

# 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".)

Student (at school, college or university)

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Barbara Brown

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?

As a young girl growing up on welfare I had personal experience of what it is like to be unable to afford to buy sanitary products. At school this was degrading and humiliating. Sanitary products are very expensive and I would not want any girl to go through that.

## 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 should be free to all women and girls, everywhere in the UK, regardless of their background. They are not a luxury, they are a human right.

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.**

Please see my previous response.

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)?

GP surgeries, pharmacies, schools, universities, workplaces (in female toilets, showers and changing rooms), health clinics, community centres, hospitals.

## 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**

Please see my earlier response.

## 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, frequently

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

As I said previously, as a young girl growing up on welfare, I was frequently unable to afford sanitary products. It was degrading and humiliating.

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

I would expect to claim free products regularly

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

As I said previously, sanitary products are a right, not a privilege. Women should not expect to have to pay for something which facilitates their reproduction and therefore the continuation of the human race!

## 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**

Public funding should be made available to provide these products to all women, everywhere. Businesses should pay the cost of supplying them to their own premises, the NHS and Government should fund the rest.

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

Perhaps by making a cut to politicians and civil servants expense accounts!

## 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**

No woman or girl should ever have to find menstruation degrading or humiliating. This Bill will empower women and girls to take pride in their bodies and feel positive about their reproduction.

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

I can think of no negative impact

## 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:**

There could be an impact on the environment but this could be mitigated against by providing sustainable, recyclable products.

## Page 19: General

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

Reiterate what I said earlier. Women and girls should not be penalised for their reproduction. Women's reproduction should be celebrated not degraded, after all, the future of the human race depends upon it!