

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Fully Supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response

Access to sanitary products is essential to keep people healthy during menstruation. Price and availability varies significantly. This creates inequality. Providing access to sanitary products is an afterthought in many public bathrooms, workplaces and schools. It is only through legislation that menstrual care will be safeguarded as a human right.

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

A card based system works well for access to free condoms. This has the potential to work well for sanitary products too. Any system should be simple and not ask intrusive questions. Some people may find it difficult to register for a card or maintain access to one; homeless people for example. Not having a card shouldn't be a barrier to accessing sanitary protection, so any system needs to be flexible enough to accommodate different circumstances.

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

The card should be available to anyone; card-holders should have unlimited access to free sanitary products

Please explain the reasons for your response.

A card system will allow for easy administration but there should be flexibility to accommodate people who would prefer not to carry a card.

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, supermarkets, youth clubs, community hubs, hospitals, council offices.

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)?

Yes, this shouldn't be discretionary. This Bill if passed will put a statutory duty on schools, colleges and universities. This will help reduce stigma and ensure that learning is not disrupted due to poor access to sanitary products.

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

Please explain or give an example of your experience if you feel able to do so.
I am male and have never menstruated.

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

Currently people are paying over-inflated prices for dispensed products, so individuals will save financially. In many schools and colleges, it costs at least 50 pence to purchase emergency items. A universal scheme

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

funded by the Scottish Government should include reusable products. Menstrual cups can last for years and will be both cost-effective and deliver environmental benefits. Some of reusable products can be too expensive for people on low-incomes to purchase. A universal scheme will extend choice to everyone and help people manage their personal budgets.

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

By improving access to reusable products, the universal scheme could help reduce costs to individuals. There are also potential savings to the NHS in Scotland, through reducing infections, toxic shock syndrome, prescription costs.

Savings to the economy from reduced illness.

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

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

Making sure inclusive of all women and non-binary people.

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

Page 19: General

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

This is an excellent proposal to address a genuine societal need and inequality.

I hope all MSPs support this and do Scotland proud.

