

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

I have come across both professionally and privately across the great embarrassment / shame the lack of access to appropriate sanitary provision can cause.

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 do not know the system, but if it is accessible to all, allows for some privacy when used and not just in few locations then it sounds ok to me.

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

The card should be available to anyone; its use should be restricted (e.g. by limiting the number of products that may be claimed each month)

Please explain the reasons for your response.

if it is free to anyone, then the social stigma for using it will be removed in principle and there is no need for the administrative cost of assessing who is eligible. I assume that not everyone who may claim will use it for reasons of convenience and personal preference of products so the cost should not be prohibitive. However, it also helps any woman who may be caught short ... The limitation of how much can be used would stop an abuse of the scheme (e.g. people reselling or wasting products) . (I assume here that there will be a generous allowance, as some women experience heavier periods than others). However, should research show that there is no danger of larger scale abuse of the scheme, then I would be happy with unlimited access.

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 all of the above are fine, but they should also be located in schools , colleges and universities as well as in main shopping areas.

In a similar way as toilet paper is provided in public toilets, why not have dispensers available publically?

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)?

yes, to remove the stigma and to make it accessible also to younger girls and women.

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

I prefer to use my own products of choice. However, I would use it if I would be caught short unexpectedly.

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

for a.b. the cost will be relatively small because of bulk buying. It could increase attendance at school in some more socially deprived areas, perhaps? Businesses/ producers will have a wider market

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

sorry, no idea. Vouchers?

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 removes a financial penalty from people of one sex/gender

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

I cannot see any 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?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your response:

sourcing and quality of products provided. General hygiene education.

Page 19: General

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

no