

Press Release

## Sopra Steria launches new look government business

- **Independent report by NIESR identifies £300bn public spending gap**
- **Sopra Steria's government business redesigned to tackle urgent need for improved efficiencies and quality amidst fiscal constraint**
- **Offering set to enable citizens and civil servants through cutting edge technological solutions**

**London, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018** – Transformation and technology specialist, Sopra Steria, today launches a new strategy for its government business. The organisation, which has a proud history as a service provider for government, has refocused its offering to centre upon deploying technology to accelerate outcomes and improve the experiences of civil servants and citizens.

The new direction of the business is marked by the publication of a report by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR), which reveals the UK's public services are under greater strain than ever before. The research, commissioned by Sopra Steria, warns that a **public spending gap of £300bn is likely to emerge over the next seven years**, brought on by the cumulative impact of an ageing population and the cost of easing austerity. The looming threat of a **hard Brexit could contribute a further £50bn** towards a predicted public spending black hole by 2025.

In lieu of alternative fiscal measures to redress the public spending gap, the NIESR report points towards improving the efficiency of public service delivery so that more can be achieved with less. Sopra Steria's new look government business is designed to deliver exactly that, helping to revive current public service operating models to cope with society's swelling needs.

The repositioning sees Sopra Steria become a government partner that enables end-users. It plans to deploy technologies such as the **Internet of Things, AI** and **automation** to drive efficiencies while facilitating more joined-up government services and transforming the experiences of citizens.

Commenting on the launch, **Sopra Steria Managing Director for Government, Adrian Fieldhouse**, said:

"The government faces a significant challenge as it attempts to modernise and transform public services whilst tightly managing public spending. Citizen expectations of both the accessibility and the quality of public services are rising as they compare them to those they receive from the private sector using digital techniques.

"Hiking public sector spending isn't a viable option; not only would it break the Chancellor's fiscal rules it would also be unpopular with the electorate. In addition, we need to brace ourselves for Brexit, undoubtedly the biggest disrupter to our public services since the dawn of the NHS.

"If we want different outcomes, then in my view, we need to do things differently and do different things. The pace of technological change shows no signs of slowing down – in fact, quite the opposite. We believe that harnessing this to both increase efficiency and deliver new models of public service will not only ease the problem, but make the public service experience of UK citizens a world-leading one.

"If we don't, our public services may face an untenable situation, where they cannot deliver services in the way they have always done. Simply because, the public purse won't sustain it."

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Sopra Steria is a transformation specialist that has worked with government for over 50 years, delivering programmes for the Home Office, Her Majesty's Passport Office and the Department of Education, among others. It is also at the forefront of innovative shared services joint ventures for the Cabinet Office (SSCL) and NHS (SBS).

To find out more about Sopra Steria, visit [www.soprasteria.co.uk](http://www.soprasteria.co.uk). To read the NIESR/ Sopra Steria report in full, visit <https://goo.gl/qnTxRr>.

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### About Sopra Steria

Sopra Steria, a European leader in digital transformation, provides one of the most comprehensive portfolios of end-to-end service offerings on the market: consulting, systems integration, software development, infrastructure management and business process services. Sopra Steria is trusted by leading private and public-sector organisations to deliver successful transformation programmes that address their most complex and critical business challenges. Combining high quality and performance services, added value and innovation, Sopra Steria enables its clients to make the best use of digital technology. With nearly 42,000 employees in more than 20 countries, Sopra Steria generated revenue of €3.8 billion in 2017.

For more information, visit us at [www.soprasteria.com](http://www.soprasteria.com)

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### About NIESR

NIESR aims to promote, through quantitative and qualitative research, a deeper understanding of the interaction of economic and social forces that affect people's lives, and the ways in which policies can improve them.

Further details of NIESR's activities can be seen on <http://www.niesr.ac.uk>

