

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

School, college or university

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 would like this response to be anonymous (the response may be published, but no name)

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

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?

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Partially supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response

It's important that those who menstruate are entitled to free sanitary products across Scotland, although this is a very similar campaign that NUS have created that is already government policy.

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

Yes as it would allow for the system to offer products to those who need them and for organisations to be able to track how many products are required, how many are needing the system in place.

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.

There should not be a limit as to how many free products for those who require them as you cannot discriminate against someone based on their salary, if providing free products it should be equal for all.

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)?

I believe free sanitary products should be distributed among all of the following places to allow for easier access to the products for those who need them:

GP Surgeries
Schools
Universities
Colleges
Community Centres
Health Clinics

Get in touch with a company such as Boots, so they could possibly offer free products at their clinic rooms and promote it.

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)?

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Yes

Please explain the reasons for your response

As it's natural for those to use sanitary products on a regular basis then these should be free within schools, colleges and universities via dispensers in toilets so it's easy for those needing these products to access them, another option would be within colleges and universities to offer free sanitary products to students through the student associations and student unions by promoting these products are available alongside C-Card products.

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)

No

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

I would expect to claim free products regularly

Please explain the reasons for your response

As it's important for those who require these products to be accessible and free on a regular basis, everyone who requires access to these products should not have to pay or struggle to pay for something that is a natural cycle for many across Scotland.

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			

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

(d) Individuals (including consumers of sanitary products)					X	
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Q9. Are there ways in which the Bill could achieve its aim more cost-effectively (e.g. by reducing costs or increasing savings)?

No Response

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

I believe that individuals that require these products, allowing them to have access to free sanitary products will allow for there to be a much more positive outlook within their life, e.g. for students it would impact positively on a majority of issues that students face such as financial difficulties that can lead to mental health issues, so by providing free sanitary products it can allow for students to have more money, less likely to suffer from mental health conditions as they'll be less likely to be stressed around budgeting for products that should be free to them once they require them.

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

By allowing to offer the products to anyone who declares that they need access to them, this ensures that no discrimination is happening when proposing this bill.

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?

Unsure

Page 19: General

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

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No Response