

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Mary Kate Ross

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?

I am fully supportive of the bill because as a young woman I feel it's wrong that I should pay for something I have didn't ask for , I didn't ask for a weeks in my life where I'm too ill to leave the house due to cramps and weeks where I constantly go through sanitary towels and feel too ashamed to ask my parents for more. I can't imagine how the poorest women in our society live with trying to feed themselves and their family while also trying to have good hygiene standards. It must be extremely difficult to choose between feeding your family and sanitary products. I firmly believe that sanitary towels are not a luxury product and are a necessity for every woman in Scotland.

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 feel that it would be an effective means of providing sanitary products for free to those who need them because it means no one has to feel ashamed or embarrassed about needing free products. This is because all a woman would need to do is fill out a card with their preference of sanitary product and how light or heavy their blood flow is.

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 feel that the card should be available to everyone because Condoms are available to everyone. People choose to have sex , we didn't choose to menstruate.

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 the pharmacy would be a suitable place to dispense free sanitary products as your pharmacy is local and everyone is in there for various reasons

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

I agree with making schools colleges and universities dispense free sanitary products because I have gone to

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)?

school several times forgetting my sanitary towels , luckily I have been able to text my mum to ask her to bring some up for me. However some young women cannot do this and are maybe too afraid to ask their friends and right now the only place you can get sanitary products is from the office and asking staff for some is probably even more intimidating

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)

No

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

I would expect to claim free products regularly

Please explain the reasons for your response

I would claim the free sanitary products regularly because then I would be able to spend my money on other things I need such as stuff for school. I would rather be able to buy nice things instead of sanitary products.

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	

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

I feel this is a huge step for equality because this bill will help out most vulnerable women who have probably already faced cuts from both the Scottish and U.K. Government. It is also positive because no one should feel ashamed about their period and a bill like this would reduce the stigma women face about menstruation

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

Perhaps include the discussion of trans men who still have their periods and the discussion of people who consider themselves to be non binary.

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:

I feel this bill will make a great impact as maybe less women will find themselves turning to food banks as they will no longer have to struggle to choose between feeding themselves or having basic sanitary products

Page 19: General

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

No Response