

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Sarah Flavell

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?

Partially supportive

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

Free sanitary products will only work if the cheapest are NOT used. Anyone who suffers heavy periods will tell you cheap stuff is a false economy. Unless the free products are high quality or even brand names you will end up having to use a lot more of them. It would be more useful to pursue the VAT cut and a subsidy or voucher to help people buy sanitary products.

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

Sanitary products are expensive for everyone and means testing is more expensive. Free in school should mean free in school .

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.

If they are free to all women (like condoms are if you go to the right place) a card isn't needed. People who can afford it will still buy products in the shops.

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 those places AND Foodbanks (as they already do); Advice Centres etc

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

I do agree but reiterate that 'cheap crap' is pointless and if the onus is on the school to pay for these products they will not be buying the most expensive ones.

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)

No

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

I am lucky enough to be able to afford it but there were times that I spent more than £20 a week on tampons and extra thick pads. I can't imagine who can afford that on a low income.

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

Luckily post menopausal but I wouldn't have claimed free products because I don't need to.

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

I think the government should pay centrally. If it is to be schools and councils that pay then the money to cover it should not come from their own, already stretched, to breaking point, budgets!!!

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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The facetious answer would be - cap the price the companies can charge (you want to do it to energy companies why not sanitary product providers?) There definitely shouldn't be any tax on sanitary products for a start.

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?

Slightly positive

Please explain the reasons for your response

If it is aimed at those on low incomes, benefits etc it could cause stigma

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

By not singling out those who are worse off than others

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response:

If done properly it will be expensive. I don't think it can be achieved without the government raising more money from general taxation.

Page 19: General

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

No Response