

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

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

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I fully supportive of free sanitary products to be provided as they are expensive to buy on a monthly basis especially if you're on low income. Larger families with girls will also be affected. It is not a girls choice to have periods so why should we have to pay for something for a period

## 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**

It would depend because some women might be embarrassed handing over the card to obtain these especially younger girls There may also be a stigma attached with handing over the card as they may seem like they are poor and can't afford them. They don't want to be seen not being able to afford sanitary products

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.**

I think there should be a no card scheme as it then wouldn't carry the embarrassment of handing over the card. I think it shouldn't be limited to a certain amount as for some circumstances some women may need more sanitary products than others and you can't deny them of something they need because their period may be heavier or last longer

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)?

I think they should be placed in vending machines in public toilets to allow for easy access to them. They should also be available to get them from different areas like universities, pharmacies, health clinics and the alike

## 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**

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)?

This would allow easier access for younger women who may not be able to get to a pharmacy and the alike

## 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.**

Due to the type of contraception I have been on. I have been caught out a few times with random bleeds or heavier bleeding and had either nothing on me or have ran out There was no access to any form of sanitary product either no vending machine or no money on myself at the time Having free access would help during these occasions

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 would only claim free products in the case of an emergency of running out whilst not being at home where I could get them

## 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...)				✓		

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

<b>consumers of sanitary products)</b>						
--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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

Not sure

## 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**

It will allow all women regardless of their circumstances or protected characteristics to access free sanitary products

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

By allowing the products to be universally accessed

## 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:**

Unsure

## Page 19: General

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

N/A

