

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Martin O'Donnell

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

## 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 unaware of this system for free condoms. In my local chemist and many public buildings I am aware that they hand out free condoms. If that is the c-card system, then possibly. However, I am not female so am unaware of the possible psychological processes which unfortunately cause some women shame/embarrassment when purchasing these products now.

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 don't understand why a card system is even being considered. I believe it should be a universal system which serves for every female to adequately deal with their biological processes, rich or poor.

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)?

Anywhere that currently dispenses condoms. Certainly accessible places, and for rural places possibly post offices as well.

## 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**

And other public buildings. I agree that no person's education should be affected by monetary concerns as I believe it severely limits our society.

## 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)

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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	

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

I think the aim should be universal free sanitary products. Whether that is paid for by increased tax or a change in spending in other areas I am not sure, I am not an expert in government spending. I would like to know my government is working towards universal free sanitary products though, as we need to consider the kind of society we want when it comes to what we spend on. This is certainly something I think is very unfair on the female population.

## 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?

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Positive

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Men do not have a basic biological necessity to pay for, so it would align that inequality. I am sure that there are situations where it does effect the other protected characteristics, again though, I am no expert in this.

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

A universal approach and having no card system separating citizens would be an obvious approach to take to avoid creating more inequalities.

## 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:**

I am not aware of the environmental impact of sanitary products, however, just because a Bill is in place does not mean that we should stop striving to make every bit of our society more sustainable. So when more environmental sanitary products become available, they then replace the free provisions we start with.

## Page 19: General

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

*No Response*