

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Cindy Clark

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

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

This is basic human dignity and health care. It should not need to be argued, it should be adopted

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'm not sure if this would reach all those who need it. I'm don't really have enough knowledge of how this would be accepted to comment

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.

If the provision is universal and open to all with no limitations it is less likely to be heavy on administration, cost and also not open to "abuse"

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)?

Drop-in centres, health centres and community centres would probably be best. I would be reluctant to see big pharmacies trying to profit from it and think it should be located in health, social and voluntary sectors with sufficient funding to match need.

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)?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

The whole idea should be not to stigmatise any individual for using the service. Thought would need to be given but I think free dispensers would probably ensure everyone in need could access this.

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.

A sudden menstruation following a miscarriage; I was at the local sports centre with my children who were both primary age. I suddenly started to menstruate but it was a very heavy bleed. I didn't have anything with me and didn't have any change with me to get anything from the machines. I was far too embarrassed to ask at the desk as it was a male attendant and I just had to rush the children out. They didn't understand what was happening and it was a horrible incident. I had to drive home without any protection and my clothes and car seat were all stained. This was over 20 years ago and I still feel ill at the memory. I would hate for anyone else to experience this sort of embarrassment on a regular basis because they can't afford protection!

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

I no longer menstruate. However I have 2 daughters and I would like to think that they could get this if they needed- one already lives away from home and the other is due to go to university next year.

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 think this should be funded from central government, I would expect that the businesses would continue to make money. Individuals would find a reduction in cost, however I would be happy to see an increase in my taxation to fund this sort of positive social help. Those of us with a decent income have a social responsibility

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

to care for others less fortunate!

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

No Response

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 positive

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

No Response

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 a health and social issue and should reduce the impact felt elsewhere

Page 19: General

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

If men menstruated sanitary protection would have been made free long ago!