, and beautiful place, where diverse businesses thrive. We are committed to expanding and deepening our relationships with the Asian business community, both in the region and internationally, to work in partnership to unlock growth opportunities, create new jobs, and drive forward innovation and entrepreneurship.

In September last year, I was delighted to be able to lead a delegation to India. It was a fantastic and successful trip, building on the already strong trade, investment and cultural links between West Yorkshire and India. I look forward to future engagement across the Indian subcontinent.

The Northern Asian Powerlist 2023 winners have all had a transformational impact on their fields of expertise and are inspiring others to step forward.

I look forward to working with them all to champion the North as a globally recognised location where everyone can build great businesses, careers, and lives.

**Tracy Brabin**

**Mayor of West Yorkshire**



## Business Leaders: Winner and Shortlist

The Business Leader category showcases the contribution of the leaders of Asian businesses to the UK economy, from SMEs to major listed companies.

Our shortlist demonstrated exceptional leadership, driving forward strong business growth and innovation strategies, with people who are prominent role models within their sectors.

Overall Winner	Mohsin and Zuber Issa, Co-Founders, EG Group, and Directors, Asda
Shortlist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kailash Suri, Founder and Owner, Reel Cinemas</li><li>• Mo Isap, Chief Executive Officer, IN4.0 Group</li><li>• Siddique Amin, Director, La Romantica Beds</li><li>• Simmy Sekhon, Sekhon Group of Companies</li><li>• Zeb Parvaiz, Managing Director, SKA Developments</li></ul>







## Message From Mayor Ben Houchen

The Northern Asian Powerlist is once again highlighting the invaluable contribution that our innovators, job creators and entrepreneurs in the British Asian community are making right across the North. In all sectors, in many different ways, these champions are going above and beyond to underpin our economic success.

Their diverse voices offer a wealth of perspectives, which only serve to enrich our landscape. Recognising and applauding their achievements will encourage future generations of go-getters within their communities to go on to bigger and better things.

As the world continues to adjust to the new normal following the pandemic, and our outward-looking region grabs the benefits of Brexit with both hands, opportunity is rife. These influential business leaders, cultural icons, thinkers and ambassadors are the key to unlocking further connections, investment and possibilities that will drive an even more prosperous North.

I would like to offer my congratulations to each and every one of the people named in this Powerlist and thank them for their tireless dedication to our region.

**Ben Houchen**

**Mayor of Tees Valley**



## Cultural Icons: Winner and Shortlist

The Cultural Icons category features prominent individuals who help nurture and showcase culture and creative talent.

These creatives have much to celebrate beyond business and trade, making waves with their iconic performances and thought-provoking narratives.

Overall Winner	Shobna Gulati DL, Actress and Presenter
Shortlist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fareeha Usman, Founder, Being Woman Charity</li><li>• Nick Ahad, Professional Journalist, Playwright, Radio Presenter and Stand Up</li></ul>







## Message From Ammar Mirza CBE MBA FRSA FIoEE FInstLM

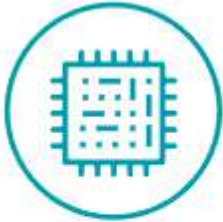
It is a true privilege and honour to see such amazing talent showcased from across the whole Northern Powerhouse through the Northern Asian Powerlist awards. Having been involved with the Northern Asian Powerlist from the outset and seeing the outcomes, output and impact from the campaign is a joy.

A huge thank you to my fellow judges, who, alongside myself, have certainly been put through our paces in judging the fine selection of finalists.

Well done to all of the nominees and congratulations to Sharon and the team for making the awards happen.

**Ammar Mirza CBE MBA FRSA FIoEE FInstLM**





## Digital and Technology: Winner and Shortlist

The Digital and Technology category shines a spotlight on the individuals who are riding the technology wave from fintech to artificial intelligence (AI) and blockchain.

