

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Corinne Regan

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?

I am fully supportive of this proposal. The access to sanitary products should be a basic right and financial hardship should not even remotely relate to this situation. Having your period causes enough anxiety and symptoms without having to worry about sourcing a SAFE and hygienic product. I do not mind paying for my own sanitary products or even paying slightly extra in certain places if it means that all women in financial difficulty can obtain these free of charge.

## 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 think a system similar to the C card is a great idea if it were accessible to everyone. At present the C card system is only available in certain pharmacies which could possibly be the reason an individual decides not to use protection, due to it not being locally available.

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.**

I do believe it should be made available to everyone as working women may experience a week where they have no income to purchase products. I have thankfully always been in a position to purchase my sanitary products and as previously mentioned I would not mind paying extra if it meant someone else could benefit.

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)?

I think they should be available at request of your GP but avoid 'drop in' services at GP surgeries as it would contribute to unnecessary traffic and spread of infection to already ill individuals. I think schools, colleges, university's, beauty salons and high street shops should have this service. Perhaps an online subscription to have them delivered to houses etc for women who can't always make it out.

## 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

## 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.**

When I have been out and about or travelling in a car and I haven't had my purse with me or my bank card. I haven't struggled to obtain them due to lack of finances (yet) but have been in a position where it would have been very convenient for me to just pop in to a pharmacy or shop and subtly ask for some.

Q7. If sanitary products were available for free, which of the following would apply to you?

I would expect to claim free products occasionally

## 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
<b>(a) Government and the public sector (e.g. local authorities, the NHS)</b>			X			
<b>(b) Colleges and universities</b>			X			
<b>(c) Businesses (including suppliers/retailers of sanitary products)</b>		X				
<b>(d) Individuals (including consumers of sanitary products)</b>		X				

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

I think by reducing sanitary product packaging there would be the opportunity to reduce cost albeit very small.

## 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

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

By clearly explaining that these products are a necessity and not a choice. We have the access to clean water in Britain why not have access to products which women need for a short time each month.

## 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

## Page 19: General

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

*No Response*