

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Please explain the reasons for your response

Having read the material that accompanied this document, i can see no reason not to support it. Peoples

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

health is impacted, their education is impacted all for the sake of a perfectly natural bodily function. This should have been done years ago, but i am glad it is now receiving the attention it deserves.

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 am not in a position to comment as i have no experience of the c-card or other such schemes. I would hope that professionals in the field accompanied by members of the public will come up with suitable distribution models

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.

Any of the other methods could be subject to a means test or introduce unwanted red tape that could deter younger people particularly from getting the sanitary products. Limiting the amount of products would unnecessarily stop those people who had more severe periods from getting the products they need. As always there will be those who will try and abuse the free distribution, ie they can well afford to provide for themselves, or try to sell them on for personal enrichment. I would like to think that once established the delivery system can and will be reviewed regularly to minimise abuse and to make sure that the people that need them , get them. If this is not done the whole idea could fall into disrepute and would risk being scrapped. I would also not like to see banner headlines in the press, who for their own editorial reasons, would take great delight in portraying the scottish government as a bunch of wasters who are spending 20 billion pounds on tampons while rome burns. I exaggerate deliberately

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)?

As a male i have no view.

The views of women would be more appropriate as they would have a better appreciation of where is suitable and convenient.

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

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)?

Please explain the reasons for your response

Again having read the supporting documentation, it would seem an ideal place for part of the access to free sanitary products. It would give regular discrete access with no fuss. They however should not have to shoulder the financial burden from their existing funding

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

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

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 might be missing something in this question, but it seems obvious that (a) would have to find the necessary funding (b) would i trust be supported by government, so no extra cost (c)if the scheme were expanded to workplaces then there would be extra costs to employers, there is also the possibility that knowing that govt. is picking up the tab, manufacturers of the products may put their prices up, their raison d'etre is to make profits. I

Q8. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on:

would expect them to be jumped upon from a great height should this happen. (d)If you dont have to buy them then your costs are reduced

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

Liason with the manufacturers, predicted future sales at a set price means they could have longer term secure plans, good for their employees also, stability is always good.
Get the manufacturers on board and if needs be let them take the credit, its about getting things done, not basking in the spotlight.

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

If men had periods sanitary products would be free already. To endanger health and education over a natural bodily function is inequality. It is a welcome step in the right direction.

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

Better education to both males and females about natural bodily functions, periods, erections, masturbation, pregnancy, sex etc etc.
I would like to think we are still not getting our information from "behind the bike sheds" .
Presented in the correct fashion, probably scientifically with no bias, the body is an amazing and fascinating machine.
Teaching about it at an appropriate age would direct some to further study and at the very least lead to less embarrassed whispers which are generally wrong or inspired by other motives eg religion.

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:

Quite simply by education, the young are sponges and will take on board properly framed reasons about its need, the requirements for correct disposal etc. If older people object, they should be ashamed of themselves. It wont happen overnight and no one should expect it to do so The manufacturers could devise schemes for enviromentally sound disposal as it is in their interests to do so. Appropriate scrutiny of how, where and how

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?

many products are dispensed should, if done correctly, eventually minimise economic concerns, there will probably be an initial spike, everybody wants something for nothing, that is to be expected.

Page 19: General

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

get it done, it is overdue.