

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

I fully support this bill because no woman or girl should have to endure the humiliation of being unable to afford sanitary protection. I would prefer it if the government improved wages and conditions, and stopped cutting benefits and forcing people into extreme poverty. Women have been disproportionately hit by benefit cuts and it is shameful that in this day and age we have to go back to our great grandmothers' days, and use rags or bits of newspaper. So while this legislation will not tackle the root causes of period poverty, it's a positive attempt to overcome the shameful causes of it.

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

It's an excellent means of ensuring women and girls are not humiliated for being poor, as long as it's sent to all women and girls to ensure nobody is left behind.

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.

A universal card will cut the cost of means testing, ensure that no woman is deterred from having to apply and supply evidence of poverty, and reduces the need to spend money on advertising.

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 and maybe high street chemists.

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

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Dispensers are extortionate.

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)

Yes, occasionally

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

I was in an abusive relationship and all my money would go on his drinking. If I hid any money he would batter the crap out of me (I had two jobs). Frequently I couldn't buy sanitary protection and relied on friends to help me out. It was humiliating.

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

I can afford them now, so I wouldn't use the free items. But it's good to know that if my circumstances change, I can get some help.

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)

Please explain the reasons for your response

I would happily pay a bit more in tax to fund this.

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

Corporate sponsors?

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

I would hope that this measure would reduce the inequalities experienced by women and girls throughout the country.

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

Don't listen to mansplainers.

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:

It will be beneficial to the welfare of our society to have women who are confident and not relying on scrunched up copies of the Daily Record to soak up their blood .

Page 19: General

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

No Response