Overall Winner	<b>Bobby Thandl, Founder and CEO, XR Games</b>
Shortlist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Al Alzein, Engagement Specialist, Sunderland Software City</li><li>• Dr. Ram Senasi, Founder and Chairman, Imperial Medical Solutions (IMS)</li><li>• Jamil Khalil, Founder and CEO, Wakelet</li><li>• Manpreet Singh, CEO, Bobble Digital</li><li>• Mashukul Hoque, Founder, Datacentre Plus</li><li>• Mitali Mookerjee, Co-Founder, CastRooms</li><li>• Mohammed Hannan, Head of Digital Innovation, Johnson &amp; Johnson</li><li>• Sarat Pediredla, Co-Founder and CEO, Hedgehog Lab</li><li>• Tahir Mohsan, Founder and CEO, Time Computers</li></ul>







## Message From Mayor Jamie Driscoll

The Northern Asian Powerlist is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate and showcase the many successes of the British Asian community across the North of England. Their contributions enrich our diverse and passionate region, which can attract investment, bringing more good jobs to our area, as well as creating an environment that enables entrepreneurs and SMEs to succeed and grow. The British Asian community are integral to transforming our region – their innovation, experience and ambition help create an inclusive economy, which benefits communities.

The nominees highlighted in the Powerlist this year are great ambassadors for the North and will inspire others to achieve. It is great to see them being recognised in this report.

**Jamie Driscoll**

**Mayor North of Tyne**



## Message From Martine Box

It was an honour to be part of the Northern Asian Powerlist and to be on the panel and help judge the Emerging Talent category. These individuals are the ones to watch and the next-generation role models in our Northern organisations. There was some amazing talent in the nominations and it has been inspiring to be part of this project. It was a difficult task to pick one worthy winner. Well done to everyone involved in this year's list. Thank you to Sharon Jandu for asking me to be part of this amazing process.

### **Martine Box**

**Head of Sales | ACS Group**





## Emerging Talent (Entrepreneurs and Leaders): Winner and Shortlist

In our Emerging Talent category, we focus on the ones to watch and the next-generation role models across business, commerce or the third sector.

We recognise those who have exceeded their initial targets for growth and already show importance within their sector or industry through significant product/service innovation and leadership.

### Emerging Leader

**Overall Winner**

**Furqan Alamgir, Founder, ConnexIn**

### Emerging Entrepreneur

**Overall Winner**

**Sarah Khan-Bashir MBE, Founder, SKB Law**





## Message From Karen French

Having been part of the project since its inception and judging the inaugural Powerlist, seeing such a vast range of talent vying for a place in the 2023 Powerlist is just phenomenal. It is genuinely a humble experience to be asked to be a judge again and to be a patron to this highly regarded project.

In particular, the Food and Drink category will again be a hotly contested category with such fabulous businesses and people working in this sector across the whole of the North of England.

Despite such challenging times, we are seeing great effort, hard work, innovation and ideas in this space.

### **Karen French**

**Partner | Squire Patton Boggs**





## Food and Drink: Winner and Shortlist

The Food and Drink category showcases the individuals who champion the food and drink sector.

Overall Winner	Nagma Ebanks Benl MBE, Co-CEO, Prima Cheese
Shortlist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mohammed Kola, Finance Director, Adams Foodservice Trading Ltd</li><li>• Aziz Ahmed, Aziz Catering</li></ul>







## Message From Kate Josephs

It is a huge privilege for Business Sheffield and Sheffield Chamber of Commerce to support these awards, and a joy to see so many stories of success in the Asian community.

Here in the North and in Sheffield, we enjoy a strong and varied business ecosystem, and the wealth of diverse communities and business leaders here is a huge part of what gives it verve and resilience. It is great to be turning the spotlight on a community whose members tirelessly bring such commitment, expertise and creativity to our region.

As a council and a city, we are actively taking steps to make sure we honour those contributions by reflecting the diversity of the communities we serve in the way we work. Through ongoing collaborative discussion with diverse businesses, we are improving the inclusivity and accessibility of support we offer and bringing their expertise to bear on shaping business support and economic strategic planning across the city.

