

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

Other (e.g. clubs, local groups, groups of individuals, etc.)

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Dundee Youth Council

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

Fully supportive of this to become law and allow for women and young girls to have access to the products they need.

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

Although, the card system is a good one. It may be more advantageous for it to be put on Young Scot Cards for young girls as it will remove the stigma which may be felt by many young girls who have already been means tested for something such as free school meals.

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

The card should be available only to those on low incomes or in receipt of benefits; card-holders should have unlimited access to free sanitary products

Please explain the reasons for your response.

In order for this bill to work successfully it must start with only those on low incomes. Therefore, it can be tested and measured for demand and waste before it is opened up to everyone in society.

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)?

Anywhere, whether council or Government run should be providing these products for women. Also should make use of local facilities so that women who have no transport and less well off still have access to their products.

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

Cannot stress enough how important this is. These places have vulnerable young people in their care who require protection and access to decent sanitation in line with their human rights.

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)

Yes, occasionally

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

All were due to economic reasons or inconvenience of circumstance.

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

I would expect to claim free products occasionally

Please explain the reasons for your response

Most would only use when they were in crisis and needed and would not take advantage of them just because they were free. Buying their own when they knew they could afford them.

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		

Please explain the reasons for your response

Government and education places and businesses would lose out due to the amount of profit they would not be achieving. However, woman's sanitation is not the correct method to make profit off of.

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

Bulk buying and selling to places may see a increase in savings. Although, there will be a reduce in profit this may decrease the quality of sanitary products available. Therefore, they needs to remain a sector of society eg. The financially stable who can still afford to buy their ow products.

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

This will allow for a increase in female attainment and confidence. Therefore, allowing women to break their ow barriers and not allow themselves to be punished or disadvantaged over things they have no control over.

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

Direct consequences against those who appose in ways that are of an offensive nature. Education and discussion is an excellent way to ensure that negative impacts are avoided.

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:

Education on how woman should recycle their products and perhaps in time there could be a push for new desgin in how products are packed and contained in their packets.

Page 19: General

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

It is a wonderful idea with lots of potential. Scotland would be one of the first countries to make this advancement and this may help end this type of poverty in different countries around the world. Of course the main reason that period poverty exists is due to a lack of equality and also lack of education and overall respect for women. In order to ensure that these bills and others like them succeed, we need to make sure that our men and young men understand women and their biology fuller in order to make rational decisions which impact women's lives.

