

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Anna-Ruth Cockerham

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

Period products are a necessity for women but one that can be quite costly. I think it is important that we provide free and affordable sanitary products to those who need them particularly those who would unduly feel the burden of something they need.

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

Whilst this would be useful in ensuring that the sanitary products are widely available to those who need them it may cause embarrassment to those who feel they are labelled by seeking out this service. It also requires people to have a knowledge of the system and how to access it which means those who need it may be left out.

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.

This helps to prevent labels being put on those who use this important service, particularly young women in school, if everyone can access it.

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 variety of different locations would be the best way to do it as it would widen the access to it - gp surgeries, pharmacies, community centres, health clinics, schools, students unions, etc

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

This would be extremely useful - as particularly if a card based system is implemented - this will ensure young people can access this service who may be unfamiliar with these systems as they are usually dealt with by

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)?

their parents and will also make it easily accessible to many people

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.

Thankfully I have never been unable to afford sanitary products however I have noticed that the cost seems disproportionate considering that they are required.

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 do not need to access free products regularly as I can afford them myself and would prefer to pay for them and have better freedom of choice however I would use the service in a pinch (for instance if I ran out and was caught of guard before I could get somewhere to buy some or if I began to struggle with money).

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	

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

products)						
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Please explain the reasons for your response

I think that with bulk buying the cost of this would not be significantly large, however it would result in a large saving for individuals

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

Buying in bulk and creating dispensary locations in places with similar services already operating - gp surgeries, pharmacies, sexual health clinics, students unions, community centres, youth groups

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

This would make sanitary products more accessible for people in communities where periods are looked down upon or for transgender people who feel that purchasing sanitary products doesn't fit with their chosen gender or appearance and may open them up to abuse.

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

By ensuring the proposal is made as widely available as possible it will eliminate the stigma on groups who require to use it.

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

Page 19: General

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

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No Response