

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

No woman or girl should be marginalised/excluded from life because she cannot afford sanitary products. No girl should have to feel guilt for menstruating and putting strain on their family's already stretched resources. If a girl is at school and is unprepared for her period, the school should have the capacity to help her, and help her without her having to ask, for example, by having free sanitary product dispensers in girls toilets.

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

Not if it is a public system which the woman or girl cannot use discreetly.

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.

A card based system runs the risk of stigmatising already marginalised people.

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)?

All of the above, and in rural communities it could be done by mail. Also free sanitary product dispensers should be in school toilets.

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

It reduces the stigma of having to ask for help. I would like to point out that my kids new build school has all gender specific toilets so that would not be an option. This school is in an area with a high level of deprivation so would be an obvious place to have this easy method of distribution for young women experiencing period

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)?

poverty.

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.

I used to live in a very rural area, if there were no sanitary products in the house it would be a 5 mile walk to the nearest supplier.

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

They should be available for those who cannot afford them, I can provide them for myself & my daughters.

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				

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

I would pay a couple of pence more if it meant that those in financial difficulty had the products they needed provided.

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

The people affected by period poverty are females, this is a protected characteristic, if it helps women then it helps equality. Women with disabilities, this is a protected characteristic, are more likely to live in poverty, if it helps disabled women then it helps equality. Mothers who have just given birth are faced with the double whammy of a new baby and reduced income, mothers are female, this is a protected characteristic, if it helps women then it helps equality. I would like to point out that it is ludicrous to raise marriage, for example, in a question about equality and period poverty. Period poverty is experienced by women, and a small number of trans men who have female biology, THIS IS ABOUT BEING FEMALE, A PROTECTED CHARACTERISTIC.

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

No Response

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:

Either do it and accept the cost or don't. The environmental impact could be reduced by offering women free/reduced cost reusable products, for example a menstrual cup. This would require more toilet facilities complete with wash hand basin.

Page 19: General

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

Stop introducing gender neutral toilets in schools if you want young women to have access to free sanitary products. They are not going to use a dispenser if a boy could walk in at any moment, although to be honest most girls will avoid using the toilet at school if they are all gender neutral.