

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Laura smith

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**

This is a vital issue which needs tackled, this bill is comprehensive and lays out a clear mechanism for ending period poverty

## 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 am unfamiliar with this system

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.**

Needs based systems often miss people out. This is a sensitive issue which people may be embarrassed about seeking help on and those who are on the wrong side of the cut off to qualify may still need the help. The scope for such a system to be abused is limited. Needs based systems often exclude, through either their own ignorance or by being based on parental income which is not relevant when assessing student need, students.

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)?

Pharmacies and health clinics

## 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**

As previously explained, student needs are often overlook in means tested systems as they, sometimes wrongly, assume a level of parental support, therefore the onus should be on the institutions where they attend to cover this gap explicitly. Also lack of sanitary provision leads to missed education days, it is in these institutions (and wider society) interest that such a products are readily and easily available as to increase discretion and also help those in education attend as much as possible.

## 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)

Yes, occasionally

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

For an extremely brief time I had very limited funds in my account. I then heavily relied on my flatmates for access to sanitary provisions as my period is extremely irregular so I had not planned ahead both financially and resource wise. This was humiliating and I tried my utmost to be extremely discrete.

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

I would expect to claim free products occasionally

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I would only use them when I needed to, which I do not foresee but would be nice to know they would be available

## 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)?

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*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

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Increasing access for education, employment and general opportunities for those who menstruate to leave the house on days when they are their period would, in my opinion, have an overall positive effect.

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

If this bill is not made trans and non binary inclusive and is gender essentialist. This overlooks not only their identities but also their struggle with regards to period poverty.

## 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:**

Fitter sustainability could be achieved by encouraging and incentivising reusable products, however so long the overall social benefit outweighs the lack of reusable products.

## Page 19: General

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

*No Response*