

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 would like this response to be anonymous (the response may be published, but no name)

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

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?

It is unthinkable that the country is missing out on realising the full potential of our young women due to poverty. Every time a young woman misses class because she is unequipped to manage a natural body function our country loses. Young women must be sent a clear message that society cares for them, wants them to succeed and that their physiology will never be a barrier to them. The only way to ensure this is to provide the necessary products free-of-charge in an accessible location. The policy is a well-thought-out and measured response.

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

Simple and easy-to-use system. Allows women to get products at convenient times and locations.

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.

No need to worry about inappropriate use as those who wish to will always buy products that they consider to be better quality.

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)?

As many locations as possible. Schools, colleges and universities. Health settings such as pharmacies, clinics and GP. Pharmacies to include high street chains such as Boots as the locations mean convenience for women while shopping etc.

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

As noted in the first answer, young women should have everything they need to participate in learning as it benefits the individual and wider society. Toilets are a private place where young women can take charge of their own care without attracting attention.

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.

Growing up, my mother sometimes had to use toilet tissue to line her underwear during her period. My family were in receipt of unemployment benefit. When I took my first period at age 11, my mother made sure I had sanitary towels but I was aware this placed a strain on the household budget. In other families, where the father or father-figure controlled the money, young women may feel apprehensive about approaching them for money to buy sanitary products.

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

When finances are tight at home I would make use of this.

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

Broadly cost-neutral as days lost due to women who are unable to afford sanitary products would be lost. Also

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

increase in productivity and realisation of potential from women.

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

It ensures women are able to fully participate in society. Reduces barriers.

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

Page 19: General

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

Well done to those who spearheaded this bill. Good luck!