

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Fully Supportive

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

There are many reasons I believe women should have access to free sanitary products. Products like this are a necessity. No woman chooses to go through menstruation, it is a biological part of puberty that women have no choice but to deal with. To spend money on products that act as an obstacle between us and any seat, item of clothing or otherwise that we may 'stain' by flowing freely is quite frankly ludicrous. Many women do not have the luxury to be able to afford pads, tampons or other products. These are often expensive, as is the replacement underwear or otherwise that many women may also have to purchase. To bleed through clothing or to stain your bed sheets is also something women come up against, it can be embarrassing and cause undue stress. The fact that some women (or anyone else) have to rely on food banks for anything, never mind sanitary products, is abhorrent.

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 think there shouldn't be a card system for free sanitary products. I think someone should be able to go into their doctors or pharmacy or clinic and pick these items up for free without the need to carry some form of card, or even have a monthly delivery service (like the NHS provide for patients who require incontinence pads). Why does anyone need to provide their Date of Birth, or any information in order to have a card to claim something they should rightfully receive for free? If you're calling something 'free' there shouldn't be any catch. Cards can also be stigmatising.

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

There is no need for a card scheme

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)?

Yes.

GP surgeries
Pharmacies
Clinics
Youth clubs or organisations
Schools, education authorities
Community centres,
Non-medical/health facilities
Public bathrooms
Work offices bathrooms
Coffee shop/supermarket bathrooms etc

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

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, frequently

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

I would expect to claim free products regularly

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

There would be an increase in cost for funding bodies like Local Authorities and Government, but maybe it would even out if instead they used money being spent on pointless ventures for real issues like these. i.e: Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, and in Scotland Edinburgh Trams extension , etc <<<< Stuff like this can wait.

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

See prev.

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

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

Take away a need for a card.

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

Page 19: General

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

No Response