

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 am content for this response to be attributed to me or my organisation

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Evelyn Wilson

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?

As a volunteer for a charity which provides meals, clothes and toiletries for homeless and people in need, I often see how difficult it is for people to ask for sanitary items. Having free items available in schools, colleges & universities will prevent pupils and students worrying if they start, or are menstruating at school. Very often, in less well off families, money for sanitary products is at the bottom of the priority list and having a supply at their place of education would help stop less well off girls worrying about asking for assistance & have confidence in their personal hygiene. It's not just about cost, it's also about privacy and self esteem.

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

A card scheme requires the person to sign up to the system and people may find it embarrassing and difficult if their friends don't use the card system.

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.

If you differentiate between the users of the products then it stigmatises the users. That's why free school meals are available to all.

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)?

They should be available in all schools, colleges, universities and pharmacies for the less well off can also access them.

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

If it is not universal then some facilities may opt out because of financial constraints. Additional funding should be allocated to provide the 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)

Yes, occasionally

Please explain or give an example of your experience if you feel able to do so.

Yes, when I was ill for a long period of time and had financial difficulties.

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 do not require sanitary products now but as I earn a reasonable salary, I would not have claimed the products if they had been available in the last few years.

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

I would hope that educational institutions would receive funding to provide the products. For some businesses, it would depend on if they were supplying the products.

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

No Response

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

I think the Bill will have a very positive impact on equality as menstruation is not a choice and why should this cause persistent worry and distress. Free and accessible availability will prevent discrimination, educational distributions and loss of dignity because of gender.

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

No Response

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:

In terms of the environment, suitable disposal facilities would be required and education on the importance of responsible disposal.

Page 19: General

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

No Response