

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Jenifer Strang

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

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

It's simple. We are supposed to be a developed Nation yet we have this Period Poverty going on? It's ridiculous. I know exactly how expensive these products can be. No girl or woman should have to go without or be ashamed into asking for help. There is a campaign going round fb right now to end Period Poverty in Ethiopia, yet we have Period Poverty on our own doorstep! Absolutely unacceptable in this day and age. There should also be a campaign to lower the cost of these 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?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your response

As long as girls (especially) but women too, could collect them in a discreet manner to avoid humiliation or they just won't do it.

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.

People who can afford to buy them should continue to do so. It is unrealistic to expect the country to pay for every females' sanitary products. And it's also unreasonable to restrict the number, as females menstruate very differently to one another. One female may need one pack a month; another a pack and a half or more. Different sizes and absorbency strengths need to be made available too. I used to have one day out of my 4 when I needed the stronger absorbent pads, but the other 3 I only needed the lighter ones. The females need the choice of more than one type and should be able to mix & match each month.

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)?

Any of the above as long as it is discreet and not a doctor's receptionist making you "speak up" whilst asking for them. I don't believe them being handed over a counter in view of other people is appropriate either. Perhaps in a pharmacy where they tend to have private consultation rooms?

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

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)?

Please explain the reasons for your response

Because even the best of us can get caught short sometimes and if you don't have money on you, then you're really in a pickle!

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.

But getting caught short was always a worry (I now have a coil fitted and no longer menstruate). However, I did find the Products to be very expensive. I just dread to imagine not being able to afford sanitary products. It just doesn't bear thinking about. The thought of anyone not being able to get them when required is awful. Women can't help menstruating; it should definitely be available to those who can't afford them.

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 also don't require them due to my coil, but I would if I chose to have it removed, but I wouldn't expect them for free. I can afford to buy them; the country can ill afford to be buying every single females sanitary products. There are plenty of people who can afford them. Just concentrate on helping those who can't afford them.

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			X			

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

suppliers/retailers of sanitary products)						
(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)?

I work. My husband works. We're not wealthy. We live in a 3-bed semi but I would be willing to pay a little more eg for NI or Council Tax. Across the board, the increase would be negligible to help pay for this invaluable service.

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

Right now, some females are at a huge disadvantage if they can't afford sanitary products. Their quality of life will be awful. Men don't menstruate, so it's not a worry for them. Take this worry away from all women and things will be more equal.

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

What negative impact on equality will there be? Men objecting to contributing to this through a little extra from their NI or however the funds are proposed to be raised? They need reminded that without menstruating women they won't ever be able to have children, nor would there be a human race.

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:

But none of that matters. It's the job of politics to sort that out and make sure none of it's an issue. All that matters is females who need products get them!

Page 19: General

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

Fantastic proposal and should be sorted out ASAP!