

Donna Ford-Clarke  
VP Vocational Qualifications & Portfolio  
Pearson UK  
80 Strand  
London  
WC2R 0RL

6<sup>th</sup> December 2024

***Qualification: Pearson BTEC Level 2 Extended Technical Occupational Entry for Recreation Assistants (Diploma).***

Dear Donna,

The Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMSPA) is the representative professional body for the whole of the UK in relation to the sport and physical activity sector, it is the guardian of all associated professional standards, and the QAA recognised PSRB for higher education institutions. CIMSPA is also the representative entry for the industry in the IfATE Employer Directory and has both a partnership and a membership model.

CIMSPA partners consist of employer partners representing 205 employers, 15 awarding organisation partners (offering CIMSPA-endorsed regulated qualifications which enable progress both into direct entry/higher level employment and further or higher study, many of whom are also end-point assessment organisations for 5 apprenticeships standards), and 236 training provider partners offering a wealth of endorsed professional CPD, and formal training leading to CIMSPA membership for industry professionals all which map to the 45 sector lead professional standards.

CIMSPA represents 205 employers which includes large national organisations employing 250+ staff to mid-size, as well as SME's. We currently have 15 Skills Hub Managers working with regional and local employers to conduct 'Skills Diagnostics' to understand their current and future skills development requirements. This employer led insight aims to prepare the workforce of the future to better meet the needs of the physical activity and sport sector locally, and to have maximum positive impact on communities and the local economy.

We have data that demonstrates there is clear evidence and demand for the job role of Recreation Assistant. Up to September 2023, approx. 300 employers have completed the Skills Diagnostics, this data has been aggregated and shows that 784 Recreation Assistants are currently employed. The Skills Diagnostics also present that an additional 316 Recreation Assistants will be required nationally, across the next 12 months, representing a 40% growth for this job role.

There is also evidence collated through Lightcast (September 2023) that presents there is demand in Job Posting Analytics for the role of Recreation Assistant with London, Leeds, West Surrey, and Glasgow City the top cities posting for this role. Some of the top 'common skills' for this role are Customer Service, Communication, Cleanliness and Operations which will be sufficiently developed and covered by the units within the Pearson BTEC Level 2 Extended Technical Occupational Entry for Recreation Assistants (Diploma).

We have been closely involved and met with Pearson at varying stages of their qualification development lifecycle. We are pleased to see that because of ours and others in industry direct



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engagement Pearson have amended the qualification. We support Pearson's approach to assessment, content and the structure of the above qualification.

Pearson have fully mapped to the CIMSPA professional standard for Recreation Assistant meaning a graduate of this qualification can enter the workforce directly in this job role. There is also partial mapping to the Leisure Team Member occupational standard meaning learners will gain important knowledge, behaviour and skills. This will further improve their employability and give them the opportunity to work in a relevant setting.

The additional units to this extended version on understanding how the industry works and personal development for a career in the industry will add valuable employability skills for those students who require further support.

We look forward to continuing working so closely with Pearson to ensure this qualification remains future facing. We are happy for this letter to be used with the Department for Education and Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education. This letter can also be on the Pearson website.

Yours Sincerely,



**Sara Byrne**

**Technical Education Manager, CIMSPA**

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