

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

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

I would want there to be no opportunity for women and girls to feel any shame in getting free sanitary products, have those who would need this service been asked what would work best?

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.

Limiting access would only stigmatise and reduce uptake by those who need it, also limiting the amount could penalise women and girls with heavy periods.

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 service would need to be available in many places so there is easy access and also on evenings and weekends so the above plus any shops who sell sanitary products.

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

There is a need to remove stigma around periods and needing sanitary products, having them available in schools etc would give girls/young women ease of access.

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

There would clearly be a long term benefit to Scotland's female population and therefore to the nation as a whole if women and girls and not excluded from education etc on a regular basis with the ongoing impact on outcomes that this creates. Creating a more equal society will allow Scotland to flourish both socially and economically.

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

By not thinking of it as some sort of double entry system of accounting but releasing the long term benefits to girls and women in giving them equity in attending work/education/etc and if there is a need to show how this does add up financially I'm sure someone can give these benefits into the financial value that they give our society.

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

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?

Please explain the reasons for your response

The act will help women and girls to get closer to equity with boys and men.

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

I would see the negative impact coming from misinformed individuals/organisations who do not understand that this is an equity issue, therefore it is really important to make sure that the intentions of this bill are communicated in a number of different ways so that more people can understand the bill and why it is a positive step forward for Scottish society.

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

Page 19: General

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

No Response