

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

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

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Why should we give out free condoms to prevent HIV etc, but let girls pay tax for a necessity that is natural and is an embarrassment if you cannot afford it? For females, although not readily available to all women in the world, is an essential product?

## 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?

Unsure

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Did not know there is a card based system for free condoms? I know they are free if you go to certain places.

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

Other (please specify)

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

Don't know what the card system is. 1) It should be available definitely to low incomes or in recipient of benefits; card- holders should have access to free sanitary products. (like to point out, not all people have the same sort of flow. Thus a bit unfair to restrict if someone cannot afford to get what they need. 2) I am uncertain whether it should be free to all. However, abolishing the tax on feminine hygiene would be incredibly useful and actually mean tax is in accordance with Equality. (Equality Act 2006 only relates to work place discrimination - but how about governmental and legislative?) 3) I think that students at university should be included - albeit by mandatory university schemes perhaps- I realise that SAAS is to be raised to £8,100 pa, but in the meantime or even generally this would help alleviate the issue. 4) Unable to comment on need of card scheme.

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)?

Perhaps a little more discreet :

GP fairly plausible, but issues arise if it takes up GP time, and how they would be dispensed.

Pharmacies - yes

Community centres - plausible - depends on use in each council by people affected. I find some community centres are hardly used.

Health clinics- fine

Suggestions:

University

Schools

## 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**

umm most vulnerable and least likely to afford as most don't earn their own income and are reliant on parents or student loans? Also more discreet and could be limited to one per half day? It would be very useful in bathrooms

## 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.**

Once at university - the dispensers have not been changed to accept the size of the new £1 coins School - Don't carry a purse with me to the toilet? Its bad enough trying to sneak a pad in.

Q7. If sanitary products were available for free, which of the following would apply to you?

I would not expect to claim free products

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I can afford it and rather help is given to those whom need it

## 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**

1 - providing and covering cost and administration 2 - depends how scheme is run? 3 - supply and demand basics. If it is free to only some - the others still need it - effectively although not a monopolised market, it is in terms of female necessity - thus no price change (and outcry by people who have to pay. However, would the companies really consider price reductions within Scotland (never mind the impact elsewhere) if not legally obliged to or for Corporate Governance Reasons look for favour and ethical behaviour. Unless you suggest we start wearing red petticoats so nobody can see the stains? 4 - again depends on the inclusivity of this scheme all or only those who cannot afford etc.

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

strike deal with suppliers  
 1) wholesale - so discounts  
 2) ethical - they could provide supplies free - Corporate Governance/ publicity/ ethics to a Scottish specific scheme

## 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**

Equality act mainly has jurisdiction in the work place - not without. (It is illegal to publically discriminate etc but that doesn't seem to extend to tax, ie legislation, ie government ideas on equality.) Women tend not to like the fact we pay tax on feminine hygiene products but men get razors tax free (mind you not exactly such an extreme or embarrassing necessity to go without - more a matter of preference.) It's rather a governmental and legislative sexism contradicting the Equality Act.

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

Same implementations to a degree provided for men in regards to condoms perhaps?  
 Also - then again, it may be easier to also allow access to women to?  
 Joint campaign - equality on basis that both get something for free? - also same terms?  
 Out of ideas.

## 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?

Unsure

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

economic - alleviates those who need. But economically disproportionate. Social - divides on class/ financial - see postcode lottery for schools, lunch meal schemes introduced (so nobody knows who's getting food subsidised or not) Environmental - increase in use of sanitary products - thus proportionate in the disposal aspect.

## Page 19: General

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

consider that not everyone has the same flow.  
Menstruation seems to be highly irregular and more difficult to regulate to a specific amount of products.