

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Tanisha Duncan-Hood

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?

Women do not decide to have a period or not, it is very unpredictable and can catch you off guard. You are paying for the pleasure of bleeding from 3-7 days or possibly more. Paying for the mood-swings, pain and inconvenience. Only fixable with a dangerous, non-effective, daily pill. Constantly worried of leaking or bleeding through. All of this plus dealing with the price and tax on sanitary products is draining on income and morale. Those who cannot afford these high prices should not be forced to suffer any more than those who can. They should feel as comfortable as possible and be able to go about their day as normally as possible even when they are menstruating. So I am fully supportive of this bill.

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

Yes, I think this would be a simple, quick, effective way to provide free 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.

I think this should be available to everyone and be unlimited. I would argue that those in poverty would clearly benefit more however many people not technically in poverty still struggle to afford sanitary products as they are priced as a luxury. The best idea is a universal system so those who are in need do not have to go out of their way to ask. It is best to get this legislation right the first time and it could later be adapted or reduced if necessary. Also the amount of products per person should not be limited, as everyone bleeds differently and uses different products at different rates.

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)?

I would say pharmacies are the most accessible location as this is also where they can be purchased. People would already go to their community centres and clinics with a purpose so I would think they should dispense some as those who already use them would benefit. However many people would feel uncomfortable going to either a surgery, community centre or clinic just for sanitary products. To an extent clinics still hold a stigma and people may feel awkward going there often. Also these three places have another purpose first which is medical issues that need specialist attention, whereas a pharmacy already has the job of sorting and providing the right products for the customers.

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)?

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Yes

Please explain the reasons for your response

Periods often catch you off guard so it would make women feel more secure knowing that these were 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)

No

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

I would expect to claim free products occasionally

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	

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

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No Response

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

Menimists might complain but of course they would.

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

No Response

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