

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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 think it is extremely important to tackle period poverty, and to remove stigma around periods. Girls and women of all ages should have access to sanitary products - it is not a luxury, it is a necessity. I am beyond appalled that there are women in Scotland that don't have access to something as basic as this, while contraception is free for everyone.

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

I think it would be effective, as long as we can ensure that there is no stigma attached to using such a card.

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.

That could help to remove the stigma around using the card - it won't be income dependent. It also will ensure that women who are waiting for decisions on benefits (which could be an extremely lengthy process) are not without sanitary products.

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 all of the above would work well - same as for contraceptives. Perhaps also schools?

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

Again - helping to reduce stigma around periods. Providing easy access to young people in need.

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.

Not applicable anymore, but it is something that I occasionally struggled with as a teenager coming from a relatively disadvantaged background, I felt like I had to make these products last to reduce the strain on my parents' monthly budget.

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 would maybe claim them in emergency situation - for example, if I needed access immediately, or if my financial situation would change significantly, but on the whole I would be unlikely to do so. There are many other women who need access to these products as a matter of priority

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

It will probably mean an increase in costs for the public sector, but also significant improvement in the lives of girls and women in Scotland. It would prevent girls and young women from missing school days

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

Access to reusable sanitary products like moon cup? Reducing cost and environmental impact.

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

Extremely positive! Working towards preventing girls and women from participating in any activity because they do not have access to sanitary products

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

I don't think it would have any negative impact as long as the products are distributed in a way that does not make individuals feel more marginalized, e.g. ensuring equal access, same as baby box, or contraceptives

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 could reduce environmental impact by promoting reusable sanitary products. It would create a more equal society.

Page 19: General

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

Fantastic piece of work! We can't ignore how period poverty further marginalizes women, and creates an unequal playing field. It is an issue that should have been tackled a long time ago, and it is great seeing Scotland leading the way. Periods should not be treated as something that some women are able to afford and others are not - we do not have any choice on the matter! Well done to Monica Lennon.