

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

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Fully Supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I believe this is very overdue. As a female student I have first hand experience of stress as school but especially during your period. If sanitary products were offered to my school I know that even if not me, that plenty of pupils would be very appreciative of this. I also understand that although many do struggle with being able to afford these products, that menstruation is very unpredictable and knowing that you are always prepared, and not having to go through the uncomfortable experience of asking a member of staff, or fellow pupil to use theirs will extremely benefit many pupils, and even staff. I very much hope this bill is passed so that we as a country can also be a role model for many countries that will undoubtedly follow in the footsteps of Scotland in finally giving woman what they deserve for basic human rights.

## 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 understand why this system may be seen as helpful. However, I think that there are many downfalls to this. I understand that this system is to make people aware of periods and be comfortable to talk about them but I also think it helps to avoid embarrassing situations, so therefore having to ask for or apply for a card to receive them I believe could defeat the purpose. Also, children as young as 8 or 9 can get their period and there is a very slim chance of children this age being able to visit their local pharmacy to receive sanitary products.

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

Other (please specify)

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

I think a card system could be successful for those who each month would need sanitary products, however it may be the case that it is just a very rare occasion that someone needs free sanitary products. Life can be very unpredictable and if for some reason one month it isn't within your income or budget to purchase these, expensive, sanitary products then you shouldn't feel that you have to get a card for this one off, or not receive them at all due to not having a card. However, if a card scheme was in place, I believe that you should have an unlimited access to free sanitary products as I don't think it is fair to tell someone how much they require to look after their own health, and also each person and their period is different therefore each person may require a different amount of products. And also, a mother may need to collect for her daughter etc. and therefore supplying them the correct amount for 1 person wouldn't be suffice.

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)?

GP surgeries, pharmacies, schools, I also think that locations of hobbies or clubs should be considered eg. Dance schools, Girls Brigades/Guides, youth clubs etc. Local leisure centers, busy supermarkets.

## 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**

I think that although the world has modernized a lot, it can still be uncomfortable for some people to talk about and therefore some Head Teachers etc may find it difficult to bring into their school. If obligated, it may help normalize periods, and also means that every pupil, no matter what school and how good a school it is, has the same access to their basic human rights.

## 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.**

Yes, it is very common that unexpected circumstances has meant that you are in a stressful panic of not having the correct products within your grasp. For example, during school forgetting sanitary products and having to use friends or even worse, 'improvise' leading me to feel uncomfortable and on edge all day, wanting to go home.

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 don't believe that I would need them monthly, however I know that there will be the occasion when I may need it, and knowing it is there will be very helpful.

## 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		X				

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

<b>authorities, the NHS)</b>						
<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)?

Unsure

## 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**

I strongly believe in equality. However, I think that if this were men who menstruated then this would have been offered years ago. If condoms can be free, which I understand is beneficial to both woman and men however is primarily men, then i cannot understand why sanitary products aren't. This will be a massive step towards equality as it will finally allow woman to receiver basic human rights, that i personally believe men would have achieved much sooner.

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

I don't believe that there is much negativity. If negativity is present, then I believe that the people who do understand should see themselves thee struggle that thousands of women feel each ,month. A period is natural but many will agree it is not enjoyable. Not much can be done to prevent the pain that comes with a period yet this can be helped. If this can relieve thousands of women of the stress that comes with periods by a small cost then I cannot understand why anyone would disagree with that.

## 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?

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Unsure

## Page 19: General

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

*No Response*