As we work towards these goals, being part of the Northern Asian Powerlist awards has been a reminder of the Asian community's role in driving progress and knitting together communities in the North. I am grateful to everyone on the shortlist for the energy and dedication they bring to the region. Congratulations to you all, and to the Northern Asian Powerlist team on bringing together this fantastic event.

### Kate Josephs

**Chief Executive | Sheffield City Council**





## Inspiring Professionals: Winner and Shortlist

The Inspiring Professionals category shines a light on the Northern Powerhouse role models in the workplace who inspire the next generation of professional talent.

<b>Overall Winner</b>	<b>Sharmishta Chatterjee-Banerjee, Policy Director Internationalisation and Strategic Engagement, Newcastle University Business School</b>
Shortlist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Asma Younis-Hanif, Senior Marketing Manager, PwC</li><li>• Asma Bibi, Great Victoria Hotel</li></ul>





## Message From David Shepherd

I was pleased to be one of our judges in 2023 for the Business Leaders category of the Powerlist. The recognition this brings to successful British Asians across the North of England is welcomed. Bradford Council remains a premier partner for Northern Asian Powerlist to support this powerful route to promoting success. The Powerlist and the judging process allows clear case studies and exemplars from across all sectors the opportunity to shine and provide inspiration for others to follow.

### **David Shepherd**

**Strategic Director for Place | Bradford Council**





## Politics and Diplomacy: Winner and Shortlist

The Politics and Diplomacy category celebrates the movers and shakers who shine in the field of politics and diplomacy.

These are some of the most energetic and dynamic individuals representing strategic relations in the political arena. These can be people who are well known or those who work quietly behind the scenes.

Overall Winner	<b>Umme Imam, Executive Director, Angelou Centre</b>
Shortlist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adeeba Malik, QED</li><li>• Afzal Khan MP, Labour Party</li><li>• Pasha Shah OBE, Department for Levelling Up, Communities and Local Government</li><li>• Shabir Pandor, Kirklees Council</li><li>• Sherin Mathew, AI Tech UK</li><li>• Sufi Ahmed, Ponteland Town Council</li></ul>





## Message From Cllr Graham Turner

Kirklees Council is pleased to support the Northern Asian Powerlist 2023. The awards are an opportunity to showcase the enormous contribution Asian-owned businesses make to our region and the UK as a whole. It is fantastic to see the breadth and depth of talent across a range of sectors that is driving the region forward.

Kirklees Council is committed to working with our local businesses to understand how we can help support their continued growth and sustainability. Please get in touch with the team at Business Kirklees to see if we can help. Business Kirklees provides access to a range of free, targeted support for all businesses of all sizes, sectors and stages of development.

### **Cllr Graham Turner**

**Cabinet Member, Economic Growth and Regeneration | Kirklees Council**





## Message From Paul Clifford

Oldham is a diverse borough with a strong entrepreneurial spirit at the heart of our amazing business base. The Oldham Economic Board, which includes Oldham Council, and our partners are privileged to be able to play a part in shaping the Northern Asian Powerlist, which is a framework seeking to create the conditions for knowledge-sharing and collaboration, truly helping places, businesses, residents and community reach their potential.

### **Paul Clifford**

**Director of Economy | Oldham Council**



## Social Changemakers: Winner and Shortlist

**Overall Winner**

**Yasmin Khan, Founder, Halo Project**







## Message From Leeds Beckett University

Leeds Beckett University is delighted to continue to support the Northern Asian Powerlist and to join in the celebration of attainment for all those nominated and listed as winners.

Our university supports people, organisations and communities to achieve their potential. We take pride in our commitment to work in partnership with businesses and organisations, to understand them and to help them to grow and contribute to a thriving, inclusive economy that supports people, enabling them to make a positive difference to their communities and the places they connect to.

