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## **Sodexo Prestige announces new contract with new Great North Museum: Hancock**

Sodexo Prestige has secured a prestigious contract to provide conference, banqueting and visitor catering services at the Great North Museum: Hancock in Newcastle. The three-year deal, worth approximately £3 million in total turnover, will also see Sodexo Prestige provide sales and marketing services to the Museum.

The contract, which begins in May, will see Sodexo Prestige manage two cafes which is expected to attract a wide range of museum visitors, tour groups and University students. The Street Café will serve speciality coffees and pastries and The Hancock Café will celebrate the tastes of the North East.

Sodexo Prestige will also manage a stunning range of brand new conference and event spaces that include a large exhibition space of over 500 sq meters, The Clore Learning Suite for meetings & receptions and The Hancock Café for evening entertainment.

David Johnson, operations director, Sodexo Prestige, said: "We are extremely proud to have been awarded such a prestigious contract for a unique and important venue in Newcastle. We look forward to working in partnership with the Great North Museum: Hancock to deliver outstanding events and visitor catering in a truly exceptional venue."

Jon Walker, trading manager, Great North Museum: Hancock said: "The opening of the Great North Museum will be a highlight on the North East of England's calendar this spring. Opening in Newcastle on 23 May, the £26 million building will feature the wonder and diversity of the natural world, spectacular objects from Ancient Greece, mummies from Ancient Egypt, a planetarium and a life-size T. rex replica dinosaur skeleton. The jewel in the collection will be a large-scale interactive model of Hadrian's Wall, Northern England's spectacular Roman frontier."

**ENDS**

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## **About Sodexo**

In the UK and Ireland, Sodexo employs 43,000 people, and provides food and facilities management services to clients at over 2,300 locations in the corporate, education, healthcare, leisure and defence sectors.

Many companies rely on Sodexo for cost-effective solutions to their employee or hospitality catering, or to deliver services such as cleaning, reception, switchboard and help desks, mailroom, reprographics and grounds maintenance.

Sodexo is part of the Sodexo Group, the leading global provider of food and facilities management services, with more than 375,000 employees at 30,600 sites in 80 countries.

[www.sodexo.com](http://www.sodexo.com)

## **About the Great North Museum: Hancock**

The creation of the Great North Museum: Hancock has been made possible by £8.75million in funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), in addition to generous funding from a wide range of supporters including the European Regional Development Fund, One North East, Newcastle University, Newcastle City Council, TyneWear Partnership, Northern Rock Foundation, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Garfield Weston Foundation, Clore Duffield Foundation and the DCMS/Wolfson Foundation Museums & Galleries Improvement Fund.

The creation of the Great North Museum: Hancock is part of the wider Great North Museum project involving the redevelopment of the magnificent Hancock Museum, the management of the Hatton Gallery and the development of an off-site store and resource centre.

The project has been led by Newcastle University in partnership with Tyne & Wear Museums, Newcastle City Council, the Natural History Society of Northumbria and the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne. Heritage Lottery Fund

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported more than 28,800 projects, allocating over £4.3billion across the UK, with over £208 million granted in the North East alone. Website: [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)

Admission to the Great North Museum will be free.

[www.greatnorthmuseum.org](http://www.greatnorthmuseum.org)