

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".)

Professional with experience in a relevant subject

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Please explain the reasons for your response

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

I have worked with many homeless women/girls over the years and found that if they knew about sanitary products they were unable to afford to buy them. Free product points provide an opportunity to provide both the product and health education. I feel that this service should be provided for all women who can't afford to buy sanitary products.

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 as the cards could be issued to all women who live in poverty.

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

The card should be available only to those on low incomes or in receipt of benefits; its use should be restricted (e.g. by limiting the number of products that may be claimed each month)

Please explain the reasons for your response.

There are limited resources and these should be used for those in most need.

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 they should be available at as many locations as possible. This way the product can reach women who may live in rural areas.

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

Younger women may be embarrassed to ask for sanitary products especially when they first menstruate. Perhaps education leaflets could also be provided at these locations

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

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

I was a single parent on a low income and had to choose between food/ nappies etc to make the sanitary product last, it had to be worn for far longer than it should've been. It made me feel dirty and ashamed.

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

Not applicable: I do not need or use sanitary products

Please explain the reasons for your response

I am past the menopause

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 the government but this should be offset by the opportunity to provide health education and health related benefits. There could be an increase for universities for the installation of vending machines and time if they provided health education. Business would benefit by economies of scale as more accessible affordable products would lead to an increase in demand. For those who qualify for free products there would be no cost and potential health benefits. For those that don't the cost they already pay should cover the free products- I would imagine the producers already make massive profits.

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

There should be a cap on the cost of sanitary products- they're already too expensive. Those who pay finance those who don't and increased demand and production with the added benefit of health education points could change the way of delivery and location of services locating them in more accessible places

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?

Slightly positive

Please explain the reasons for your response

Gender should not increase poverty through the need to buy sanitary products

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

By instituting a Basic Universal Income whereby all citizens are given an allowance to cover basic needs and work for any additional income they want.

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:

The disposal of the sanitary products may be problematic if the infrastructure is not in place for recycling

Page 19: General

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

No