

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 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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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 agree with the points in the bill and only have a couple of points of concern.

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 think it could be effective but am not sure if it is necessary and potentially off putting. Is there a reason for having a card system in place rather than just receiving the sanitary items have been requested?

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.

I am not convinced of the need for a card scheme. If it was going to be done this way I think that anyone should have access to it regardless of income and that access should be unlimited. If a limit was to be imposed it should be modelled on the need of a person with a heavy menstrual flow, setting a limit based on average sanitary items used would unfairly penalise those who experience heavy menstrual flow.

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 and youth centres. I think it is important that the products are available in a place where they can be accessed without embarrassment (e.g. pretend you're going there for another reason) as period stigma will still exist when this scheme rolls out. There should be a variety of locations to increase the chances of people who cannot afford travel to access the products.

Job Centres should provide sanitary items if possible due to the poverty faced by those claiming benefits.

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

As mentioned in the consultation document many at school, college and university do not have access to their own finances or have limited finances. Nobody should be missing out on education because they cannot afford adequate sanitary protection. My only concern is adequate access for trans/nb people where gender neutral

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)?

Toilets are not provided.

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.

During school if you started your period unexpectedly you had to go to an office to request a sanitary pad (could only access one at a time).

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 purchased a moon cup and so no longer need to purchase 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 | | |

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

For businesses there may be a cost neutral effect if this bill aids in reduced lost work days. In my opinion an increased cost is worth improving people who menstruate's access to education and public life.

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

Providing non-branded items. Reusable items may potentially decrease costs as these items would only need to be claimed once, however this would require addressing the stigma of reusable sanitary products.

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

The bill would allow cis women and girls , trans men and boys and non binary people access to education and public spaces while menstruating. Young people would benefit as they are very rarely financially independent.

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

Gender inclusive language should be used across the board. (E.g avoid just referring to women)

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 the bill should provide the choice of reusable sanitary products to address the environmental impact of sanitary items without shaming those who are currently uncomfortable with these items. Any economic costs in my eyes are worth it if the bill successfully removes the barriers people who menstruate face when trying to access education and public life.

Page 19: General

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

No Response