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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

SKILLSACTIVE LAUNCH CONSULTATION FOR PILATES

SkillsActive launch the long awaited industry-wide consultation to develop Standards for Pilates.

Today sees the launch of the industry-wide consultation to develop brand new National Occupational Standards for Pilates, a world first for the industry.

SkillsActive, the sector skills council for health and fitness has been in discussion with leading Pilates organisations across the UK and on an international level for over two years, and are now at the stage for the consultation process to go ahead.

There are several organisations around the world that have established a certification process for Pilates professionals, however SkillsActive is the first to run a consultation that will lead to the development of National Occupational Standards for the Pilates industry.

SkillsActive's qualifications and standards officer Lee Buck said: "We are so pleased that we are at the stage to officially consult with the Pilates industry. The consultation process has been years in the making, and we are finally in a position to receive feedback from teachers, trainers and employers, which will lead to the recognition of qualified and skilled Pilates professionals.

"This really is great news and I hope that Pilates professionals and organisations will get involved in the consultations process and help shape the standards for their industry."

Once the consultation process is complete, the industry will enjoy a Pilates specific standard for matwork that will be recognised across the health and fitness sector and can be used to work towards membership of the Register of Exercise Professionals (REPs).

SkillsActive hopes that Pilates professionals and organisations across the UK will provide a response to the National Standard for Pilates and that finalising the Standard in July 2005 will be the first step in achieving an agreed criteria and system of submission and evaluation in order for Pilates qualifications to give entry to the REPs.

The consultation process starts today, and will run until **Friday, 10 June 2005.**

The consultation documents are available on the SkillsActive website at: <http://skillsactive.com/promotionlist/healthpromotion> or contact Lee Buck at: Lee.buck@skillsactive.com for more details and to submit your consultation questionnaire.

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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.