

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Sanitary products are essential, yet items like tampons are taxed, and even cheaper sanitary items are very

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

expensive over time. It is important for the Scottish Government to take both practical and symbolic steps towards recognising and tackling period poverty.

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 dont know

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.

Every woman should be able to access free sanitary products - there should never be a situation in which a woman cannot leave the house because she does not have sanitary products. I am deeply opposed to the idea of restricting access to only those on benefits (is there not enough stigma around periods without adding this too!?) and the idea of restricting the number of products claimed: women have all sorts of different periods, some are particularly heavy, irregular, and after awful events such as a miscarriage etc, many many products are needed. We should never have a situation in which a woman is required to account for how many products she needs, this only adds to stigma. If we trust women, then these products are available to everyone, and as many as they need. Any other option severely undermines both the practical and symbolic value of the proposal.

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)?

Not a particular view, but it's important that the location is accessible to all women

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

Students are particularly vulnerable to period poverty.

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 was an undergraduate student, the expense of sanitary products each month was a significant proportion of my income. It was difficult to afford them each month.

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

I would not expect to claim free products

Please explain the reasons for your response

I would not claim free products. I am no longer in a position where I would need to, although I have been in the past.

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

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

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Menstrual cups are, in my view, a fantastic investment and are so much more convenient for many women. At the moment, many women do not know about menstrual cups, but this bill offers an opportunity to educate women about their options, save money over time, and help the environment.

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

I dont know

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

i dont know.

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response:

i dont know

Page 19: General

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

Including menstrual cups would be good, as they are particularly convenient for women, much safer than tampons, better for the environment and lower cost over time.