

# 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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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 one who menstruates should ever be denied access to sanitary products, as a matter of hygiene, health and dignity.

## 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'm not sure this is the most effective model, as it may deter some from opting in.

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

There is no need for a card scheme

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

I think sanitary products should, as a matter of principle, be available in public spaces, so that women who require them outside of their homes have access, and so that those who cannot afford them can access them in a dignified way. Those who can afford to will, I'm sure, continue to purchase their preferred products. I also think environmentally sustainable options such as the moon-cup should be considered in this - rather than continued provision of sanitary towels and tampons which damage the environment.

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 believe all of the above should be used, as well as schools, colleges, universities, other public services such as youth groups and council-run activities. Many people who menstruate are often caught out by unpredictable cycles, and so having products available for free in public toilets would be welcomed.

## 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**

Menstruating should never prohibit someone from attending their place of education. People who menstruate

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)?

can often be caught out, especially during stressful phases, or in the early years of menstruation, where cycles are irregular.

## 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)

No

Q7. If sanitary products were available for free, which of the following would apply to you?

I would not expect to claim free products

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I do not see myself in the position of needing to access free products, as I am able to purchase my own, and am also investigating more environmentally friendly solutions such as moon-cup as a long-term option.

## 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

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

I think the Bill should be funded through government and not at Local Authority level, so that it does not affect LA budgets which are already stretched.

## 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**

Through careful wording I think this Bill could have a positive impact on trans\* and non-binary-gender-identifying individuals, by avoiding attributing menstrual issues to women and girls, moving towards "people who menstruate" as a more inclusive term to include those who menstruate but do not identify as female.

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

Again, through being careful to not equate menstruating to being female, the Bill could avoid excluding trans\* and non-binary peoples' needs. By also requiring places of worship, as public spaces, to provide products, this Bill could move towards destigmatising menstruation in religious communities.

## 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:**

The use of sanitary towels and tampons are not good for the environment. I would therefore like to see efforts made to provide more environmentally friendly products to all women, not only those who can afford it.

## Page 19: General

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

Overall, I welcome this proposal. No-one who menstruates should be denied access to menstrual products. Any step to address this has some positive impact.