

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

No young person should be prevented from full participation in education because of poverty.

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

Whatever system is used should not deter those who need it. A system which could be discriminatory would not be acceptable. I would need to know more about the card-based system before I can comment on it.

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

The card should be available to anyone; 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.

This seems closest to to my belief that people on low income should not be identified because of their need for free sanitary products. If there has to be a limit or to prevent an abuse of any system then a reasonable maximum supply seems the best solution.

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 pharmacies would be the best location. Taking your goods to the counter and using a card to obtain them is a fairly normal procedure for most of us.

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)?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

In most circumstances, the individual will have already obtained the necessary products from another source. Is there a need to encourage people to carry an emergency supply, perhaps by providing a small container of

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)?

some sort ?

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.

When my family was young and money was in short supply I did resort to using rags on occasion.

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

Too old now !! But I remember past experiences which should not be happening now.

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

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

The providers of the free products (if provided universally) will have an increase in costs, dependent on the uptake. A decision about where the budget should lie should take account of any other pressures on existing costs for other services. I'm unsure whether colleges and universities should be expected to provide free products on a large scale. Businesses which sell to the public, eg supermarkets could see a significant drop in sales. Consumers should see a significant drop in costs if they take advantage of the free products.

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

I don't know enough about proposed funding to be able to answer this question.

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

It should reduce the financial pressure to some extent on a significant percentage of the population who have no choice re menstruation.

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

I do not see at this time any negative impact.

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:

There are too many variables to be able to answer this question at this stage. The level of uptake is unknown. The quality and cost of the products is unknown but these can be managed contractually. The delivery costs eg pharmacy charges would need to be negotiated.

Page 19: General

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

The management of this proposed provision must ensure that the costs are controlled, that access for those who need it is clear and open and that the delivery itself is not discriminatory in any way.