

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

The menstrual cycle is not something which you can shut off therefore these items are an essential part of everyday life. The cost of these items are often quite high in supermarkets and buying each month adds up to a costly amount over the year especially in households of more than one female needing these items. Even as someone who has always worked full time and only needs to pay for my own I have found months where I don't have much money left over and my cycle has come early leaving me have to use my last few pounds on this item rather than travel to work or food. I require two boxes and therefore costs more than just a few pounds. I can only imagine how difficult it is for people who don't work or have several people to provide for in a household.

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

It allows you to collect them without any embarrassment but in a quick and convenient way

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.

People on high income may also have high expenditure costs (mortgage, children, travel to work etc) and struggle to cover these costs. Therefore it should be available to all however it should be limited so that people do not over use the service.

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 most convient for people, often community centres and health centres are hard to locate if you do not visit them often enough.

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)?

If people are caught short they should not have to go home early out of embarrassment

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.

Growing up I had particularly heavy flow which caused me to go through pads very quickly. Often I'd be too embarrassed to ask for money or didn't have enough and had to use toilet paper instead. I am not someone who deems to live in 'poverty' but instead come from a middle class upbringing, which shows it affects all backgrounds.

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

I would only need them when short on cash I would be happy to buy my own on other occasions as long as supermarkets cut the prices and it was free from tax.

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...)				✓		

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

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

Have zero tax on sanitary products and campaign supermarkets to lower the costs so that profit is minimal. Therefore only people in essential need will use the card, others will still buy from the supermarket.

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

Many people avoid doing things whilst on their period as they don't have proper protection from clothing being stained. This will allow them to continue as normal with no effect on their daily activities.

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

Educate people on why it is a positive instead of the usual people who focus on the negatives of government spending money

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 only free sanitary products, giving out free condoms hasn't crippled the NHS and both genders use those so why would this?

Page 19: General

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

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No Response