

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Karen Morris

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?

Yes

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

As long as this is implemented in a discrete and supportive manner. In primary school some girls are not emotionally ready for their period arriving and may feel additionally self conscious about this. Primary schools would probably prefer to manage this in house until the girls are older and possibly more comfortable to have a discrete card.

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.**

This answer is related purely to our primary school setting. It doesn't necessarily reflect our views on older girls/ women.

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)?

Everywhere public including public toilets. Many of us already hand sanitary products in via food banks [which isn't always possible] and the homeless shelters in Edinburgh where they are always accepted.

## 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 learner particularly those already trying to function within poverty or just managing terms should ever have the additional stress of where and how to access sanitary products [we include clean underpants being important and easily available also in the school setting] We should be supporting the removal of any possible barriers to learners fully engaging with reaching their full potential.

## 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 not expect to claim free products

## 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**

Sanitary products are expensive and if a family are having to choose between food and sanitary products then we are sure missed schooling and work days will be chosen over not feeding young children. We feel the cost of the products would balance out the cost of missed days education and missed days from work often possibly in the public sector.

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

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

Making sure it is not just assumed as it can often be with accessing other benefits that everyone has either access to applying on line or have the literacy or computer skills to apply on line. This should be handled in a way that avoids ALL possible humiliation.

## 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:**

If homeless shelters and public toilets have proper sanitary disposal buckets that are cleaned and cleared regularly.

## Page 19: General

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

Please limit the assumptions always seem to be made that everyone is completely literate who needs to apply or access supports such as these.