

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Sodexo is feeding hearts and minds at Inspirefest 2017

**Caption:** Irish soccer international Stephanie Roche, Sodexo Ireland health and wellbeing ambassador, with Julianne Forrestal, executive chef and Caroline Mone, Inspirefest event sponsorship and client manager, at photocall to announce that Sodexo is providing the healthy lunchboxes for Inspirefest 2017, taking place on 6-8 July in Dublin.

**Caption:** Irish soccer international Stephanie Roche, Sodexo Ireland's health and wellbeing ambassador at photocall to announce that Sodexo is providing the healthy lunchboxes for Inspirefest 2017, taking place on 6-8 July in Dublin

**Caption (048)** soccer international Stephanie Roche, Sodexo Ireland health and wellbeing ambassador with Patrick O'Loughlin, marketing manager and Caroline Mone, Inspirefest event sponsorship and client manager, at photocall to announce that Sodexo is providing the healthy lunchboxes for Inspirefest 2017, taking place on 6-8 July in Dublin.

**Catering and facilities services provider Sodexo Ireland will be feeding 'hearts and minds' once again as a supporter of Inspirefest, the unique sci-tech and arts festival with diversity and inclusion at its heart. It is taking place at the Bord Gais Energy Theatre in Dublin from 6-8 July 2017.**

On Friday 7 July, Thomas Jelley, vice president of the Sodexo Institute for Quality of Life, will be sharing insights from Sodexo's 2017 Global Workplace Trends Report and participating in one of the panel sessions.

Sodexo's delegate lunchboxes, which were voted one of the top ten highlights of 2016, will be back this year. The company will be delivering lunchboxes in a variety of options to suit all preferences and tastes. They will include a selection of artisan products from supplier partners: fresh, energizing juices; nutritious salads, wraps and raw fruit snacks.

**Thomas Jelley said,** "I'm delighted to be part of the panel to explore 'How we will work in 2020'. While the places we work and the ways we work are changing fast, Sodexo is committed to improving the quality of life of its own employees and helping its clients and consumers navigate changes in the workplace.

"My role is to gather and develop insight to help Sodexo understand better the levers of quality of life, how they contribute to the progress of individuals and the performance of organisations regardless of the sector. As such, I look forward to sharing insight from our 2017 Global Workplace Trends Report and highlights from our latest Institute round-table which was on the advent of intelligent robotics in the workplace and took place in Singapore in May."

Inspirefest has a strong focus on diversity and inclusion and Sodexo has long been a workplace pioneer in this area. Sodexo was one of 11 founding partners and signatories of Ireland's first Diversity Charter and country president Margot Slattery has received numerous accolades for her role in promoting the diversity and inclusion agenda.

**Margot Slattery said,** *“Our global research shows that where our teams are more gender balanced they are more engaged, productive and profitable, so there’s also a clear business case. Over the past three consecutive years, the gender-balanced entities were 13% more likely to record consistent organic growth and 23% more likely to show an increase in gross profit. They also performed better for employee engagement, brand image, consumer satisfaction and client retention. This does not mean that ‘unbalanced’ teams do not perform, but the study found they did not perform as well.”*

Now in its third year, Inspirefest will be welcoming people from across the world to Dublin to discuss some of the latest and greatest technologies from a perspective of inclusion and diversity. More than 50 speakers from 15 countries are on the schedule, specialising in topics including blockchain, fintech, medtech, infosec, AI, robotics, the future of work and STEM pedagogy for a new landscape.

**Inspirefest founder Ann O’Dea added,** *“As ever, we’re delighted that our friend and supporter Sodexo Ireland will be contributing valuable insights from their own research into global workplace trends and the business case for diversity.*

*“In addition, their healthy lunches were a great hit last year and we love that they use only the best of Irish suppliers. For the third year Inspirefest has arranged for Foodcloud to take care of all the leftovers and ensure they find a good home. No waste at Inspirefest!”*

Sodexo Ireland, part of the global Sodexo Group, the world’s largest services company, delivers services that improve the quality of life to clients in business and industry, education, financial and healthcare. It employs approximately 2,300 staff in 200 locations across Ireland with a turnover of €98m in 2016.

## ENDS

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## About Sodexo

### Sodexo in the UK and Ireland

Sodexo employs around 34,000 people, and delivers services that improve the quality of life to clients at some 1,850 locations in the corporate, healthcare, education, leisure, justice and defence sectors.

With an annual turnover of more than £1.6bn, Sodexo delivers a range of services ranging from catering, cleaning, reception to asset management, security, laboratory and grounds maintenance services, enabling clients to focus on their core business.

Sodexo Benefits and Rewards Services in the UK provides benefit and reward services such as SayShopping vouchers; public benefits; and employee benefits such as childcare vouchers and engagement surveys.

## About Sodexo

Founded in 1966 by Pierre Bellon, Sodexo is the global leader in services that improve Quality of Life, an essential factor in individual and organizational performance. Operating in 80 countries, Sodexo serves 75 million consumers each day through its unique combination of On-site Services, Benefits and Rewards Services and Personal and Home Services.

Through its more than 100 services, Sodexo provides clients an integrated offering developed over 50 years of experience: from food services, reception, safety, maintenance and cleaning, to facilities and equipment management; from Meal Pass, Gift Pass and Mobility Pass benefits for employees to in-home assistance, child care centers and concierge services. Sodexo's success and performance are founded on its independence, its sustainable business and financial model and its ability to continuously develop and to engage the commitment of its 425,000 employees throughout the world.

Sodexo is a member of the CAC 40 and DJSI Indices.

## Key figures (as of August 31, 2016)

**20.2 billion** euro in consolidated revenues

**425,000** employees

**19<sup>th</sup>** largest employer worldwide

**80** countries

**75 million** consumers served daily

**17.3 billion** euro in market capitalization (as of April 12, 2017)