

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Vulva Sapiens

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

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

We are in favor of ending period poverty and of implementing public policy on this matter around the globe.

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

Maybe the c-card system could work for menstrual cups or a set of cloth pads, but I believe it wouldn't be necessary for providing dispensable pads.

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

The card should be available to anyone; its use should be restricted (e.g. by limiting the number of products that may be claimed each month)

Please explain the reasons for your response.

As I said on my previous response, the delivery system depends on the type of product you want to give. For menstrual cups, and a set of cloth pads you could provide one each five years. For disposable items you could have a monthly restricted number.

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! plus schools

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

totally agree

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.

unexpected circumstances where products are not easily available

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

I believe women have the right to menstruate in good conditions, this includes having free products available, among other things like clean facilities, access to water and sanitation, etc.

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

I believe that, regarding costs for the public sector, if the government distributes free sanitary products for women, and if this comes together with a broader education and awareness strategy regarding a better relation with our own body thus our sexual and reproductive health, health budgets might lower in, for example, vaginal infections and unwanted pregnancies. So investing in sanitary products could be considered an investment in preventive health.

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

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As I said in my previous answer, in the long run, this investment in preventive health could have an expected outcomes in the health budget. But I have no way to prove this. It's just the way I visualize it.

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

Totally positive because the proposed bill addresses gender equality straightforward by eliminating one of the barriers women experience in their public life (school, work) due to a private issue. Moreover, I believe that if we sensitize and educate on having a better relation with our own body, the positive impact can also affect positively pregnancy, maternity, sexual and reproductive health and health in general, since women are often in charge of family health.

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

Giving free products to population may be expensive and difficult to allocate at the beginning but in the medium and long run, the abuses tend to decrease and the public policy can be stabilized

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

Please explain the reasons for your response:

My answer is yes ONLY if the proposal considers giving reusable menstrual cups and reusable cloth pads. My answer is NO if the proposal considers dispensable pads and/or tampons.

Page 19: General

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

Congratulations on this great effort.
I would like to receive further communications on the matter since I am doing research on it in Mexico, my home country.