

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Jacqueline Munro

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?

I am fully supportive because no girl or woman should ever be disadvantaged by their need for available sanitary products. It is a basic human need and free access ensures dignity and safety

## 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**

yes I think this would be a good model as then the use and provision of products could be monitored and tailored to the actual needs of individuals

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 condoms area free why are sanitary products not? Sex is a choice periods are not!

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)?

As many places as possible including those accessed by all ages groups including those mentioned above in the question but also libraries, schools, pubs, theatres, cinemas, shops, cafe's, restaurants, 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

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

It can be difficult to assess the needs of younger users and they may not have the knowledge or confidence to ask for these products so them being made freely available is essential and I believe their provision falls under the pastoral care of educational establishments

## 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.**  
when money is tight and you have to choose between food and other essentials

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

I would expect to claim free products occasionally

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I would expect that I would only need free products when I was not within distance of home or had nothing with me at the time I needed it

## 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)?

The cost of these products is tiny in comparison with the amount spent on contraception so there really is no argument here in my opinion - provide them and take the cost and then assess the savings in the longer term. Why is cost even an issue here?

## 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**

When you are providing a basic need for women that allows for a safe, reliable and measurable approach to sanitary provision ensuring dignity then the impact can only be positive in my opinion

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

What negative impact? Where are the negatives here? If we provide free condoms why can we not provide free sanitary products? I am struggling to see where the negatives are!

## 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:**

Yes if we actually behave like grown ups while doing it !

## Page 19: General

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

The fact this even needs a bill is shocking and the whole subject is long overdue and airing in public and parliament