

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Rhiannon Gage

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?

Period poverty should not be an issue in a 21st Century Scotland. I believe it would be a fantastic opportunity for the Scottish government to end period poverty and encourage the rest of the UK to follow suit.

## 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**

Giving a universal card would ensure that those truly struggling would receive the help they need during their menstrual cycle. This may also help those who experience heavy menstruation and struggle to cover the costs necessary during their cycle.

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

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 this should be dispensed by local GP's in surgeries.

## 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**

Students are financially unstable throughout their studies for a majority of reasons, so making sanitary products available for free would be a great help in reducing costs.

## 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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Yes, occasionally

**Please explain or give an example of your experience if you feel able to do so.**

Whilst at university I have struggled to cover the costs of sanitary products due to their expense and my lack of income. This led to me going without food in order to buy the sanitary products I needed to last for the duration of my cycle.

Q7. If sanitary products were available for free, which of the following would apply to you?

I would expect to claim free products regularly

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I believe every female should receive free sanitary products as regardless of income they are expensive and depending on an individuals cycle and how long it lasts can annually become a great expense.

## 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**

Although this may be an expensive bill, I believe it will be a worthwhile expense to help females with a monthly expense they did not ask for.

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

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*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?

Positive

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

As males are not effected by periods it does not affect them in any way so it does not affect their rights under the equality act. As males receive free condoms and often other medical prescriptions for free (eg viagra) I believe it would be unfair for males to oppose this bill.

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

Focusing on the positives of the bill and reminding the public that this is something that affects every female (often from a young age). Highlight that introducing such a bill would mean a more cost effective future for the young females of the country.

## 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 sure certain public sectors (such as the NHS) may be at an economic disadvantage but it will be worthwhile in the long run

## Page 19: General

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

Congratulations to the Scottish Government on making the bill and being the first government globally to consider the struggles that females suffer on a monthly basis!