

# 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".)

Politician (MSP/MP/peer/MEP/Councillor)

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Councillor Frank McNally, Convener of Education, Youth, Communities and Equalities at North Lanarkshire Council

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 in Scotland should be restricted from accessing sanitary products as a consequence of poverty. The proposal would put Scotland at the forefront of tackling period poverty, recognising the rights of women and girls to access products no matter their financial position.

## 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**

Creating a system similar to C-Card would allow women and girls to access free sanitary products from various partner services in a variety of locations. Some women and girls may be uncomfortable accessing products in certain environments, so establishing a card system would offer appropriate flexibility. A similar model to C-Card would allow for a range of products to be provided, products best suited to individual requirements. Measures would have to be explored to ensure an avoidance of any stigma associated with such a card.

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

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)?

A wide range of partners/agencies in a number of locations within communities would allow for appropriate flexibility for women and girls to access products in environments they are most comfortable in:

- Leisure facilities
- Community Centres
- All council facilities, including schools, First Stop Shops, Libraries, social work offices
- pharmacies and health centres
- any third sector/community partner facilities, for example, the YMCA/YWCA

## 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

## **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)

Not applicable: I do not need or use sanitary products

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

Not applicable: I do not need or use sanitary products

## **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**

Although there would be an initial increase on the public sector purse, by tackling the issue of period poverty head on, there would likely be a longer term saving, particularly for the NHS and social work, in relation to the health of women and girls.

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

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

Ministers putting measures in place to avoid, where possible, any stigma associated with a universal card.

## **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

## **Page 19: General**

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

*No Response*