

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

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Fully Supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response

I have read a good bit of the consultation document, and I consider that it is a good thorough study of what is needed to help girls and women to access sanitary products as and when they need 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?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your response

I think that some evidence from third world countries has show that when women carry their own documents (for example, their pregnancy record card in Tanzania), that they do succeed in keeping safe this record, better than having their records stored at the place they are accessing care, and the women are good at bringing their own-held record card when they need to access care. So I think that a card-based system for accessing sanitary products could work well with our women and girls.

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.

We are such a litter-strewn country, that I dread the possibility that sanitary products, if unlimitedly available, could occasionally end up strewn all over the place, bringing the whole system into disrepute.

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)?

Chemists shops, GP surgeries, schools, colleges, libraries, community centres, tourist offices, health clinics, hospitals, churches

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)?

We all know that it is nigh impossible for women and perhaps more especially girls, to be sure when their next period is due, and some sanitary products are not actually easy to carry discreetly. So if women and girls are "caught out", the last thing they need is to have difficulty accessing the sanitary products they need.

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)

Yes, occasionally

Please explain or give an example of your experience if you feel able to do so.

When I lived in Tanzania, I realised that women there used rags for sanitary protection, and washed them for re-use, which may or may not have been hygienic, but it seemed to work OK. So my friend showed me how to use rags, and I used them successfully not only when I was in Tanzania, but also for several years after returning to UK, when I was short of money, and I managed fine!

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

Am 74

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)			X			

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

(d) Individuals (including consumers of sanitary products)				X		
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Please explain the reasons for your response

We have to take the long view, that keeping girls and women safe and secure from embarrassment during their periods is financially beneficial in the long run, as they will be able to study better at school and at college, and they will be happier and more secure at work.

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

I suppose you could put some sort of notional figure on the savings achieved by keeping our female students and workers happier at school, college and work.

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

The happiness and safety of our women and girls are essential for our communities, so this kind of support for women is overdue.

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

It would be good if menstruation was more freely discussed by boys and girls in all primary schools (including those of strict religious faiths), so that there is a healthier attitude all round about these perfectly natural issues.

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 know that the disposal of used sanitary products is a bit of an issue, environmentally speaking, and am not sure what the received wisdom is on this issue. So again, we have to discuss the environmental impact more

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freely, with children at primary school age, so that they are comfortable dealing with the possible impacts.

Page 19: General

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

Well done, Monica Lennon, for working so hard on this issue. It would be lovely if a man had taken the initiative to do so, but as none of them have, I am so glad that you have. I nearly did not take the time to complete this questionnaire (am so busy saving the planet etc). But now I am glad that I did do so, and I look forward to hearing how the bill progresses through the Scottish Parliament.