

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Fully Supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

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

We support women affected by domestic abuse. Many of the women we support are on low incomes and affected by period poverty. We are sometimes given donations of sanitary products and distribute them free of charge. We have had women cry with relief when given these donations. We also have supported women who were deliberately deprived of sanitary products by the perpetrators. In one case the perpetrator refused to provide sanitary product for his wife or his teenage daughter. No woman should ever be in this position.

## 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**

I think monitoring would be essential to ensure the system is not abused but the card system seems respectful and discreet enough to ensure women are not embarrassed.

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.**

If a woman is financially abused, the family income is irrelevant.

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)?

Pharmacies, gps, clinics and any appropriate third sector organisations.

## 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**

No woman young or old should have to rely on others to provide them with sanitary products. Many households find budgeting nearly impossible and young women should not lack access to products due to deliberate abuse or dysfunctional budgeting.

## 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.**

I came from a dysfunctional family where there was neglect due to alcohol abuse and I struggled to buy my own sanitary products due to lack of finances and also due to sheer embarrassment when I was a young teenager.

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

I would not expect to claim free products

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I am now in the position that I do not find buying sanitary products a financial burden. I would continue to buy in the supermarket for sheer convenience.

## 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**

The costs would need to be met from some budget and so I would expect the government and public sector to pick this up.

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 strongly believe women are unfairly disadvantaged by being forced to buy sanitary products. We have no choice. Many women feel dirty and degraded because they cannot afford to buy enough, appropriate products for their needs. By enabling all women to look after themselves to the highest standards I believe they will be more confident and will feel valued.

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:**

I think the resources required can be accommodated within many already available distribution networks. I believe the cost could be minimal if competitive suppliers are used to provide low cost, quality products.

## Page 19: General

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

*No Response*