

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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 it's important to ensure that women are able to access the sanitary products they need when they need them. Access to menstrual hygiene products should be regarded as a basic human right and it's horrible to think that there are women in Scotland who are having to improvise with newspapers or socks because they can't afford tampons instead.

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

If the system works for providing condoms, then I believe it would work just as well for 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.

Providing the sanitary products that women need should be treated as meeting a basic human right with services provided on a universal basis for everyone regardless of income. I think that card-holders should have unlimited access for the same reason - access to sanitary products should be based on need, not whether or not you've used up your allocated amount for the month. If the cost would be prohibitive though, I think it would be better to first restrict access to those on low incomes, rather than set a limit on how many products a person can claim.

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 feel that health service locations like pharmacies and health centres would be the most suitable.

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)?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

I think it should be obligatory in schools as children may feel too embarrassed or unable to access products elsewhere but I feel it should only be optional for adult education establishments.

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)

Not applicable: I do not need or use sanitary products

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

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

As I think that sanitary products should be freely available on a universal basis that will incur an increased cost for the government and save money for consumers.

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

No, I think providing free sanitary products for all, but especially for those on low incomes, is the best way forward.

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

Period poverty is obviously an issue that only affects women and so effectively sharing the cost of sanitary products across everyone in society will have a positive effect on equality.

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

I don't believe there will be a negative impact on equality.

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response:

I can't say I know enough about the environmental impact of tampons to say one way or another.

Page 19: General

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

No Response