

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

I think the reasons for supporting are obvious - no woman or girl should experience the shame of being unable to afford sanitary protection. Periods are not a luxury, they are part of our lives, and to treat them as such is ridiculous.

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

Again, periods are not something we can choose to have. If we can afford to give out free condoms or prescriptions to those who require them, then a packet of towels or tampons ought to be available too. It's common sense and will make such a difference to women and girls' lives.

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

The card should be available to anyone; its use should be restricted (e.g. by limiting the number of products that may be claimed each month)

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I think, initially, it should be for those of a certain income level, benefits, or age. I also believe we should be fighting the luxury taxation status they have attached to them.

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)?

It depends on the target group. It could be schools, but I think pharmacies and GP surgeries and others clinics would work too. I think it should be discreet too, as we do still have a period stigma in society and some feel embarrassed by purchasing.

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 think this should be the case! Maybe not a full supply for each girl/woman, but a 'take it when you need it' supply. A few years back I worked in an office with mostly women and they had a supply available, it was a really nice touch and was comforting to know it was there. I've never seen this anywhere else, which is a

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)?

shame.

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.

At the moment I have PTSD and I am unable that work, I do at times require a bit of financial support from others (although I'm deemed not at need by the state). I've had to borrow from others or use rolled up toilet paper, it isn't ideal or dignified.

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

I would claim when in need. There is no shame in it, plus we do receive free prescriptions, so this is no different.

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			

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

products)						
-----------	--	--	--	--	--	--

Please explain the reasons for your response

Maybe a small increase in cost to the NHS etc, but not much. They can buy in bulk.

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

I assume by working with brands/manufacturers, you can get a 'good deal', plus they can have the benefit of supporting a good initiative.

Lobby Westminster to stop this ridiculous tax on sanitary products!

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?

Neutral (neither positive nor negative)

Please explain the reasons for your response

Some people ie men, will complain and talk about them having to buy razors. It is hardly the same thing though...

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

Not sure

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:

If it benefits half the population, that is a good thing in my eyes.

Page 19: General

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

No Response