The Northern Asian Powerlist shines a light on those who are trailblazing and inspiring the next generation of entrepreneurs, community leaders and creative thinkers in the North of England. By helping to judge this year's Thought Leadership category, I know just how many people are making a massive difference to the organisations they work for and the people they serve. It is right that we celebrate their phenomenal achievements in the 2023 Powerlist. Congratulations to each and every one of them!

**Simon Baldwin**

**Associate Director for Knowledge Exchange | Leeds Beckett University**



## Thought Leaders: Winner and Shortlist

The Thought Leaders category recognises those for whom an innovative way of thinking is the norm.

From academia and healthcare to policy and innovation, these thought leaders have been championing closer collaborations through their relentless research and commitments.

<b>Overall Winner</b>	<b>Noushin Aslam, CEO and Founder, Moonlight Trust</b>
Shortlist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kainat Javed Qureshi, Skin Deep Photography</li><li>• Vasant Oswal, Emeritus Consultant Otolaryngologist and Head and Neck Surgeon, The James Cook University Hospital</li><li>• Nitin Shukla, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria</li><li>• Sharena Lee Satti, Poet</li><li>• Mohammed Azum, Head of School, Carlton Bolling College</li></ul>







## Message From Philip JJ Turnbull

As chief executive of the Association of International Accountants (AIA), it has been a great honour to act as head judge for the Politics and Diplomacy category of this year's Northern Asian Powerlist 2023.

As a leading force in the accountancy profession, AIA believes in the fundamental principle that inclusion is a catalyst for positive change, and our commitment to accessibility aims to contribute to a more equitable and progressive world.

Our approach has always been that access to education should be open to all, regardless of gender, location and socioeconomic background. Where appropriate, we lower barriers to access through reduced, subsidised or waived fees, to actively promote diversity and inclusion. This is not just a matter of ethical imperative, but also a strategic investment in the future of society.

The AIA's core principles of equality and diversity are directly aligned with the aims of the Northern Asian Powerlist 2023 in celebrating diverse cultures, inspirational individuals and the role the Asian diaspora plays in the success of Northern England's economy.

It has been a pleasure to review this year's nominations, which have included national and local politicians, democracy campaigners and local community champions. Nominees demonstrated commitment to their cause, enthusiasm for their work and passion to make life better for their communities.

Congratulations not only to the deserving award winners, but also to everyone nominated.

**Philip JJ Turnbull**

**Chief Executive | Association of International**





## Message From Sanjeet Bajwa

EY is committed to promoting and uplifting diversity, equity and inclusion, and we are delighted to be supporting the Northern Asian Powerlist awards for 2023 as a premier partner. The awards will be a brilliant celebration of our shared values and are a fantastic opportunity to highlight the very best of Asian businesses in the North of England. It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to support and celebrate the breadth of innovation, acumen and creativity that Asian businesses continue to bring to the region.

I would like to send my best wishes to all of those involved, as well as sharing a message of congratulations and gratitude to those who have once again worked tirelessly to make the awards a possibility.

### **Sanjeet Bajwa**

**Director | Business Consulting | EY**





## Message From Heather Waters

Professionally and personally, the opportunity to be involved in Northern Asian Powerlist for 2023 offers significant satisfaction.

Each year it spotlights the positive impact the Asian business community makes to the northern economy and the wider role it plays in creating role models for businesses across all sectors in the UK.

NatWest strives to remove any barriers to enterprise, using our size, scale and expertise to help entrepreneurs to achieve their ambitions. This is why initiatives such as the Northern Asian Powerlist are so important – and rewarding – for us to be involved in.

Our partnership with The Centre for Research in Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurship (CRÈME) resulted in the creation of the Time to Change Report, which found that with the right support, ethnic minority-led businesses could increase their contribution to the UK economy from £25 billion a year to £100 billion.

