

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

In this day and age, it's disturbing to hear that we are failing to support women that require this most basic hygienic requirement. As a modern society, we should be fully supportive of all initiatives that provide people with a level of dignity and hygiene the rest of us enjoy... and demand.

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

Almost all 'give-a-ways' are open to abuse. A card based ID system would be a step towards ensuring that only those who need test products are the ones who receive them.

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 think card holders needs should be recorded and adjusted as required.

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)?

All outlets.

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

As long as there is control, then they should be available in most places.

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

I'm quite sure there is already a massive mark up on quality sanitary products. This should be investigated with a view to maintaining manufacturers profitably. This should NOT be viewed as a profit venture for vendors of the products.

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

Inform potential users of the service through existing means... ie combine awareness campaigns with communications from government bodies (benefits / income support). Make use of doctors surgeries and social media.

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

Any move to bring dignity to those in need is a positive move for any society.

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

Open books. Cost of whole project must be disclosed at ALL levels. No profiteering at any level beyond the manufacturers level. Possible partnerships with international suppliers to reduce costs if local suppliers cannot/will not work within reasonable profit limits.

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:

Everything has an impact. The whole project/bill will need to be openly and publicly available for all to see. Environmentally I do have concerns over the disposability of sanitary products. Are there natural materials available to make them?

Page 19: General

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

No Response