

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Anne Wimberley

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 and girls need access to sanitary products, either pads, tampons or moon cups, and if they are low waged or unwaged they have the right to have such necessary products made affordable for them.

## 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**

As with previous answer, if moon cups are included in the products to be considered, they would be not need to be made available every month. This proposal seems to be assuming that only pads or tampons need to be considered as sanitary products.

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

The card should be available only to those on low incomes or in receipt of benefits; card-holders should have unlimited access to free sanitary products

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)?

Again, the provisions are overlooking a very cost-effective, environmentally-friendly product, though I think surgeries and health centres are reasonable locations for dispensing products and information.

## 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**

all these bodies should be good sources of information on Re-usable 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?

Not applicable: I do not need or use sanitary products

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I am well past the menopause.

## 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**

Re-usable products are available from £1.77 or £1.89, for a product that last several months. This would make sanitary provision much more affordable for those on low incomes. Or indeed, for any woman- why should we think that if a woman is on a reasonable salary, she should pay more for disposable sanitary products every month?

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

Please see my previous comments. I would like to add that the environmental advantages of greater use of re-usable sanitary products would also be very significant.

## 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**

Supporting women in this unavoidable aspect of their lives is a positive action in itself.

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

Greater discussion around the topic, with less reluctance to discuss or engage in this aspect of women's lives.

## 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:**

Promote re-usable products.

## Page 19: General

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

*No Response*