

Proposed Sanitary Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Bill

Page 2: About you

Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

an individual

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".)

Student (at school, college or university)

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

No Response

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Chloe Whyte

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?

To be left without adequate sanitary products whilst menstruating is mortifying, and a violation of our basic human rights. I fully endorse any attempt made by the government to prevent this from happening to our nation's most vulnerable age group.

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

This way, menstrual hygiene products can be evenly distributed and people would be less likely to hoard them (not that I believe this is a likely possibility).

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

The card should be available only to those on low incomes or in receipt of benefits; card-holders should have unlimited access to free sanitary products

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Whilst I firmly believe that sanitary products should be made available to all people, there are people who are more in need of them than others.

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)?

GP surgeries, pharmacies and leisure/recreation centres would be the best option in my opinion, as GP surgeries and pharmacies are already known to young people as being a place to seek help, and leisure centres tend to attract a lot of young people (it is also a place I would definitely not want to be without menstrual hygiene products whilst on my period).

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

The majority of young people attend mainstream education, and provisions must be made there to ensure they feel comfortable enough to learn. It is also a place where many people are likely to be left without menstrual hygiene products as they are easy to forget about with early morning starts.

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 frequently forget to have these products on me, and so would appreciate it if all schools or public spaces had a supply.

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 can afford sanitary products, but may occasionally need to claim them if I require them but do not have any on me at the time.

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

I am unsure of the impact this would have on businesses, but in an ideal world would not expect prices to rise as a result of the free products.

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

Reduce plastic packaging, perhaps by handing out towels and tampons that are wrapped individually and avoiding the use of plastic bags.

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 feel that people who are not cis-gendered females struggle with menstruation due to the emotional impact it has each month, which may be currently preventing them from reaching out for support if they are struggling to afford/have access to them. The proposed Bill would allow for those who menstruate to access products in more discreet ways in a variety of locations.

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:

The Bill does not appear to involve any strain on finances or the environment.

Page 19: General

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

Not applicable