

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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 always resented the cost of sanitary products, so can't imagine how I would feel if I was unable to afford them at all. Or if I was a young person whose parent was reluctant or unable to provide them. I remember the embarrassment of excusing myself from the classroom, going along to another classroom, knocking, whispering my request to the Lady Supervisor and being led to her cupboard and handed a sanitary towel, knowing that all the boys in the class were sniggering. Thankfully some schools have better arrangements now, but nothing can take away the embarrassment of standing up, not knowing that you've bled right through your skirt. It's a messy, often painful process and women should not have to pay for a bodily function which they alone experience for all their child-bearing years and beyond.

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

There might be all sorts of reasons why people would not want to use such a system.

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.

There will always be unscrupulous and/or desperate people who take advantage of a system with no checks, some people accessing the Foodbank here have been known to exchange their food for drugs. All you need is enough, not unlimited access to supplies.

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)?

Local pharmacies /health clinics/community centres, anywhere that was central and easy to access and had enough storage space. All schools should have them available.

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

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)?

No-one should have to go and ask a designated person to produce a sanitary towel from a cupboard.

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 too old to need them now.

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

If Govt/public sector/colleges/schools are providing sanitary products free there will obviously be a cost to them. Individuals will have reduced costs. I couldn't define the effect on businesses in terms of cost. If a retail business it may dramatically reduce their profits as purchasers will be buying in bulk from a wholesale

Q8. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on:

business.

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

I don't know.

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

anything which helps level the playing field is bound to be positive. no more unaffordable expense preventing people from engaging in all aspects of life.

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

Don't see how it could have a negative effect 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?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your response:

It's a matter of raising resources and then allocating them fairly. I happen to think that we don't pay enough tax in this country, which is part of the reason some people are living in poverty, old people don't receive the care they deserve and our hospitals are overstretched.

Page 19: General

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

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Just to wish it Good Luck and Godspeed!