

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Jeanette Findlay

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 cannot be right that poverty can be allowed to have a particular impact on women because of their physiology. Until we take steps to end poverty for all then it seems right to take this step to ensure that women and girls are not subjected to the particular humiliation of not being able to attend classes or go out for a few days each month.

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

It is already tried and tested.

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.

Making it universal would remove any stigma and reduce the costs of means-testing and monitoring. However, it should be fairly easy to establish how much of the various products would be needed to meet most needs.

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)?

The same place everyone gets them now - pharmacies.

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

Anything which stops young women and girls attending classes should be addressed. The costs of them not going to school/college/university is much greater than what they would pay out in sanitary products.

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 not expect to claim free 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			

Please explain the reasons for your response

Government etc would pay for these products but in bulk but there would be an offsetting social benefit of increased school attendance among disadvantaged groups. Colleges and Universities can afford it and it should be part of what they do if they are serious about widening access. Businesses will still be selling them - just not directly to consumers - in fact they might sell more since currently some are going without and using rags etc Individuals will get them free but pay them out of tax so in the long run they will be paid for by those who can afford to - really no difference to other items which are distributed freely through the NHS etc.

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

Make sure you get a good deal from suppliers given the size of the order.

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

It clearly addresses an existing inequality on grounds of sex

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

There are none

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:

Women need these things anyway. As a single purchaser it should reduce costs and the state can ensure that the most environmentally friendly version is provided or even encourage suppliers to develop more environmentally friendly versions.

Page 19: General

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

No