

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Andrew Whaley-Coates

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

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill?

Please explain the reasons for your response

It is uncivilised for anyone to expect another to 'make do' in these circumstances. The provision of sanitary products should be considered as a human right. The non-provision of these products could cause greater health/psychological issues, which would result in a deterioration of social integrity?

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?

No

Please explain the reasons for your response

This would mean, a person would have to make themselves open to 'means testing'? This can be degrading and highlights a persons most personal needs. There should be no need for this. As is said, in areas of the NHS, a service 'at the point of need', this could be better served by uncontrolled provision, via vending and/or using a passcode (into the machine)?

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

There is no need for a card scheme

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Highlighting the times of someone's need, does not provide a service that can be 'freely' used. Personal dignity has to be accounted for. Giving a limited time code, word or number, which could be entered into a vending point, could be an option?

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)?

Toilet areas, in education establishments. Chemists, Community areas, Youth Clubs?

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

Makes more sense to me. Youth Clubs etc.

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

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

Wife and daughters have had issues.

Q7. If sanitary products were available for free, which of the following would apply to you?

I would expect to claim free products occasionally

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	

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

A system providing this service could be 'subsidised' by an ability to purchase sanitary products, when finances allowed. Free 'code' for access, could be provided at time of enrolment (education etc). A system of TRUST would encourage belief in social support and respect.

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 this is open to all, who require it, surely this would not create division? Limitations and restrictions could deter use and void any positive benefits.

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

Create no barriers to the use, and do not open to specific requirements. Open use, should be the priority.

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:

Over bureaucratising the provision will make this service a strained provision. It should be initiated within a small area, and piloted. Costs and stocking requirements should be monitored. The ability for a specific Local Council Team, to run this, should be investigated to keep costs 'in house' and for costs to be regulated to requirements.

Page 19: General

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

No