

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Janet C

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

Poverty is such a huge issue and I feel that women and girls should not be put in a position where they cannot have access to sanitary products because they have financial difficulties. I have personally supported my local Foodbank with such donations. It is a long time since I was at school, but I can remember that experience when you cannot access sanitary products and had to go home, embarrassed and feeling unhygienic. So having sanitary products in schools will help young women at a time when their menstrual cycle is unpredictable and will help to remove such concerns.

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 so, I live in NHS Forth Valley and was unaware of the c card system, but it would appear to be a simple way to encourage uptake without a complicated system of individual letters to every female within the relevant age groups. However, it would not easily be accessible to young girls who cannot travel independently to clinics, so schools must be able to provide products too.

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.

The limitation should have provision for additional products, if a woman has the need on occasion due to her particular menstrual cycle.

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)?

The above all sound suitable to me. They need to be flexible re opening times and include weekend provision availability, what about adding libraries and what would happen in more rural areas where towns/villages perhaps do not have NHS buildings ?

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

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Please explain the reasons for your response

Simply, that access is required for every woman and girl to free products should they be required.

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'm able to afford to buy them myself and would not uptake any offer, even though I understand universal access makes the most financial sense for provision.

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

Obviously organisations supplying products would have a degree of cost, for individuals who require free

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

provision, then this will be a great financial benefit . I think it would be affordable in the long term perhaps through financing from Government.

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

I'm not sure, it would depend on the distribution system which is decided on and the cost of units and the refilling/ restocking responsibilities for said units and centres, as well as the product costs themselves, and the procurement agreements reached .

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

Women and girls will not face potential inequality and discrimination due to having to chose between sanitary products and other day to day necessities.

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

I'm not sure if there would be such an 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?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your response:

By limiting the access and distribution to low income families and those in receipt of benefits, I think it should be affordable.

Page 19: General

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

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No.