

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Wanda Noone

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**

Periods are not a choice nor are they a cosmetic issue. I feel that free sanitary products should be classed as a medical necessity and should be available for collection free of charge at all reputable chemists.

## 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**

Great idea!

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

The card should be available to anyone; 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.**

It shouldn't matter what income you receive - why discriminate against women who work and pay taxes and pay national insurance who are effectively contributing to the scheme. A limit should be placed on the amount each month so as not to abuse the system or sell on auction sites to gain profit.

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 should be used assigned by postcode and should also be made available in all educational establishments.

## 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)?

Unsure

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I currently work in education and think dispensers in toilets would be subject to abuse/vandalism. Products should however be available from the school reception.

## 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 expect to claim free products regularly

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Periods come every month so require sanitary products on a regular basis.

## 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)?

A government run company could manufacture sanitary products in basic packaging - NHS Tampons etc at probably a significantly reduced cost compared to branded products e.g. Always, Tampax / no need for advertising costs or fancy packaging.

## 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**

All healthy women menstruate and are equal.

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

Why should there be any negative impact regarding the proposed Bill? This is ridiculous in my opinion. This should only be viewed as a positive step.

## 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:**

All menstruating women should have access to limited free sanitary products and these products should never be flushed down the loo and should be manufactured from biodegradable materials. Income should not play a factor on who receives them. The cost could be minimal to the tax payer (NHS) if manufactured correctly. Branded manufacturers could strike great deals to supply these items on a long term contract.

## Page 19: General

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

Pass this Bill asap to assist women from all walks of life and give peace of mind to all women including tax payers that this natural monthly cycle and sanitary wear is classed as a medical condition and should be catered for as such. No woman should be unable to attend work/education because they cannot afford sanitary products or have access to such at any time.