Such research shows the value in creating an environment where businesses can thrive and an idea can be turned into a reality. We aim for at least 20% of the places on our 13 nationwide accelerator hubs to be for ethnic minority entrepreneurs – and we aim to create a network where access to the right people, and those who have already enjoyed success, can come together.

We are excited to see what these young entrepreneurs do next and, hopefully, some may even feature in the Northern Asian Powerlist in years to come.

No one can browse its pages without being inspired by the stories they read and the profiles they see.

By sharing these stories, the Powerlist serves to highlight the huge variety of ways that the Asian community and its business leaders are breaking down barriers and contributing to positive change across the North, both now and for generations to come.

In sectors from climate and sustainability to technology and health, the Asian community is already making a powerful contribution in every town and city in the North and in the UK.

NatWest feels privileged to have been given the opportunity to be involved in the Northern Asian Powerlist 2023 and we offer our congratulations to everyone involved – to those nominated and those who have worked together to make it a respected part of the North's business story.

### Heather Waters

**Regional Enterprise Manager | NatWest**



## Women in Business: Winner and Shortlist

Celebrating the women behind the headlines at some of the most prominent and high-achieving companies, and those who own and run successful businesses.

Overall Winner	<b>Salra Hussain, Founder and Managing Director, HAD &amp; CO Property Consultants Ltd</b>
Shortlist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beena Puri, Digital Innovation and Partnerships Lead, Greater Manchester Combined Authority</li><li>• Farkhanda Hussain-Butt , Marketing Director, Shire Beds Limited</li><li>• Kavita Varu, Lawyer/DJ</li><li>• Ponchi Kantt-Neaz, Commercial Director, Fujifilm Diosynth Biotechnologies (FDB)</li><li>• Poonam Kaur, CEO, fds Director Services Ltd</li><li>• Shelina Begum, Business Editor, TheBusinessDesk.com</li><li>• Sophia Ali, Non-Executive Director, Minx Consulting</li></ul>





# Comprehensive Northern Asian Powerlist

Name	Title and Organisation	Category	Location
<b>Adeeba Malik</b>	QED	Politics & Diplomacy	Yorkshire & Humber
<b>Afzal Khan MP</b>	Labour Party	Politics & Diplomacy	North West
<b>Al Alzein</b>	Engagement Specialist, Sunderland Software City	Digital and Technology	North East
<b>Asma Bibi</b>	Great Victoria Hotel	Inspiring Professionals	Yorkshire & Humber
<b>Asma Younis-Hanif</b>	Senior Marketing Manager, PwC	Inspiring Professionals	North West
<b>Aziz Ahmed</b>	Aziz Catering	Food and Drink	Yorkshire & Humber
<b>Beena Puri</b>	Digital Innovation and Partnerships Lead, Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Women in Business	North West
<b>Bobby Thandi</b>	Founder and CEO, XR Games	Digital and Technology	Yorkshire & Humber
<b>Dr. Ram Senasl</b>	Founder and Chairman, Imperial Medical Solutions (IMS)	Digital and Technology	North East
<b>Fareeha Usman</b>	Founder, Being Woman Charity	Cultural Icons	North East
<b>Farkhanda Hussain-Butt</b>	Marketing Director, Shire Beds Limited	Women in Business	Yorkshire & Humber
<b>Furqan Alamgir</b>	Founder, Connexin	Emerging Talent: Leader	Yorkshire and Humber
<b>Jamil Khalil</b>	Founder and CEO, Wakelet	Digital and Technology	North West
<b>Kailash Suri</b>	Founder and Owner, Reel Cinema	Business Leaders	North East
<b>Kainat Javed Qureshi</b>	Skin Deep Photography	Thought Leaders	North East
<b>Kavita Varu</b>	Lawyer/DJ	Women in Business	Yorkshire & Humber
<b>Manpreet Singh</b>	CEO, Bobble Digital	Digital and Technology	Yorkshire & Humber
<b>Mashukul Hoque</b>	Founder, Datacentre Plus	Digital and Technology	North West
<b>Mitali Mookerjee</b>	Co-Founder, CastRooms	Digital and Technology	Yorkshire & Humber
<b>Mo Isap</b>	Chief Executive Officer, IN4.0 Group	Business Leaders	North West
<b>Mohammed Azum</b>	Head of School, Carlton Bolling College	Thought Leaders	Yorkshire & Humber
<b>Mohammed Hannan</b>	Head of Digital Innovation, Johnson & Johnson	Digital and Technology	Yorkshire & Humber
<b>Mohammed Kola</b>	Finance Director, Adams Foodservice Trading Ltd	Food and Drink	Yorkshire & Humber
<b>Mohsin Issa</b>	Co-CEO and Co-Founder, EG Group and Director, Asda	Business Leaders	North West
<b>Nagma Ebanks Beni MBE</b>	Co-CEO, Prima Cheese	Food and Drink	North East
<b>Nick Ahad</b>	Professional Journalist, Playwright, Radio Presenter and Stand Up	Cultural Icons	Yorkshire & Humber
<b>Nitin Shukla</b>	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria	Thought Leaders	North East
<b>Noushin Aslam</b>	CEO and Founder, Moonlight Trust	Thought Leaders	Yorkshire & Humber
<b>Pasha Shah</b>	Department For Levelling Up, Communities and Local Government	Politics & Diplomacy	North West
<b>Ponchi Kantt-Neaz</b>	Commercial Director, Fujifilm Diosynth Biotechnologies (FDB)	Women in Business	North East

