

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

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Fully Supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response

I am fully supportive on behalf of women who live below the poverty line. They should not have to use the little money they have for sanitary items.

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

It would seem logical to follow a system that is working ie c-card system for free condoms.

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.

I would be concerned that if restrictions were not put on the number of products to be claimed each month the system could be abused and perhaps become its downfall.

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)?

Given that GP surgeries, pharmacies and health clinics are working to capacity already and are there community centres in every community? I suggest products be given to Food Banks and allow them to distribute. If this were to happen a card system may not be necessary. If that is not possible then pharmacies would be my first option.

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'm not sure if sanitary products should be free in toilets, I would prefer a minimum charge. i am concerned that a free system would be abused. If schools/colleges/universities have a health nurse on site, perhaps that is

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where free products should be obtained when needed.

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)

No

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

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

I'm not at all sure of the cost to the Government or the NHS. I am taking into account that not all women would be eligible if only those who are living in poverty would benefit. Also, schools/colleges/universities would consider a small charge if machines installed in toilets and distribute through a health nurse only to those who are in desperate need. Would suppliers/retailers be affected? Probably not. Should Business supply freely to their female employees, yes they should!

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

I'm not qualified to answer.

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 don't see the Bill relating to equality. I see it as necessary for women who struggle financially to be given free sanitary products to help them out even if just a little.

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

By explaining in simple terms what equality actually means.

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:

How can we foretell the future? If the need is now and urgent it should be dealt with. Manufacturers should be producing environmental friendly products and should be labeling very clearly how to dispose of sanitary products.

Page 19: General

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

No.