

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Nicola Reynolds Principal Teacher of Pupil Support - Maxwelltown High School, Dumfries

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?

In my opinion no female should have to pay for sanitary protection (in an ideal world...) At school however, sanitary protection or the lack of it should not be a reason for missing school, not participating in PE or other school related activities of day to day activities.

## 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**

Again in school females should have access to sanitary products. A card system would allow females to access protection with discretion and without any embarrassment.

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 two tiered system for this. Accessing products should be on a need basis for all, not just some.

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)?

They should be available in schools in a central place or just in the toilets.

## 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

## 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 occasionally

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I am in a privileged position as I can afford them for me and my daughter. However there are times when one is unprepared and having free and available access would be beneficial.

## 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 govt and public sector could buffer the cost of this suggestion. Colleges and universities again could build it into their budgets.

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

Support from sanitary protection companies.

Cost cutting exercises from other areas - not having biscuits at meetings!

## 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**

Our opinions on all of the above are changing all the time - why is menstruation still a taboo area?

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

Start talking about it. Menstruation happens to approximately 50% of the population why is it still not discussed?

Let's hear about the thoughts and views of women and young women - all of whom are daughters/sisters/wives and maybe mothers.

Promote it positively to reduce the negativity.

## 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

## Page 19: General

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

It is about time the subject was brought into the domain. Menstruation is not spoken about yet impacts half the population.

Why should our young women in education have to feel it is still a taboo subject. Why should they be caught short if their period comes unannounced.

If condoms can be issued free in some areas why not sanitary protection?