

# PRESS RELEASE

## Sodexo puts NI food on the menu at The 148th Open

15 July 2019

**77,000 slices of bacon, 28,000 beef burgers, 14,000 fillets of MSC haddock, 1,000 rolls of butter, 220kg of sliced ham and 200kg of artisan cheese along with delicacies like dulse and eels are just some of the delicious ingredients that have been locally sourced by Sodexo for The 148<sup>th</sup> Open at Royal Portrush.**

Award-winning Sodexo chef Fritz Machala ‘teed off’ at a photocall in Ormeau Golf Club in Belfast to highlight the company’s support of local food suppliers, which include the North Coast Smokehouse, Abernethy Butter, Ballylisk Dairies, Brighter Gold Rapeseed Oil, Burren Balsamics, Irish Black Butter, Lough Neagh Eel, Morellis Ice cream, Causeway Prime Meats and the French Village Bakery.

It’s the twentieth year for Sodexo looking after The Open and the team has been planning for the Royal Portrush venue for over 18 months. All the public retail, on-course and hospitality catering goes live from Sunday 14 July and continues until 21<sup>st</sup> July. 1,200 staff from Northern Ireland, Scotland and England have been recruited to serve more than 215,000 expected visitors over the seven-day major Championship. In addition, 20 individuals from the Prince’s Trust will also be employed on-site, benefiting from training, mentoring, support and valuable work experience to provide future job prospects post-Open.

**Stephen Frost, an executive head chef for Sodexo’s Sports & Leisure division and an Open ‘veteran’, said:** *“Catering for an event as prestigious and world-famous as The Open is an intensive almost 24-hour a day operation that has to run like clockwork over the seven days.*

*We’ll be serving over 20,000 meals in the private hospitality areas and around 100,000 meals in the public areas. We’ll also be catering for 750 media personnel covering the event and roughly the same number of external contractors like florists, electricians, technical and design teams, along with 5,000 lunch bags for security, police and pay gate staff. “*

Sodexo is the catering partner of The R&A, which organises and stages The Open. Both organisations are committed to supporting local food businesses in the region of the host venues as part of the GreenLinks sustainability programme for The Open.

The initiative incorporates procurement policies that focus on ethically and sustainably sourced food and drink, such as MSC haddock and Fairtrade tea, coffee, sugar, hot chocolate and bananas. Wherever possible, the catering team also buy from local suppliers to deliver a broad range of menu choices that reflect the regional cuisine.

**Philip Russell, Assistant Director - Sustainability at The R&A, said:** *“Our GreenLinks programme forms an important part of The Open and ensures that we address the broad range of sustainability considerations required to stage a major global sporting event.*

*“We are delighted to be working alongside these local businesses and suppliers to offer tens of thousands of fans a wide range of delicious regional food and drink to enjoy when they come to Royal Portrush.”*

## Ends

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### About Sodexo UK and Ireland

Sodexo employs around 36,000 people and delivers services that improve the quality of life to clients at over 2,100 locations in the corporate, energy & resources, healthcare, education, leisure, justice and defence sectors. Services range from catering, cleaning, reception to asset management, security, laboratory and grounds maintenance services, enabling clients to focus on their core business. [www.uk.sodexo.com](http://www.uk.sodexo.com)

Sodexo Engage is the UK's leader in employee engagement and recognition, providing a range of benefits and incentives to improve motivation in staff. It offers a range of services such as bespoke reward platforms, gift vouchers and discounts at some of the biggest UK cinemas. For more information, please visit the Sodexo Engage website: [www.sodexoengage.com](http://www.sodexoengage.com)

### Sodexo Group

Founded in Marseille in 1966 by Pierre Bellon, Sodexo is the global leader in services that improve Quality of Life, an essential factor in individual and organisational performance. Operating in 72 countries, Sodexo serves 100 million consumers each day through its unique combination of On-site Services, Benefits and Rewards Services and Personal and Home Services.

Sodexo provides clients an integrated offering developed over more than 50 years of experience: from foodservices, reception, maintenance and cleaning, to facilities and equipment management; from services and programs fostering employees' engagement to solutions that simplify and optimise their mobility and expenses management, to in-home assistance, childcare centres and concierge services. Sodexo's success and performance are founded on its independence, its sustainable business model and its ability to continuously develop and engage its 460,000 employees throughout the world.

Sodexo is included in the CAC 40, FTSE 4 Good and DJSI indices.

#### Key figures (as of August 31, 2018)

**20.4 billion** euro in consolidated revenues  
**460,000** employees  
**19<sup>th</sup>** largest employer worldwide  
**72** countries  
**100 million** consumers served daily  
**15.4 billion euro** in market capitalization (as of July 5, 2019)