

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

As a mother of two daughters I remember when they were teenagers how period problems while at school could affect their experience of being able to participate in some daily activities. If they also felt unwell at any time because of period pain or headaches participating in lessons was made much more challenging for them. My girls had no difficulty with accessing sanitary products. I can only imagine, however, how dreadful it must be for girls whose families could not afford to buy sanitary products and whose schools did not have them readily available in case they were needed by individual students. It must be especially difficult for girls in mixed sex schools when young girls just into puberty often feel sensitive and embarrassed in front of the opposite sex regarding periods. Those girls who experience period poverty could well feel isolated, scared if they start their periods at a young age and not know where to turn for help or advice.

## 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**

The card based system might label or stigmatise girls using the cards and separate them from their peers who are easily able to access sanitary products from home.

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.**

If sanitary products were available by card to all those girls experiencing period poverty would not be singled out as the girls in period poverty.

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)?

Schools and colleges firstly then local 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**

Girls are often at these locations when their periods come on.

## 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

## 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**

Public sector added cost for buying in extra sanitary products, also colleges and Universities, businesses marginal added cost, individuals, some reduction in cost.

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

Answering that question is not straight forward it would depend on how differing organisations managed their budgets.

## 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**

If sanitary products were free for all groups it would seem that as far as equality goes that could be a beneficial step.

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

It does not appear as though negative impacts if any would be as result of this bill being passed.

## 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:**

As far as I understand it the outcomes from this bill whether having adverse impact on economic, social or environmental matters would depend entirely on management. If the free sanitary provision were to be rolled out across Scotland provided the necessary impact studies had been conducted in the first place prior to the bill passing there should not be a problem.

## Page 19: General

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

No thank you not at this stage.