

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Partially supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

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

I do not think that sanitary products should be universally available as some people can afford to buy their own. I do agree they should be available, like condoms, via schools, colleges and Universities for people who ask for them regardless of income. They should also be made available for youth groups and clubs to distribute as required.

## 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

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

The card should be available only to those on low incomes or in receipt of benefits; 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.**

If you make the products unlimited then some may sell the products on to others whereas if you limit the number of products then it is more likely that they will only be for that person to use.

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)?

Youth clubs/groups, schools, Universities, colleges, pharmacies, libraries, GP surgeries, community centres, shopping centre information desks, places that are open at night or in the evenings e.g. fast food restaurants

## 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**

So that you are reaching those who need it most without the embarrassment of them having to approach someone to ask for the items. Also this is where you are likely to be when you discover you need a product so it needs to be handy and readily available.

## 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 am in a fortunate financial position to not need this assistance so even if they were universally free I would still pay for them

## 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**

An increase in cost will be felt by those who are funding the provision of the free products. If a number of people are then receiving free products they will no longer be buying those products so the retailers will see a reduction in sales.

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

By asking retailers and manufacturers of sanitary products to offer the products for free to organisations/institutions who are providing them for free or offering them with a significant reduction in price e.g. cost price.

## 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**

Women are disadvantaged by needing sanitary products so it will make things more equal based on sex/gender

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

Do not see any negative impact.

## 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:**

Not without continual funding to cover the cost of providing the products for free

## Page 19: General

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

*No Response*