

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

thomas ritchie

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?

in this day and age no woman should be left with a choice between using sanitary products and other necessities. we live in an era were austerity leaves many women with impossible choices and this would help to alleviate this problem. given the potential for illness/infection which could occur as a result from the incorrect use or lack of such products then surely it makes sense from the point of view of public health to minimise the possibilities of such problems thereby alleviating the need for medical intervention thereby reducing the burden at least to some extent on the health services.

## 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**

simplicity and verifiability ensuring that no woman is left without necessary access to what is an absolute need.

Q3. Which of the following best expresses your view in relation to a card-based system?

The card should be available to anyone; card-holders should have unlimited access to free sanitary products

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

limitations on the amount of products available risks getting back to the problem of lack of products given that as individuals each woman will have needs which may be greater or lesser depending on the characteristics of each womans reproductive cycle.

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)?

I think that each of the above are viable options but uptake would be enhanced by availability and variety of options so why should a card system not take into account all of the options and provide for any given circumstance.

## 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**

young women who are beginning to mature to the point of needing such products are by definition unsure of when and were there menstrual cycle may occur and this would help to normalise the process of relatively quick and necessary intervention. there are many variables as each woman may due to there individual

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characteristics find themselves in need of such products at relatively short notice and may not due to commitments be in a position to access the other possible options assuming a card system (my preferred option ) is put in place at that particular time and this would give short term access and allow them to address their immediate needs until such times as they can address the problem through what I hope would become the normal means.

## 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)

Not applicable: I do not need or use sanitary products

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

1) as I have already alluded to above the costs of treating the potential health difficulties which may result from compromised reproductive health due to unavailability or incorrect use of these products would be offset against the costs of medical intervention.2) the costs may increase for the colleges and universities but this would benefit students so I believe it is worthwhile. 3) I believe that business costs would be offset as the

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

government would not expect them to provide products for free i.e. no doubt there would be provision in place to compensate. 4) a reduction in cost for a necessity is a good thing as far as I am concerned.

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

tax the affluent properly and any increases in cost would be defrayed by a higher tax take.

## 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?

Neutral (neither positive nor negative)

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

we are discussing an absolute need which is not dependant on any of the above characteristics. it is an economic problem which is solved by free and equal access for all women who require it.

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

what negative impact? this question is an utter canard (who designed this questionnaire ? and how much were they paid in consultancy fees?) if access is universal then by definition there is no equality issue.

## 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:**

normalise and universalise the safe disposal of waste and the environmental impact is minimised

## Page 19: General

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

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tax the affluent properly and stop ignoring the elephant in the room.