

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Fully Supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response

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

I can't really understand why anyone wouldn't be supportive. It is a question of human dignity. Women and girls who can't afford it should be given access to free sanitary provision.

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 don't know enough about it but seems like it should work. I think question about whether people would feel awkward presenting it and efforts to reduce any stigma or 'difference' it might create would be important to consider. Also how does one get a card? Is it an application form? Who helps with that?

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.

I don't think that the policy should be used to start subsidising everyone as the cost of that would be higher. I currently pay for sanitary products and don't mind doing so. I recognise the need to potentially restrict what can be applied for but at the same time how would you ensure people could use when they needed?

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? GPs not that accessible but more private so might deal with stigma or embarrassment which some might feel. Key I think it to have options so different people can access in different ways.

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'm not sure why this should fall only to educational facilities. I think public toilets in public institutions like museums and libraries should also have free products.

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.

Like everyone I've been caught out at times with period coming on unexpectedly when I don't have anything with me. At these times I would have appreciated having access to products in public bathrooms but I'm lucky to have no financial barriers so when this has happened I can nip to the chemist.

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 don't think I should be able to claim for free as I can afford to pay for them. I know it isn't my choice to have periods and therefore perhaps I should advocate free products for all but I think given costs and fact I can afford I should pay.

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 expect that the costs for the scheme will be covered by the public funding so costs for government could go up. Colleges and institutions might be expected to provide their own products for free and as such will likely have additional costs. However I anticipate that businesses will not be left out of pocket as the costs will be covered by the government and businesses compensated in some way. However I'd like it to be that

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

businesses paid for some of it rather than cost being carried by gov/NHS.

Q9. Are there ways in which the Bill could achieve its aim more cost-effectively (e.g. by reducing costs or increasing savings)?

I don't really know enough to comment here. Other than to say I doubt I pay more than about £30 on sanitary products a year. I'd be more than happy to give money to enable people to access free products. I guess you could look at social enterprise or charity responsible for handling distribution or something so they can also raise funds elsewhere. If someone established a brand of sanitary product where the profit went to period poverty then I'd buy that.

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

Big positives for sex in terms of equality because this is something that only affects females. Also age because it affects certain age groups more than others. Also would consider it to have social impact but realise that isn't included in equality impact assessment for some reason!

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

I can't really see what negative impacts there are.

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:

This is quite a hard consultation! I don't see any negative environmental consequences of the bill and I think the societal impact much outweighs the economic. None of it is going to have major implications in terms of sustainability though.

Page 19: General

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

No. I'm running out of steam.