

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

Public sector body (Scottish/UK Government/Government agency, local authority, NDPB)

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership

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

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

Yes the C card system could be an effective means of providing sanitary products generally in order to provide sanitary products for those most in need. However this could be stigmatising. Additionally, this would not be the best approach for school settings. This could be a barrier to accessing products for some young people and stigmatising.

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.

The card based system would not be the most appropriate system for dispensing sanitary products for school pupils. Access to sanitary products should be universal and unlimited in school setting. It could potentially be a health issue to restrict products as individuals may feel it necessary to use less in order to ensure they were not going short. This could lead to using products (particularly tampons) in an unsafe way. Additionally the card scheme would incur an element of stigmatisation if based on low incomes.

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)?

All of the above with the addition of foodbanks, schools, colleges and universities

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

It is common practice currently to provide sanitary products to young people free of charge in school settings in Aberdeenshire. However setting this out in legislation sends a strong message that young people should not be disadvantaged and also will ensure there is no postcode lottery

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 Response

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

No 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)?

Reusable products could be considered such as mooncups, reusable sanitary towels. However this would not be the most appropriate option for school settings or other individuals depending on their circumstances ie for those experiencing homelessness. Reusable products require to be washed out and would be problematic in a school setting or for those with limited access to facilities to do this regularly

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

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?

Please explain the reasons for your response

Likely to have a positive effect on equalities particularly in relation to gender equality whereby women would not be disadvantaged by the cost of products and those individuals who are currently missing out on education or where their ability to participate fully in education or other areas of life are currently restricted would not be disadvantaged. This bill would also have a positive impact on Age equality whereby school aged individuals often do not have their own income and university and college students would be on limited incomes. This bill would reduce the disadvantage that may be currently experienced for this age group.

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

No Response

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:

There would be a cost implication and the use of non-reusable products has an environmental impact. However the impact could be reduced if environmentally friendly alternatives were available, where appropriate, and the cost would be limited if offered to those on low incomes. It is felt that the social, emotional and wellbeing benefits would outweigh the above economic and environmental impacts.

Page 19: General

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

No Response