

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Please explain the reasons for your response

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

The paper highlights a level of deprivation that is deeply shocking in a so-called civilised society. On a personal level, it is easy to relate to the misery and humiliation experienced by women unable to afford sanitary products, pain relief etc. As a member of society I feel ashamed that the problem outlined clearly in this bill exists and I would like to express admiration and gratitude to those involved in bringing these issues to the public domain.

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

My experience of these matters is too limited to comment. I feel the emphasis should be on ease of access, but accept too that a balance needs to be struck between this requirement and practicality.

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.

My response to this question is governed by what I said previously and my lack of any personal knowledge of the matters in question.

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 these locations are potentially appropriate. The priority should be to provide for individuals with what they need without causing them embarrassment or difficulty.
The only point of comparison I can think of is my personal experience of being a coeliac when GPS handed over responsibility to pharmacists for fulfilling prescriptions for gluten free products. The first chemist I dealt with made it so difficult I simply stopped trying to order anything through him. I later re-registered with another pharmacist who couldn't be more helpful. It seems to me the attitude of the provider is as important as the location.

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

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

Though the idea of such ready provision is wholly acceptable, the potential for problems (empty machines, over-use by those not in need etc.) also exists.

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 not expect to claim free 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	

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

I am not in a position to say.

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

For reasons set out in the bill in section dealing with social attitudes to question relating to discussion of needs and bodily functions of women in particular, I feel the impact cannot be other than positive

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

I do not see any real potential for negative impact.

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:

Not in a position to say, but cost has to be weighed against creation of, contribution and furtherance of a more equal society.

Page 19: General

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

No