

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Partially opposed

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

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

Don't necessarily disagree with it, however there are two main reasons I'm opposed: 1. Sanitary products are required for everyone. We all have unhygienic bodily functions. If a person is in poverty, then the welfare state should subsidise enough to cover their hygiene needs, or the government should force a law on the living wage to ensure this is not the case. If the person is not in poverty, then they should not have easy access to hygiene products free of charge. Unless toilet roll, tissues, and other similar products will also be provided free, and the whole notion of sanitation will become state-run. 2. There are many other priorities which I feel must be addressed prior to this, and feel this is a waste of resources at this time. For instance, the absolutely crippled NHS.

## 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**

It isn't means tested. Unlikely, but individuals who are greedy or frugal could easily exploit this system. Therefore this is wasted and does not benefit those who need it most.

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; its use should be restricted (e.g. by limiting the number of products that may be claimed each month)

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

Only available to those who need it. Restricted use which can be increased if medical need requires it (eg. Heavier menstruation), however it means that people can't hoard free products to sell for profit, or for friends and family who aren't in poverty.

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)?

No view, as long as it's overseen by someone with healthcare experience.

## 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 I said before, we all have sanitary requirements. Toilet paper is free in schools, therefore menstrual

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)?

products also should be.

## 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?

Not applicable: I do not need or use 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
<b>(a) Government and the public sector (e.g. local authorities, the NHS)</b>		X				
<b>(b) Colleges and universities</b>		X				
<b>(c) Businesses (including suppliers/retailers of sanitary products)</b>						X
<b>(d) Individuals (including consumers of sanitary products)</b>					X	

### Please explain the reasons for your response

Wording of this question is hard to understand. I feel this would be an unfocused use of government resources (if current welfare doesn't cover hygiene, then it should be increased in the benefit system, not one specific area), and therefore increases their cost. It also increases cost to institutions who need to supply these things to individuals. Individuals at school or uni rarely go without as they tend to have a social network which provides for them, so there is no adverse cost for the institution. Lower cost to consumers, including those who don't strictly require extra welfare but may use the system.

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

Yes. Increase welfare for those in poverty instead of one targeted campaign.

Feels more like a token bill than anything else, and it's going to cost extra to achieve it. Meanwhile, others in poverty are losing out.

## 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?

Slightly negative

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Doesn't address overall poverty or classism.

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

As before. Don't provide free products. Increase welfare instead.

## 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?

No

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

Sanitary products are very damaging to the environment. Instead, you could only provide reusable sanitary towels instead of common disposable ones.

## Page 19: General

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

Just consider the points I've made. Particularly the reusable one.