

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

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

Partially supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response

I don't know enough about the problems some women may experience to declare that I am 'fully supportive'. I think that boys as well as girls should understand why tampons are required and taking the idea of their provision as a natural and proper thing. If local authority schools are required to supply them, the cost should be reimbursed to local authorities by the Scottish Government. Secondary school pupils should get education about sex, child-rearing and family life, and menstruation wouldv of course be a topic in this.

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

Have never used such a system, and know nothing about it.

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.

Don't really know, but I think a card system might be useful for secondary school pupils to encourage them to take responsibility for their own lives instead of relying on parents.

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)?

No strong views, except that school pupils should be able to use the system at school.

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 would help to reduce coyness and embarrassment about this issue.

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)

Not applicable: I do not need or use sanitary products

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

If they are provided free at the time of use, then there is presumably some transfer of costs from individuals to authorities, who could probably negotiate a keen price with suppliers. I don't know what the cost is, but it is presumably not exorbitant except perhaps for those on low incomes.

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

Bulk purchasing by consortia of NHS/Local authorities/Schools as colleges might reduce the cost to the public purse.

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

It benefits women and girls rather than men and boys, but I don't see that it would have much impact on interpersonal relationships. Would employers cavil at the cost and be more likely to discriminate against female employees? I don't know, but they should be able to offset costs against business taxes.

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

See answer to previous question: otherwise, I don't know.

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:

It is not likely to have a great impact on the total usage of tampons, so shouldn't have a significant environmental impact, either positive or negative

Page 19: General

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

No.