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*****NEWS RELEASE*****

PILATES CONSULTATION IN FULL SWING

The industry-wide consultation to develop brand new National Occupational Standards for Pilates is well underway.

Launched by SkillsActive in April, Pilates professionals from across the UK are being given the opportunity to have an input into the development of the standards for their industry. SkillsActive's qualifications and standards officer, Lee Buck said: "We are in discussion with leading Pilates organisations across the UK, as well as teachers, trainers and employers, to develop this new standard for the industry.

"The consultation process will lead to the recognition of qualified and skilled Pilates professionals across the UK, and I would urge everyone in the industry to have an input."

The consultation is running until Friday, 10 June 2005, and once the process is completed, the industry will enjoy a Pilates specific standard for matwork that will be recognised across the health and fitness industry, and can be used to work towards membership of Register of Exercise Professionals at Level 3.

The consultation is a chance for Pilates professionals to shape their industry, make sure you get involved!

It couldn't be simpler to take part in the consultation, visit: www.skillsactive.com/pilatesandyoga and fill in the questionnaire online!

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-ENDS-

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. SkillsActive is the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for Sport and Recreation, Health and Fitness, Playwork, The Outdoors and the Caravan industries.
2. SkillsActive's mission statement is: "To ensure best quality, best business and best value within the Sector to achieve its economic and social potential."

3. SSCs are employer-led organisations that aim to tackle the skills and productivity needs of their sector throughout the UK. SSCs provide employers with the opportunity to provide leadership to meet their sector's skills and business needs. In return they receive substantial public investment and greater dialogue with government departments across the UK.
4. For more information about SkillsActive, please visit our website @ www.skillsactive.com
5. SkillsActive is currently developing a Sector Skills Agreement for the Active Leisure and Learning Sector which will define the Sector's skills needs and ultimately form an agreement between employers, Government and funding partners to shape the workforce for the next ten years.