

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Ailie McWhinnie

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?

If you base it on income then many people may be ashamed or not bothered to apply for permit, so should just be freely accessible with no complicated forms to fill in - just take whenever you wish. Furthermore, for as long as contraception is freely available, menstrual products should at the very least have the same availability but ideally more, as unlike sex, menstruation cannot be avoided.

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

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

The card should be available to anyone; its use should be restricted (e.g. by limiting the number of products that may be claimed each month)

Please explain the reasons for your response.

But limit should account for the fact that some individuals have very heavy periods and so require a lot of products.

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)?

Pharmacies, university/colleges (in discrete location), community centre.

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 would avoid a lot of embarrassment for girls who either don't have access to products or simply forgot to bring them. A simple and discrete solution (much better than having to ask someone say, at a reception. This would be one thing with a stranger in a pharmacy but many people would be uncomfortable to ask someone they know and see every day like a school receptionist/nurse.

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.

Several times I have unexpectedly began while out for the day, having no products with me. As a student now, the week I have to fit sanitary products into my budget I have to pass up on other things as they are so expensive.

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 would continue to buy bulk of my supplies as long as I wasn't going through a tough financial time, to keep the products available for those who were more in need, but it would be very useful if caught unawares when out and about or if I was in need of more supplies than usual that month.

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

All relative

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

Introduce legislation or a deal with sanitary companies where businesses/organisations etc can buy products

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at much lower cost, in bulk, when buying for the purpose of free products.

Maybe introduce the maximum profit they can make per item when selling for use as free product.

Also don't spend a lot of money in implementing complicated technology to deliver and monitor the system. Doesn't have to be hi-tech, simply a box in a bathroom would suffice. As for public access, just a box behind reception desk of whatever organisation was supplying them. Don't introduce lots of online admin or anything as this increases costs for staff and technology.

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

Brings more equality for girls in the sense that there is no longer that pressure to cope with menstruating. Could avoid a girl being harassed/bullied for period (eg if unable to afford products so blood appears on clothes) Mean girls aren't having to spend more money simply because they are female.

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

Make freely and discretely available to all

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:

It worked with condoms

Page 19: General

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

This will take a long time to plan and implement. In the mean time, abolish tampon tax