

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Partially supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response

I absolutely agree that sanitary protection should be free and accessible to those who need it and cannot afford it. I am not so sure about schools, universities etc being obliged to provide sanitary protection free to all.

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

The C-card system works. A similar system, I believe, would work for sanitary protection. Perhaps it could be presented discretely in chemists and places like Boots and Superdrug. There are so many store loyalty cards nowadays that a different card been given in a shop would probably go unnoticed.

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; card-holders should have unlimited access to free sanitary products

Please explain the reasons for your response.

This one most matches my belief. However, it might not cover everyone in need. There might be people who have a reasonable income, but who still find it hard to make ends meet due to financial commitments. There may be several girls and women in the household and there is not enough money to buy sanitary protection for all.

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)?

I think a discretely offered card in a chemist shop or Boots or Superdrug would be ideal. Maybe, as well, clothing shops such as Primark or New Look.

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)?

No

Please explain the reasons for your response

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)?

I think the free products should be available only to those in need, for whatever reason they are in need.

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

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

I no longer have periods and, when I did, I was always able to afford them. However, I used to feel that they were expensive, particularly if you had heavy periods and needed a more expensive brand to meet your needs.

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

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

I do not think that it would cost an awful lot to provided free sanitary protection to those in need. In a way it might save the public sector money because those staff who are unable to come to work when they have their

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

period because they cannot afford sanitary protection would now be able to attend.

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

By giving products only to those in need.

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

It would mean that menstruating women can carry on with their day to day lives in the same way that non-menstruating people can.

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

By using a discreet card system for those in need.

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:

if period poverty continues, girls will miss out on education and be unable to achieve and find the employment they would like. Women who are menstruating will be unable to attend work without sanitary protection and this will all affect the economy.

Page 19: General

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

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

No.