

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Fully opposed

Please explain the reasons for your response

The actual cost of sanitary products is minimal, many are under £1. Where poverty is claimed there has to be a

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survey of some description applied to discover just how many of these claimants are spending money on other products such as tobacco, takeaway food & even make-up as these are high spending areas by many of the very people in my area alone who claim to be in period poverty.

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?

No

Please explain the reasons for your response

I disagree with the method because I disagree with the whole scheme, who decides those who qualify? What criteria will be used? Will this be on the whole, a scheme to provide those on benefits?.

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

There is no need for a card scheme

Please explain the reasons for your response.

No need for card scheme as there is absolutely no need for the products to be provided for free, will it be left to tax payers to foot the bill? Many of whom are men & many females that will probably not qualify for the product as there is a huge chance it would be rolled out to those on benefits first.

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)?

Each of these places (or any place) would have to bring in more help & resources to deal with the distribution, this adds to the cost, will it be tax payers who have to cover this as well? Also who determines amount of sanitary products needed by each individual? Every female is different & will have different menstrual needs.

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

The obligation should end at education about menstrual cycles & how to deal with one's period, the obligation of supplying the sanitary product then should fall to the individual &/or family.

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

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

It would cost the government to supply, the NHS to distribute & the cost of products would rise & therefore cost more for the consumers who don't qualify for the scheme.

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

Not supplying free sanitary products!

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?

Neutral (neither positive nor negative)

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

Not sure

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?

No

Please explain the reasons for your response:

Page 19: General

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

It should not be going ahead, as previously stated sanitary products are extremely inexpensive & widely available, those claiming period poverty should be more subject to inspection to find out how this poverty happened & where the approx £2 to £3 per month (average spend per cycle) is being spent instead & the individual encouraged to save for menstrual products themselves, also this is a scheme that will probably be handed out to those on state benefits & this would be unfair to those who don't qualify due to working, especially as being a taxpayer they would probably be the one footing the bill for the scheme.