

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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 fully support Ms Lennon's bill and after reading the impact that period poverty has on women and young girls lives I think that as a civilised nation sanitary products should be free for women as it is a necessity not a luxury.

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

The scheme would ensure that anyone who requires sanitary products would be able to obtain them for free at participating services within the community. GP surgeries, youth centres, pharmacies etc

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.

I believe that women and girls will only take products as required. After all not everyone who can access the c-card system for condoms does so.

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)?

GP surgeries, pharmacies, health clinics, community centres,
Schools, colleges and university's.

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

Young people should not miss out on education because they do not have access to sanitary products. Knowing these are available in school toilets will clearly take away that worry. Our young people should have to suffer the indignity of worrying about not having money for these essential items or have to go to a central

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)?

location within the school to receive sanitary products. Young people should be treated with respect and dignity not made to feel that there is a stigma attached to accessing free 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

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

Consumers of sanitary products would save money each month by not having to pay for their supplies.

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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I think that is a matter for the government. However I believe that many users of sanitary products will have less sick days from work because they have access to sanitary products and this can only be good for the economy.

The NHS will may also benefit from cost savings that the provision of sanitary products will help reduce hospital admissions and prescription associated with infections due to poor hygiene because of lack of sanitary products.

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

Many people are too embarrassed to speak about this subject of period poverty and the provision of free products will take away the stigma associated with menstruation. Everyone who needs sanitary products should be able to access them. It is a fundamental right and a health issue to have the products required to maintain good hygiene during menstruation. I believe that free sanitary products is the way forward for Scotland and full support it.

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

Locations for accessing products should not cause embarrassment to those who require them.

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:

I believe that increased attendance at school and in the workplace will benefit people and the economy due to less sick days.

Page 19: General

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

I fully support this campaign.

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It shows Scotland to be inclusive of people and puts pressure on countries all over the world to treat women with more respect and equality.

This campaign will go a long way in taking away the stigma attached to menstruation and it will raise awareness throughout the world of the suffering of women who are not able to access products due to poverty, and whose lives are difficult because their health is being put at risk due to these issues.