

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

John (Seonaidh) Morton

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

As a recipient of free sanitary products (from the NHS - pads) it strikes me as illogical that anybody should be denied this, simply on the grounds that it affects nearly 100% of women between 15 and 50. It is, after all, a form of incontinence.

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 don't know what the system is

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

Other (please specify)

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Would it be possible to do it in the same manner as prescriptions?

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)?

The more outlets the better. The four mentioned sound good - particularly if a prescription-like system is adopted. One might add "food banks"

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

It should be encouraged - but not obligatory.

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)

Not applicable: I do not need or use sanitary products

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

(a) Yes, a free provision is bound to cost something (b) Maybe a small cost here - but insignificant (c) Maybe a small benefit here (no more "marketing" needed, e.g.) (d) Obviously a slight benefit to those who no longer have to buy these products

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

There would be significant savings if the products could actually be manufactured "in house", e.g. by public health and/or service providers

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?

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Positive

Please explain the reasons for your response

As a rule, men don't need to worry about where they might be on the menstrual cycle, whereas this can be a major worry for women. By making sanitary products freely - and widely - available, this worry diminishes and, thus, contributes towards equality of the sexes. While there may be a small impact on gender realignment matters, it's unlikely to be of significant benefit as regards disability, marital status, childbearing, general race matters or sexual orientation. But it would be important in reducing inequality between the sexes.

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

Ensure dedicated funding from the global health budget.

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:

Nothing changes - apart from the fact people will no longer need to pay for something that should be free anyway and, hopefully, the products concerned will be more easily accessible. Instead of individuals paying for this, government agencies (inc. local authorities maybe) will pay for it - hopefully with the power to negotiate a general price reduction. All it needs is adequate funding - and it wouldn't exactly cost a lot. So yes, it's sustainable.

Page 19: General

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

Not at present