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title and Organisation</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Poonam Kaur</b>	Poonam Kaur, CEO, fds Director Services Ltd	Women in Business	Yorkshire & Humber
<b>Saira Hussain</b>	Founder and Managing Director, HAD & CO Property Consultants Ltd	Women in Business	North West
<b>Sarah Khan-Bashir MBE</b>	Founder, SKB Law	Emerging Talent: Entrepreneur	Yorkshire and Humber
<b>Sarat Pediredla</b>	Co-Founder and CEO, Hedgehog Lab	Digital and Technology	North East
<b>Shabir Pandor</b>	Kirklees Council	Politics & Diplomacy	Yorkshire & Humber
<b>Sharena Lee Satti</b>	Poet	Thought Leaders	Yorkshire & Humber
<b>Sharmishta Chatterjee-Banerjee</b>	Policy Director Internationalisation and Strategic Engagement, Newcastle University Business School	Inspiring Professionals	North East
<b>Shelina Begum</b>	Business Editor, TheBusinessDesk	Women in Business	North West
<b>Sherin Mathew</b>	AI Tech UK	Politics & Diplomacy	Yorkshire & Humber
<b>Shobna Gulati DL</b>	Actress	Cultural Icons	North West
<b>Siddique Amin</b>	Director, La Romantica Beds	Business Leaders	Yorkshire & Humber
<b>Simmy Sekhon</b>	Sekhon Group of Companies	Business Leaders	Yorkshire & Humber
<b>Sophia Ali</b>	Non-Executive Director, Minx Consulting	Women in Business	Yorkshire & Humber
<b>Sufi Ahmed</b>	Ponteland Town Council	Politics & Diplomacy	North East
<b>Tahir Mohsan</b>	Founder and CEO, Time Computers	Digital and Technology	North West
<b>Umme Imam</b>	Executive Director, Angelou Centre	Politics & Diplomacy	North East
<b>Vasant Oswal</b>	Emeritus Consultant Otolaryngologist and Head and Neck Surgeon, The James Cook University Hospital	Thought Leaders	North East
<b>Yasmin Khan</b>	Founder, Halo Project	Social Changemakers	North East
<b>Zeb Parvaiz</b>	Managing Director, SKA Developments	Business Leaders	Yorkshire & Humber
<b>Zuber Issa</b>	Co-CEO and Co-Founder, EG Group and Director, Asda	Business Leaders	North West



