

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Canongate Youth

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 asked our young people using our drop in service and attending our girls group- 100% of them supported the proposals. This is what they said: Why do you think they should be free? Homeless people or even if you don't have enough money to buy some For emergencies Because some people don't have the money to buy them like homeless people They're a necessity Because we do not choose to have periods Because women don't choose to have periods so it's not fair for us to constantly buy expensive products we needs Certain people can't afford/obtain them Because it is a necessary thing wimen need for health Sanitary products are expensive cos we canny help the fact we bleed

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

73% of our young people surveyed supported this in conjunction with: 100% supported free availability in youth work centres 100% in schools/colleges/universities 64% in Doctors surgeries 90% in Pharmacies with one person commenting they should also be freely available in public toilets.

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.

We strongly support universal access at the point of contact.

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)?

See previous comment regarding Doctors surgeries, schools ,youth spaces, 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

Please explain the reasons for your response

We support this but with caveats. Public bodies like schools already face many budgetary set backs, and we would be keen to see this work being financially supported by the scottish government so that it doesn't take away any funds from other areas.

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, frequently

Please explain or give an example of your experience if you feel able to do so.

73% of our young people surveyed know someone who has shoplifted period products because they couldn't afford them or were embarrassed to get them. 73% of our young people also know someone who has had to choose between buying period products and buying other things, one young person commented "my friend only had £3 she had to sacrifice her food to buy pads"

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

Many of the young people we work with live in areas of high deprivation, where every £1 is dedicated to some resource. Free products would enable these young people some level of financial support. We also work with trans young people for whom periods are especially difficult and buying products can be seen as problematic in terms of outing yourself or gender dysphoria.

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

We would hope to see positive period work being undertaken in conjunction with any changes, to tackle

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

taboos and to explore alternatives to tampax and always- we expect brands will be keen to have free marketing, and would hope that products such as mooncups are also explored with young people.

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

Poverty is gendered, and period poverty impacts on women and trans people and girls disproportionately.

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

n/a

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:

The long term benefits for women, girls and trans people will hugely outweigh the upfront costs.

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?

No Response