

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".)

Student (at school, college or university)

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

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

Fully Supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response

Period poverty is a social injustice which demands wide scale intervention with long term impact

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

A universally accessible system would encourage engagement from those in need in the system as it would reduce the tragic but potential stigma surrounding claiming

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.

Universal accessibility encourages engagement and recognises a need which spreads across social class. Moreover females experience menstruation in different ways and therefore have varying quantitative requirements.

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)?

Pharmacies would be the ideal location since they are generally accessible and are less formal, bureaucratic environments

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

Sanitary products are as much a necessity to women in their periods as Riley paper which is available in these locations free. Moreover students can be particularly vulnerable if they are unable to manage their period since they face the risk of missing vital education

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, frequently

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

I like most women at some point have found myself dealing with an unexpected period, a stressful and disruptive experience

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

I would expect to claim free products occasionally

Please explain the reasons for your response

Although I am fortunate enough to be able to meet the costs of sanitary products and would not want to regularly make claims when there are others more in need, I would be extremely grateful to make use of the service if I were to ever find myself in need, dealing with a change in circumstance or an unexpected period

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

The savings would be made by those that need it most, the individuals. The additional costs would be met by the government and since women all over the world have been forced to pay this price personally this doesn't seem like such an absurd request. The demand for products would still be there even if clientele changes

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

slightly

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

No Response

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 successful this bill would recognise and partially relieve the additional costs that women have had no choice but to pay because of their anatomy. Moreover, this would make efforts to reduce the social exclusion of the poorest in society due to financial pressures.

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

Allow anyone who experiences menstruation eligibility to the cards

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:

The cost of sanitary products is relatively small in terms of the governments overall budget. Not all of the population experiencing periods would be making claims either so costs will not be extortionate

Page 19: General

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

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

No Response