

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

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

As a female myself who has been part of a family that have had to become homeless for a short amount of time, I think it is essential that sanitary products be available at either a tax free price or completely free as it

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

affects a woman's health and can cause multiple hygiene problems, this is not a situation that any woman can avoid and therefore shouldn't be priced so highly as they are not luxury items

## 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**

Every woman needs them so it is not an issue of prioritisation, there holds no argument that a woman cannot go without sanitary products

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.**

The card should be available to all woman who require the sanitary products every month, there should not be a limit of how many products are given each month due to variations in cycle length and in flow, what woman might need for her whole cycle could last another woman maybe only 4 out of a 6 day cycle

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)?

A Pharmacy

## 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**

Young girls who are just starting their menstrual cycles are unaware of their often changing cycles, and therefore are sometimes unprepared resulting in them having to leave school missing out on vital education simply because of not having the resources to move on with their day, as many woman do, readily available

## 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, frequently

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

I would expect to claim free products regularly

## 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
<b>(a) Government and the public sector (e.g. local authorities, the NHS)</b>		X				
<b>(b) Colleges and universities</b>			X			
<b>(c) Businesses (including suppliers/retailers of sanitary products)</b>			X			
<b>(d) Individuals (including consumers of sanitary products)</b>						X

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

N/A

## 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?

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Positive

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

If woman are being able to go to work and school and not have to worry about their sanitary health being compromised then they can work effectively and therefore an increased equality as they can keep working when before they would've had to leave and ensure they were clean and ready

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

N/A

## 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:**

You can never be sure

## Page 19: General

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

N/A