

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

There are so many people living on or below the poverty line these days. I worked in a local high school where it was a regular occurrence for girls not attending school because parents couldn't always afford to buy sanitary protection for their daughter(s) or indeed some parents who didn't care enough for their child to actually have sanitary protection in their household. So each month some girls chose to stay away from school afraid of clothes being stained etc. There are also many homeless females who cannot afford food let alone buy sanitary products. We should be helping people live a dignified life - menstruation happens to all females regardless of their circumstances.

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 don't know how convenient this system is for people to use. I'm unsure if the c-card can be used at any retailers who stock condoms or does the person have to travel to health centres etc. This system could be a problem if people have to pay travel expenses to obtain sanitary products if they are living in poverty.

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.

Where would homeless females get a card from if they don't have a permanent address? Perhaps local schools, health centres and homeless help centres etc could keep stocks so as females can obtain them when required?

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)?

All of the above locations should have stocks of supplies to give when requested.

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

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)?

Please explain the reasons for your response

Definitely should be available in all of the above locations.

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?

Not applicable: I do not need or use sanitary products

Please explain the reasons for your response

My periods have stopped.

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) | | | | | | |
| (d) Individuals (including consumers of sanitary products) | | | | | X | |

Please explain the reasons for your response

Government should provide funding to NHS and local authorities for this provision. Colleges and universities shouldn't have to meet the cost if this is to be a free provision provided by the Government. Profits for suppliers

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

of sanitary provision would likely increase as demand will be higher. People who can afford to pay for their own products will still buy from local retailers.

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

No Response

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

Surely the point of providing this free provision is to give all females who have periods each month some dignity regardless of their background?

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

Should it not be regarded as a basic human right for females?

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:

The free provision won't be required by all females. We have an ageing population so many females are post menopausal and some younger females have contraceptive implants which prevent monthly periods. You will also still have many females who will want to buy their own supplies. I think it would be a worthwhile expense to look at ways of preventing an impact on environmental issues. This should be for all wastage and not exclusive to sanitary products.

Page 19: General

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

I think it is important that this provision would be operated in such a way that every female requiring free products will be treated with respect and dignity.