

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

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Fully Supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

No one should have to go without sanitary products due to cost.

## 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**

Young people in particular would benefit from this type of system.

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.**

Rather than restricting the groups who may access the scheme, a restriction on the number of products that can be claimed could prevent abuse while ensuring that all those who need it have access.

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)?

GP surgeries, pharmacies, health clinics, schools would all be sensible locations.

## 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**

Schools in particular have a responsibility and an opportunity to support the children in their care.

## 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 not expect to claim free products

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I believe that free products should be accessible but those who do not need to claim free products should not do so.

## 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**

Those who currently profit from the sale of sanitary products have a responsibility to ensure that all those who need them can access them. Government should provide some extra funding, but manufacturers and retailers of sanitary products should also make some contribution.

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

Effective targeting of provision - provision of free products centred around places already used by low income communities.

## 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**

Positive impact for young people and persons of any gender identity (mostly those identifying as women) who menstruate.

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

No significant negative impacts obvious.

## 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:**

Need for appropriate cost control in terms of government contributions, need also to ensure that products distributed are environmentally sustainable. This is an opportunity for government to drive innovation and uptake of sustainable sanitary products, as environmental information/new types of product could be available to consumers as part of the scheme.

## Page 19: General

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

No