

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

arthur mcdermott

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 saw an article some months ago on Ch4 news about the problems women were having regarding period poverty on the occasions they had to use food banks--like many viewers it was not something I had thought about--men in particular think generally of food banks meaning food to feed the kids etc.--after that I decided to supply sanitary products to supermarket trolleys collecting for food banks as a way of bringing the issue to the attention of other shoppers who donate products to such trolleys--the first time I did it I approached a woman member of the staff and asked for advice on the variety and most useful products to supply--she was quite surprised and was most helpful and said she would mention the whole idea to her superiors--wheather that has made any impression in that particular store I have no idea but i always contact women members of staff in my regular store to encourage them to raise the issue with their superiors

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

I am sure many women think mainly of feeding their children and at the same time try and cope with problems of sanitary products--the fact that condoms are freely available reinforces the case for free provision of 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; its use should be restricted (e.g. by limiting the number of products that may be claimed each month)

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I find it hard to make a choice in this section--to choose the first category--"The card should be available to anyone; card-holders should have unlimited access to free sanitary products"--raises the issue of abuse of the system--many women may be under pressure from spouses/boyfriends etc to access more than they need so they can be sold cheaply to those who do not qualify for a free supply--it could also be abused by homeless people being pressurised in the same way--a similar problem could arise with choice 3--"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"--choice 4--"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"--similar abuses as choices 1 and 3 could apply--there would have to be clear conditions applied for the system to work fairly

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)?

Any of the listed locations above would be acceptable--plus schools, colleges and universities which do not already do it--employers with adequate resources--eg. hospitals, companies with large numbers of female employees etc

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

It ties in with the answers to the supply system answers

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						
(c) Businesses (including suppliers/retailers of sanitary products)						
(d) Individuals (including consumers of sanitary products)						

Please explain the reasons for your response

I would expect the cost to be met by the NHS budget possibly with a minor increase in NI contributions--to ALL employees

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

A minor cost in NI contributions

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

Sanitary products are an essential part of a woman's health and well being--if a similar condition or health need applied to men this whole issue would probably not exist--men would have sorted it out years ago

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

Get men to realise they have it easy with no period pains--they get through each month without major hassle--and it is time they helped more to make life easier for women with their monthly natural body functions

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?

Probably lots more i could think of but i have covered most of what i have to say--cheers--arthur mcdermott
[Email address removed]