

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Elizabeth Greene

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?

Puberty can be a horrendous time dealing with emotions and hateful period pains. Keeping up with peers and often living with just one parent or both parents on extremely low incomes struggling to make ends meet. It means sanitary produce comes way down the list a of priorities when in fact it's a vital issue. Having done voluntary work with young girls I've seen the shame and embarrassment of not having adequate sanitary produce and being able to change to a clean towel or/and tampon when needed. Girls have been forced to sit through lessons with nothing but folded toilet paper for protection. it genuinely effects self esteem and moral and in turn has impact on their mental wellbeing and ability to concentrate. I'd say it's responsible for a great many missed school days too. Female menstruation is a significant difference between the sexes and an unpleasant fact of life for females. They should not be penalised financially because of this. all girls have the right to free clean sanitary protection.

## 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 not overly familiar with the c-card system and not convinced it's always possible for girls to travel to their nearest c-card supplier. I'm unsure what the alternative proposals are therefore I support whatever suggestion the bill proposes.

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; card-holders should have unlimited access to free sanitary products

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

I'd hope one day free sanitary produce will be universal regardless of income, however at the current time I believe specifying low waged and unemployed is priority as these are the ones who suffer with poor sanitary protection. I see no need for someone on high income to make a claim.

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)?

All of the above with the inclusion of a specific emergency supply to schools and colleges.

## 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**

As stated previously it is in the interests of educational facilities to make sure students are (a) best able to attend (b) not put through emotional embarrassment because they are not fully protected with sanitary produce.

## 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?

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**

Overall I believe it will be pretty much cost effective by improving school/college attendance. I do not believe it will have a significant impact on profit margins of big business. I believe the government have a responsibility to the public to set cost/profits margins on sanitary produce. If the government were to apply all the promises

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

regarding NHS then costs would impact on NHS budgets.

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

*No Response*

## 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?

I can see no negative factors given that free sanitary produce to low waged and unemployed is now becoming a universal venture.

## 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?

I think the bill is marvelous and well overdue. The benefits to health safety and general well being will pay back in dividends. I hope the bill will eventually be extended to all women in need so that no one should experience the embarrassment stigma and potential health risks of poor or no proper sanitary goods.