

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Please explain the reasons for your response

I think it's right that students should be able to get free sanitary products - their participation in education

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

should never be at compromised by having to miss lessons during their period because they can't get the protection they need. Beyond this, I believe the provision of free sanitary products should be targeted at those most in need, ie those from low income homes and those who are homeless. The vast majority of people in Scotland are employed or from earning-homes and women/girls in these circumstances should purchase their own sanitary protection from their own means. I don't agree with universal offers - particularly when public sector funding is so tight. Those who can afford to buy their own sanitary protection should do so, leaving public sector funding to support those who don't have the means to support themselves.

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

I don't agree that universal provision is right; people who can't afford to pay for their own sanitary wear should do so, with public sector funding supporting those people who can't afford to help themselves. A card system could probably work - maybe adding an entitlement onto the YoungScot card for people who are entitled to that. A different type of card would need to be introduced for over 24s. What's important is that people can use a card to go to a shop to get what ever type of sanitary products they want and that women and girls from poorer backgrounds are not embarrassed or stigmatised. It would be important that the cost of providing any card system wasn't more than the cost of sanitary wear - it's not that dear so this could be a risk.

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.

We need to help the people who can't afford to buy sanitary products for themselves. But don't waste public money by providing free stuff to folk who can well afford to buy their own. However, the important thing is to devise a way of doing all this without making the poorer-off women/girls feel 'visible' or 'singled out' for special treatment.

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 best solution is surely to make sure women/girls have the money or other means to allow them to buy what they need for themselves without having to pick up packs from anywhere.

If this isn't an option, then schools, colleges and universities could work for students

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)?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

My goodness, what size of dispensers would be needed if all students wanted to get sanitary products??? We 're not talking about a couple of tampax or pads in an emergency situation (which is what dispensers are designed for); students could need a pack every month and if there's 500 girls in the school, that's a big dispensing machine.

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

It depends on whether the government fund this or whether local councils, colleges and universities will be

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

expected to cover all or some of the costs.

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

Other than universal entitlement for students, limit free provision to low income groups.

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?

Transgender; gender-neutral need to be taken into account.

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:

If everyone is entitled to get free sanitary wear the cost is disproportionately and unnecessarily high. There's no reason why people who can afford to buy their own stuff should not continue to do that.

Page 19: General

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

Is legislation really necessary?