

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

I am fully supportive of this bill for the same reasons laid out in the consultation document; it is unacceptable that those who menstruate should have to face indignity, poor health and unequal access to education and

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

work, because they cannot afford simple hygiene products. Introducing free and easily available hygiene products will improve attendance and productivity at work and school, will reduce associated health problems (including mental health), and will allow disadvantaged people who menstruate to participate more fully in several areas of life.

## 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 involved in a free condom distribution scheme at my student union \*\*\*. Although c-cards are available to students, most prefer to simply visit the stall, browse which free condoms are available, and pick them up as necessary. I believe that a free sanitary product distribution scheme could work in the same way as free condom schemes, but the use of the card feels unnecessary in some settings.

Q3. Which of the following best expresses your view in relation to a card-based system?

There is no need for a card scheme

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

As explained in my last response, although c-cards are available to students, most opt not to use them. We provide a range of products and we take note of which products are being taken, but there is no need for the individual to produce a card. Sanitary products could be distributed in the same way; people are free to come along and take however many products they need.

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)?

GP surgeries, pharmacies, community centres, clinics, schools, universities, student unions, etc. I think it's worth including hospitals and/or out-of-hours clinics on the list, so that there is somewhere available 24 hours a day.

## 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**

Most schools, colleges and universities are considered to have a duty of care for their students, and access to

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)?

sanitary products should be included in that care. In particular I believe that universities, which are profiting from their students, should be required to pick up the financial burden of providing products.

## 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?

I would expect to claim free products occasionally

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I am, luckily, able to afford to buy my own sanitary products. I might expect to use free products in an emergency situation, but I feel that the service should be primarily used by those least able to afford 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**

The increase in cost would be small for the government and universities, but the effect the scheme would have

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

on individuals would be potentially life-changing.

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

Asking distributors to track which products are most popular saves the cost of ordering unnecessary products. Allowing a system for unused stock to be returned and redistributed also reduces wastage. Note: saving costs should not impact the quality or usability of the products.

## 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 don't foresee many negative impacts of the bill besides cost.

## 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:**

If free condom schemes can work, free sanitary schemes can work.

## Page 19: General

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

Well done!