

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Mrs F Knotts

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

I am drawing upon my experience as a teenager starting my first period in high school, where for me to get any sanitary towels from the school nurse I was told I had to pay for the products. I had no money, I was a teenager, at school, with a packed lunch! I was unable to purchase basic sanitary towels. Luckily for me a friend had money to buy them for me. My parents both worked, we were a normal lower middle class household. But I was not yet getting pocket money in 1992!

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?

No

Please explain the reasons for your response

I believe that every young lady and woman should be entitled to free sanitary products. From all walks of life. It is a basic need, it should be treated as such and free to everyone in Scotland, rich or poor! It would be wiser to have a pharmacy or chemist, that you must register with, to be able to access this service if you are not able to access this through your work or as a student, unemployed, disabled (economically stagnant) or homeless individual.

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.

Please see previous response.

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)?

Pharmacies and health clinics would be best, these products do take a lot of space for storage and I assume that these would NOT be handed out as just 5 at a time for those with very heavy periods!

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

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)?

But not independents that can be abused by young ladies!

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.

I can sometimes be caught off guard while I am out and about and I don't always carry my purse with me, such as when I am out visiting my father or brother, whom of course have no need for these products. Even asking for some money to purchase some is embarrassing with men!

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

As a woman not yet close to menopause, of course I would be needing these frequently.

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	

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

I would assume that the cost would be cheap since businesses can already purchase them in bulk, very cheaply, and can still sell them on for a £1 per packet; unless you're Morrisons, Asda, Tesco, Sainsbury's, M&S or Waitrose where everything must make a healthy profit!

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

It can reduce costs by doing what the shops do by buying in bulk, only storage space will be a barrier to cheaper costs.

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?

Neutral (neither positive nor negative)

Please explain the reasons for your response

Sanitary products are nothing to do with equality, men have no need for them and every female in the world has periods during their younger years of life. The only way these became problematic for equality was when Westminster decided that these female only products must be taxed, when previously they were not.

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

The only way is for these to be universally available, including preferred brands. All products must be available for free, otherwise you do start to have the individuals who order the products discriminating against some manufacturers as they charge more for the same product.

Mind you, this may force manufacturers to stop overcharging for their products for woman by making the profit sit behind the common good.

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:

At the end of the day it is all down to what manufacturers charge for their products. Get a reasonable deal with them for every sector purchasing them and they will all benefit from a universal cost.

Page 19: General

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

Make this bill strong enough to ensure that everyone company down the pecking line gets the best deal from big businesses! That is the only way to ensure that this bill achieves its goal for free sanitary products for all.