

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

I completely agree that period poverty is something that needs to be solved both to reduce period stigma and

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

also to allow those menstruating to not suffer due to lack of supplies.

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?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your response

Providing that there are sufficient, convenient distribution centres for supplies to be picked up when needed & the cards are well advertised & easy to apply for online/through school/GPs etc

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; 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.

While I believe that period products should not cause disadvantage to any user & so eventually subsidised supplies should be available to all who need them, initially it would be better to roll out the scheme to those who are most at need. In order to prevent misuse then a limit should be imposed, but to take into account both the varying heaviness & length of periods as well as allowing for a contingency to be set up so that no one is caught unawares at the start of their next.

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 locations should be able to dispense them in order to be convenient for the majority. Schools should also be able to dispense so that girls have supplies at home too.

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

It is awful to be caught unawares & for girls & young women the focus at schools should be their education not worrying about how to control their period.

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.

I have been caught unawares in starting my period while out and not having any sanitary products with me. Using toilet roll to try & stay it while trying to find a shop which sells affordable supplies is not something I would wish on anyone. I am fortunate that my current place of work has a collection of pads & tampons in the ladies bathroom for anyone to access as needed for free so that there is one less worry at work.

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

While I can afford sanitary products then I would expect to purchase my own, but I would like to have the option if I was caught unawares or had changed financial circumstances.

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 expect the government to have a significant increase as they initially set up the scheme & then the ongoing cost of sanitary products, admin & promotion of the scheme. However I would expect some of this cost to be refunded in other ways with those benefiting from the scheme able to contribute more to society/less likelihood of poor health due to poor sanitary care. While schools would have a small increase to provide products, I would expect this to be mostly offset with the increase of productivity & attendance from students. I don't expect the scheme to make much of a difference to product suppliers but I do believe the government

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

should try and work with companies to secure value for money as well as promotion of the scheme.

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

No one who menstruates should be excluded for being able to claim free sanitary supplies (even if initially only available for those on low incomes) for any of the above characteristics. The bill would also allow there to be less of a discriminatory extra cost that occurs for those who menstruate.

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?

Yes

Page 19: General

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

No Response