

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

It is ridiculous that given we, as a nation are stuck living with austerity yet a product that every female within the country will need access to for a large part of her life, is treated and taxed as a luxury. We regularly see in various third world countries that there is a direct correlation in the decline of the education of young females and their access to adequate sanitary protections. As the need for foodbanks, clothing banks and even banks for prepayment energy meter cards increases under our current government, it would be naive to think that those hit hardest will be able to access adequate products.

## 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**

The card system will help provide those who wish to have a level of anonymity, to have a level of anonymity. Given that there is still stigma attached to menstruation and sanitary protections, despite living in a modern, developed country, a c-card system may also help females living within certain cultures, homeless women, and young girls who have no-one to help with such things.

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

The card should be available to anyone; card-holders should have unlimited access to free sanitary products

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

Sanitary protection is not a one size fits all. Every woman is different, for some women every period can be different. Sanitary products are not universal, not every woman wants, or is able to use a tampon, not every woman wants to use a pad. Some women may wish to use reusable cloth protection.

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 feel the most suitable locations would be pharmacies, however they should also be available within health centers, GP Surgeries, Schools (primary AND secondary given girls are beginning their periods earlier and earlier).

## 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)?

We see in third world, developing countries that girls who are unable to access adequate sanitary products tend to have higher levels of absence, and tend not to follow through in to further or higher education. If we want to progress gender equality, we need to ensure that we are doing everything that we can to get our young women in school, into further education and into higher education, with the opportunities to reach their full potential.

## 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.**

Periods do not always arrive when they're meant to. Sometimes they arrive before payday.

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 still purchase when I was able, but if I was unable, I would use the system.

## 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...)   |                              |                       |                      |                        | Y                             |        |

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)?

*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**

Making these products available to everyone, means that every woman knows that she will be able to access them. If every woman can access them it means that she doesn't have to stay home simply because she can't afford to leave the house because she can't afford to make pads from toilet paper/kitchen roll. It means that women aren't having to cut up their clothes to stuff their knickers with rags.

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:**

No policy that favours women can be delivered sustainably when there's a Conservative government. Conservative policies are well known and proven to disproportionately affect women negatively.

## Page 19: General

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

*No Response*