

# 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".)

Member of the public

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Evie Strange

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?

Partially supportive

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

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I think it is highly important that we end the problem of period poverty and providing access to free sanitary products is certainly a way to help. However, i think this also fuels another problem. 'Period Pollution' many of these sanitary products are disastrous for the environment and made from copious amounts of plastic and harmful chemicals. They are disposable products that can only be used once and are often not disposed of correctly. I think to truly end period poverty we must provide education and access to reusable sanitary products such as menstrual cups, cotton pads ect. This would be a longer term solution to the problem.

## 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**

I think this is probably the simplest way to do things however i am still unclear as to how they would be distributed as many girls start there periods at different ages. Would there just be one card for each house hold to use? Or would this be an individual thing.

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.**

I have chosen the unlimited option because i think to limit the ammount of sanitary provisions a person can have would have to be catered to the individual. Every menstrual cycle is different and it very much varies on a variety of factors as to how much provisions one person would need. However by using reusable products this would be less of a problem and the card system could be taken out of the equation completely.

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)?

I think all the above places would be great. But even public toilets and schools would be good. You never know when you might have an emergency and be in need of a sanitary item.

## 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)?

Unsure

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

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)?

I think the concept of this is a good one but the reality of it is unrealistic. There would be such a high demand that to keep up stocks might be difficult. Going back to my original point though. If we didnt depend on disposable products then we wouldnt have this problem in the first place

## 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.**

To begin with yes this was a problem. I would end up buying sanitary products that were cheaper and of worse quality so i had to use more of them. And every month i would go through large amounts of the products due to the particular nature of my menstruation. However, since doing research about alternative and more environmentally friendly methods of dealing with it. I saved up the money and bought myself a menstreual cup. Best thing i ever did.

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**

At the moment i am pregnant ao do not require to use sanitary products for bleeding. However i do require to use them for personal hygiene as being a woman and pregnant sometimes you cant help but end up with wet pants. And so panty liners seems to be my current solution to this. However i am not happy with how unhelpful this is to the environmwnt. But it is an action i have to take to be able to carry on throughout my day and not be worrying about having wet pants.

## 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				

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

<b>(c) Businesses (including suppliers/retailers of sanitary products)</b>				X		
<b>(d) Individuals (including consumers of sanitary products)</b>					X	

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I have answered to my best abilitoes on what i think would happen if free disposable products were to be offered. However if these were reusable then it would be a completely different story

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

REUSABLE, RENEWABLE SANITARY PRODUCTS!!!

## 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?

Unsure

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I am unsure as to how this would impact the bill as i do not have great knowledge of it personally. Although i dont know how it could be a bad thing. As it is somethibg that our bodies naturally do so why should we have to pay for it.

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

Im not sure how there could bw a negative impact so cannot give an answer. However i am interested to find out more.

## 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?

No

**Please explain the reasons for your response:**

Providing free aanitary products would put strain on funds as someone would still have to pay the suppliers

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?

and products supplied are harming the environment. But this is already happening so really this bill is just switching the roles of people involved. Instead of public paying for the product the government would be.

## Page 19: General

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

I think the proposal is a step in the right direction. However also a few steps further back in the other.

Women will have the access to sanitary products that they are entitled to. However by making products free it likely means more will be used. There for more of a disastrous impact on the environment.