

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Heather Pugh

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's the 21st century and we're lucky enough not to live in a third world country. However, due to poverty and austerity young women are missing education and/or work because they can't afford sanitary products or have to receive them through food banks. This is wrong. So wrong I have no words to describe how wrong.

## 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**

As long as each individual gets to choose the product(s) that works best for them personally.

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

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)?

All of the suggestions would be good if they have sufficient time/staff to support the service. My own GP is seriously understaffed.

## 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**

A woman doesn't know exactly when/how long her period will last/how heavy it will be. If these places supplied them freely, young women wouldn't be concerned/obliged to remember to take extra supplies when leaving home every day.

## 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.**

My circumstances were such that as a lone parent on a low wage having gynaecology issues, I'd sometimes run out of supplies before pay day and have to ask a family member or friend to help out until I got paid.

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

Not applicable: I do not need or use sanitary products

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Of an age where I no longer need them.

## 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**

I think universities have more money than they can easily spend. Edinburgh University seem to be building something new every week. All institutions would have "savings" in fewer missed days by women who're currently in period poverty.

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

As previously mentioned, savings will be made wherever a woman cure in period poverty will be able to attend school, college, university or indeed work with dignity and unworried. Women in period poverty may

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

well be putting their health at risk by wearing sanitary products for longer periods of time than they should to try and eke out what supplies they have, this would also stop.

## 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**

Anything that improves the confidence of a person and gives them the ability to go anywhere they should/need to is surely a good thing.

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

That's surely something for the Scottish Government to work out (and I mean the civil service as opposed to Holyrood).

## 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:**

Same response as the last question although environmentally-friendly options could also be offered (moon cups; washable, re-usable pads etc).

## Page 19: General

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

Not that I can think of just now.