

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Yvonne Banks

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

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

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I believe that everyone should have access to sanitary products since they are essential and not optional. Being unable to access products can have an adverse effect on daily life.

## 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 am not familiar with this system.

Q3. Which of the following best expresses your view in relation to a card-based system?

The card should be available only to those on low incomes or in receipt of benefits; card-holders should have unlimited access to free sanitary products

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

Those who have low income or are receiving benefits are usually the main people who are unable to afford or access sanitary products. I don't think there should be restrictions on how many products can be claimed since everyone is different and need different amounts.

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)?

I believe products could be dispensed at any community centres/locations eg, libraries or council buildings. Also at any medical places, such as GP surgeries, clinics or hospitals. I also believe products should be dispensed at schools and educational institutions since it would be easier for a lot of young people. They would be there most days anyway, and could ask for help from a trusted adult if needed.

## 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)?

Unsure

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I believe that obligations placed on certain locations would ensure availability. However, financial obligations should not be placed on institutions that cannot afford it. There could be some sort of financing scheme

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)?

accessible for places, eg high schools, through council or public funding.

## 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

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**

At this time, I am able to afford sanitary products and do not see my circumstances changing in the near future.

## 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			

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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*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**

I believe that making sanitary products available for anyone who needs them would mean that nobody is disadvantaged purely because they are unable to access sanitary products. It would ensure that regardless of income or circumstances then everyone would have essential items that they need and therefore would not be restricted. For example, not being able to go to school/college to further your education because you do not have essential products that allow you to do so hygienically.

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

I don't see any negative impact to equality.

## 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:**

I believe that any financial costs could always be reached by readjusting budgets and spending. Any environmental costs will not be more serious than other issues already affecting us. Increased waste needs to be addressed in general eg, unrecycled plastics, and sanitary waste will not be increased that significantly that it will become a specific issue.

## Page 19: General

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

*No Response*