

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".)

Professional with experience in a relevant subject

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Name: Graham Winters. this is a personal on the record submission.

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?

Such provision" is a simple human necessity. The real question is why has this not been done until now? ! I have twofold professional experience. Firstly, as a (male) further education teacher and secondly as a criminal solicitor "visiting" women in custody. Lack of provisions in Further Education colleges is a source of embarrassment and disruption all round. There is the very shy girl who "ends up in a mess" as a female colleague once put it, this type of embarrassing situation can put a girl off from continuing to attend college. Secondly, there is the embarrassment where young women has to ask another for something from her handbag during class and every one in the room getting to know. There is also the issue of a minority of young women who seem to be immune from any kind of embarrassment and appear to have a total inability to be in any way discreet. While this issue can cause some unease to male students and staff, I have greater concern about the effect of this on other young ladies finally, there is the simple issue of women having to leave class with their bag and thinking everyone will "guess". All of the said situations could all be eliminated by their being adequate free provision of sanitary protection in the female toilet facilities. There should be a legal requirement for there to be suitable access to female first aid/ immediate health care provision. This would include such facility as dispensing analgesic medication where required by young women. This would avoid any "need" for students to be supply others with medicines. All of this will not be worth much if the health service "eliminates" the provision of the school nursing service. There should also be a requirement for educational establishments to "advertise" the availability of first- aid/ tablet provision in female toilets. Nipping round to the local shop or pharmacy For a small packet of pills can be very expensive for some young women. Similar provision should also be obligatory in a like manner in community and leisure facilities. In respect of provision in custody: There should be an adequate provision of facilities and supplies. There should be a legal requirement for every female who is detained should be informed about such facility by a female staff member and for appropriate notice to be displayed in suitable places such as the back of cell doors, toilet and shower facilities. I am NOT suggesting that police and other custody staff should be issuing any form of medicine without the client being seen by a health care worker. The reason for this is that many of those taken into custody are in a very poor state of health or are already intoxicated. I hope that this makes sense.

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

Great idea. This should automatically be issued to ever female from a decided minimum age (with compulsory explanation in school) with there being no set maximum age.

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.

By anyone this should be any female. The magnetic strip can record how much each lady is collecting. Anyone collecting an in ordinate amount could be contacted. This would not just be about possible abuse of the scheme but in relation to ladies who may be experiencing uninvestigated undiagnosed health difficulties. In addition there would be no market for the illegal sale of free supplies as every woman would have access to free supplies. If an income related scheme is introduced there is a simple solution, that is that the card would be combined with the qualification for inclusion in the minor ailments scheme. This, the minor ailments scheme would required to extended to girls under the age of 16 years. If this is not done student (over 16) would be eligible and their younger sisters in same family would not. Politicians please not the households affected here are the ones with the most votes under the one roof. The late Lady thatcher found out all about this in respect

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

of the poll tax! In addition every women can receive free contraceptive care. So why not this.

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 same ones as the free condom scheme and other public venues which may be deemed suitable to become involved.

I would say that schools are not suitable places for regular as opposed to emergency one at time supplies. Collection of several month supply could be a source of embarrassment. How many school girls would be at ease if boy in their class appeared in the till Q. at a shop never mind carrying a carrier bag back to class. Discussions on this will need to take place with schoolgirls , parents and school staff.

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

I have already explained this answer.

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

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

I am male.

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

I am male.

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

I have answered unsure to (c) retailers will lose substantial revenues. However they have been ripping women (and their dads) since our grannies stopped using historic "goods". This includes the co-op!. There is an issue which needs to be looked at. With the free condom scheme some high street pharmacies have very small notice on the door advising that they supply free nhs condoms. Said items are out of site behind a counter. To reach said counter one has to pass the propriety brands on display at profiteering prices. The worst offender in the writers view is a certain chain store which has recently rightly received adverse publicity in an other regard in respect of this matter.

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

Bulk buying and reducing profits.

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

Why not.

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

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By placing reactionary eejits in there place. Most male reactionary eejits would rather run a mile rather than make afool of themselves on this issue. Lets look forward to the outbursts of the reactionary females.

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:

Cost compared with free tuition fees is minimal. Likewise compared with the provision of free personal care, the costs of mass unemployment and so on. There will not even be the need to axe the red arrows to dish out free tampons to women serving in the forces.

Page 19: General

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

Get on with it. Only negative factor is that daughters will yhink up some other way of getting money out of their dads!