

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Apart from the shock that women and girls are too poor to access sanitary protection, you know what? If men had periods we wouldn't be having a debate. There would be free sanitary protection, and flexible working and leave to suit.

## 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**

I'm unsure in that I'm not clear on how bureaucratic such a system might become.

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.**

I would want to maximise access and availability for those who need free sanitary protection. Girls shouldn't have access dependent on their parents' economic status.

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)?

Whatever supports maximum access. Pharmacies, in particular would be good. All pharmacies, including those in supermarkets.

## 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**

Anything that supports improved educational outcomes and reduces stress on our young people is a good thing in my book.

## 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.**

Yes. I'm in my fifties now and earning decent money, but I can easily recall being stuck at school and at Uni with no access. Utterly humiliating. And I had a really hard up time a few years ago after the breakdown of a relationship - thinking twice about whether I could afford to change a tampon was the pits. It did nothing for my confidence, sense of well-being or my performance at work.

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

I would not expect to claim free products

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I can afford as many tampons as I like these days. I wouldn't expect the state to provide for me in this instance.

## 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**

My fear would be that this would increase demand for products - demonstrating the need.

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

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Effective public procurement should reduce costs in comparison to current costs.

## 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**

Positive impact allowing women to live their lives with less of the stress of period poverty.

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

I wouldn't countenance negativity. I wouldn't be terribly interested in what misogynists thought.

## 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?

No

**Please explain the reasons for your response:**

I hope that it does have a disproportionate social impact, in the positive.

## Page 19: General

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

I'm really proud of our country that we are looking at this. Periods have been a 'dirty little secret' for far too long.