

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Perth and Kinross Foodbank

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

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

Condoms and other contraceptives are provided free so these should be too. I believe access to decent sanitary products are essential to allow women to lead a healthy and full life and if some women are not able to afford them then this is curtailing these basic rights.

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?

No

Please explain the reasons for your response

Just provide them where ever women are likely to be - public toilets, places of work and education, cafes and restaurant toilets, places of sport and recreation. Wherever you would get toilet roll! Cards would be a hinderance

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

There is no need for a card scheme

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Cards would be an unnecessary and expensive hinderance. Introducing a level of beauracray that is not required. I would guess women wouldn't carry a card about with them the whole time and what if they needed the products but didn't have their card?

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)?

Any public places including buildings used for education, health, sport, recreation. Places of work should be encouraged to supply them along with restaurants and cafes and other places of entertainment. Anywhere that provides a toilet and toilet roll, basically.

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

This can be a hugely embarrassing and problematic issue for a young girl who might not have access to money or able to ask someone to help. It could be enough to distract her from her classes or prevent her from

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)?

attending if she thought she had to worry about getting a product.

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 think places providing toilets should always have free sanitary products available.

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

If products are being supplied free of charge, then this will cost the supplier. If products are being supplied free of charge then presumably there will be pressure on manufacturers to provide them at a lower cost or competition will increase to do this. These businesses will experience a reduction in profit. If more people can

Q8. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on:

access free products then over all, these people will save money.

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

Encourage business, places of recreation, work, health and education to cover the costs the same way they cover the costs of toilet rolls, soap, cleaning the toilets etc

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

Anything that helps put women and girls on a more level playing field with men and boys can only be a positive impact. If women and girls are hindered by their periods and access to sanitary products then this bill would help alleviate this.

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

Don't know

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:

Why shouldn't it?

Page 19: General

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

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

Just do it!