

# Proposed Sanitary Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Bill

## Page 2: About you

Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

on behalf of an organisation

Which of the following best describes you? (If you are a professional or academic, but not in a subject relevant to the consultation, please choose "Member of the public".)

*No Response*

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

Third sector (charitable, campaigning, social enterprise, voluntary, non-profit)

Please choose one of the following; if you choose the first option, please provide your name or the name of your organisation as you wish it to be published.

I am content for this response to be attributed to me or my organisation

Please insert your name or the name of your organisation. If you choose the first option above, this should be the name as you wish it to be published. If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Health & Hygiene Project Leith (H&H Card)

Please provide details of a way in which we can contact you if there are queries regarding your response. Email is preferred but you can also provide a postal address or phone number. We will not publish these details.

## Page 7: Your views on the proposal

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill?

Fully Supportive

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill?

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

The H&H project fully supports the bill for the proposal of free sanitary products. As a project we have seen first-hand the demand for access to free toiletries and sanitary products by males and females in Edinburgh. Our project operates a drop-in service on a Friday evening for young people aged 16-25, who may be vulnerable, experiencing homelessness or experiencing financial hardship. We are based in Leith and we are funded by the National Lottery. H&H is a stand-alone service and we have young people coming from North Edinburgh and even South Queensferry to access our unique project. We have been open for 10 months and have been visited over 100 times with roughly 60 individuals accessing the service. We are also a Period Friendly Point and have received positive feedback from service users about the provision.

## Page 8: Universal provision of sanitary products

Q2. Do you think a universal, card-based system (modelled on the c-card system for free condoms) would be an effective means of providing sanitary products for free to those who need them?

Yes

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

We feel that a C Card system would work for access to sanitary products. By having advertised points people would be aware of where they could access the service. It would also 'legitimise' the provision and mean that it could be effectively monitored and evaluated. From a workers perspective it would be good to be able to engage with the people accessing the service and build relationships with them so that points could act as signposts to other services or in some cases offer wider holistic support. As a project, we piloted a H&H card that took inspiration from the C card model. Each young person who accesses our service is issued a card and when they visit we record their details and what products/ sanitary care they take. This has been useful for us to track new visitors, return visitors and even what products are most frequently requested.

Q3. Which of the following best expresses your view in relation to a card-based system?

The card should be available to anyone; card-holders should have unlimited access to free sanitary products

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

We feel that sanitary products should be unlimited and available to all. In some case we have had young people accessing the service and taking products for family members as mental health issues have prevented them leaving the house. We also feel that there should be a special provision for those who live in rural areas as travelling to an access point may be pricey in itself and the cost of travel may outweigh the cost of the products in the first place.

Q4. Do you have a view on which locations would be most suitable for dispensing free sanitary products (e.g. GP surgeries, pharmacies, community centres, health clinics)?

We feel that it would be useful to have free access in schools, colleges and universities. In schools just now young people would need to see a teacher if they required sanitary products. By having general access to them it would mean that young people wouldn't need to do this and could access them anonymously.

## Page 11: Schools, colleges and universities

Q5. Do you agree that there should be specific obligations on schools, colleges and universities to make sanitary products available for free (via dispensers in toilets)?

Yes

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

See previous response.

## Page 12: Personal experience (questions 6 and 7 are for individual respondents only)

Q6. Have you ever struggled to access or afford sanitary products during menstruation? (e.g. financial barriers, unexpected circumstances, health issues)

**Please explain or give an example of your experience if you feel able to do so.**

Organisation Response.

Q7. If sanitary products were available for free, which of the following would apply to you?

I prefer not to say

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Organisation response

## Page 14: Financial implications

Q8. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on:

	Significant increase in cost	Some increase in cost	Broadly cost-neutral	Some reduction in cost	Significant reduction in cost	Unsure
(a) Government and the public sector (e.g. local authorities, the NHS)		X				
(b) Colleges and universities		X				
(c) Businesses (including suppliers/retailers of sanitary products)						X
(d) Individuals (including consumers of sanitary products)				X		

Q9. Are there ways in which the Bill could achieve its aim more cost-effectively (e.g. by reducing costs or increasing savings)?

Unsure.

## Page 16: Equalities

Q10. What overall impact is the proposed Bill likely to have on equality, taking account of the following protected characteristics (under the Equality Act 2010): age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex, sexual orientation?

Positive

Q11. In what ways could any negative impact of the proposed Bill on equality be minimised or avoided?

Unsure

## Page 18: Sustainability

Q12. Do you consider that the proposed Bill can be delivered sustainably i.e. without having likely future disproportionate economic, social and/or environmental impacts?

Yes

**Please explain the reasons for your response:**

We believe that the savings that could be made for poor healthcare as a result of infections and ill health through not having access to sanitary products could balance out overall.

## Page 19: General

Q13. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the proposal?

We strongly support the proposed bill and look forward to hearing the outcome of it.