

# 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".)

Student (at school, college or university)

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Fully Supportive

## 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**

In my view, I think every woman poor or not, should have something like the c-card and should get it in primary school or something or at the start of high school to access free period products such as the tampon or pad. It shouldn't only be for "those in need" but I understand why we are starting with those in need! I just think it's a bit weird and unnecessary that 13 year old boys are ENTITLED to get c-cards in high school and are given them even if they don't want one yet what do girls get? As per, men get thought of first!

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.**

My previous statement about the c-card still applies here!

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)?

Anywhere there can be acces...  
so in public toilets instead of having to pay £1 for 3 pads/tampons, make them free  
Library,  
Schools/colleges/universities  
Every work place should try and provide as well  
Hospitals and doctors gp surgeries, health clinics where you can just show your "P-card"

## 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

## 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)

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No

**Please explain or give an example of your experience if you feel able to do so.**

Fortunately enough, I've always had access and have always found the money somehow to get sanitary product, yes there have been a couple of times since moving into my own flat that I have scraped money together if it was before payday or something but I know it's not the same for other people or families where the choices are maybe more limited i.e. A mother choosing to buy food for her kid or to buy sanitary towels, which is a choice no one should have to make!

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

I would expect to claim free products regularly

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

As I said before, I think sanitary products should be available to every woman whether you're financially able to afford them or not, it's the principals of charging women for having their periods essentially!

## 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)?

*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?

Positive

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

It may have a negative impact on some people (men) who try and compare sanitary towels to their razors and that they should get free stuff also even though their body doesn't require anything at all in order to live day to day life. Whereas women who have periods can't control their period so something is needed to help that. Men don't need anything like that lol

## 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 think the way we dispose of sanitary products needs to be addressed more when it comes to environmental impacts, as people are still flushing them down the toilet or god knows what else... with the increase of availability you may find more are being flushed down the toilet which is the only negativity I can think of regarding the issue. With that in mind, we need to teach people in schools when they get their "p-card" that sanitary products DO NOT go in the toilet and make a video about where things go when you flush. People are still living in a dream when it comes to stuff like this and don't think!

## Page 19: General

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

Periods are not luxuries! Sanitary products are an absolute necessity to a woman who has periods!