

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Louise Wylie

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill?

In a first world country in the 21st century, no girl or woman should be forced to use socks or newspapers as sanitary products

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'm unaware of how the c-card scheme works but I believe to minimise the stigma around receiving free sanitary products, a topic which is already taboo, a universal system should be implemented

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.

So long as the number of products is sufficient to cover the hygiene needs of the vast majority of women who need it, that should work. Unlimited products for anyone would potentially leave the system open to abuse and spiralling costs

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)?

Not only GPs and community centres but in places where women go all the time - schools, shopping centres, event spaces. Women who are reluctant to visit their doctors should still be able to access the products.

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

Young girls are already stigmatized for having periods and will be even more reluctant to ask for help, so dispensers in schools, and in colleges and universities where many are on low incomes, are vital.

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.

Not financially unable but several times I have found myself in situations where there were no products available. On football away trips, which might be expected, but also amazingly on my university campus.

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 am in a comfortable financial situation and at the moment would not need 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

Large organisations like these make vast amounts of money/have huge budgets and the cost of supplying free sanitary products would likely not have a huge impact on them. They might try and offset the loss in profit on consumers. Many women would probably not use the free products due to stigma so the costs would not be that high

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

Looking to buy more cost effective products rather than ones with marked up prices from large retailers.

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

Having a period when on a very low income limits a lot of women's ability to do things, so this could possibly change that

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

Not questioning gender identity or using trans exclusionary language when marketing the Bill. Giving access to the system to anyone who asks to be included regardless of outward appearance or gender identity.

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response:

Sanitary products are no on the whole eco friendly. Providing moon cups could help with this but for people who don't want/ can't use that option traditional products need to be offered and I don't know if eco friendly alternatives are available on a large enough scale.

Page 19: General

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

No Response