

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 am content for this response to be attributed to me or my organisation

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Christina Banach

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?

Fully Supportive

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

I fully support this proposal, as I would any initiative that aims to help people out of poverty. Menstruation is not a lifestyle choice, therefore women/girls/trans who live in poverty should not be penalised for their gender. Sanitary products are essential to ALL who menstruate; scarcity of money should not exclude access to them.

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

I think this is a good idea.

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.

Making the card available to all (with unlimited access to sanitary products - each individual's experience of menstruation differs) is the best way forward. Also, in terms of equality between the sexes, women's biology means there is an imbalance (men don't have to buy tampons etc!).

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)?

Everywhere apart from GP surgeries.

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

I think sanitary products should be freely available in schools etc. From experience, it can be hugely embarrassing when one's period begins early (some menstrual cycles can be erratic, on occasion) and there are no sanitary products available. I do feel, strongly, that the provision of tampons etc should not come out of the education budget.

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.
See question 5!

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
I am a post-menopausal female.

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 would not wish for the cost to be taken from the education budget. I'd like to see the taxation system adjusted to enable a fairer society, ie increased tax for higher wage earners.

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

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Perhaps the government could bulk buy products from suppliers in order to reduce costs?

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

I'm not sufficiently qualified to answer this question.

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

Surely this bill will serve to enhance equality?

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:

Tackling tax avoidance and evasion, in addition to adjustments to the overall taxation system, would free up the money necessary for such proposals. In terms of the social impact, I believe this bill will help address the social imbalance.

Page 19: General

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

I'd like to commend you on this bill and wish you success.

"For the many, not the few."