

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Gaynor Smith

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?

I think free provision and easy access to sanitary products would help to reduce any stigma. Education needs to go alongside this to help males and females understand more fully menstruation and issues attached to it.

## 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**

It would help perhaps, but as said previously would need massive promotion and education to go alongside.

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.**

I am concerned that too many limitations will prevent those who need the products, from taking them up.

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)?

probably all of the above and including schools and colleges, and other shops too, such as supermarkets and general shops.

## 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**

yes but they should also be available in other areas too, such as nurses' offices, general office, guidance teachers etc.

## 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

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

I've always been able to afford the products, but found it quite hard to budget at times especially when I was buying for both myself and my daughter.

Q7. If sanitary products were available for free, which of the following would apply to you?

Not applicable: I do not need or use sanitary products

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I no longer need the products, and if I did I would be able to afford to buy them.

## 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
<b>(a) Government and the public sector (e.g. local authorities, the NHS)</b>	X					
<b>(b) Colleges and universities</b>		X				
<b>(c) Businesses (including suppliers/retailers of sanitary products)</b>						X
<b>(d) Individuals (including consumers of sanitary products)</b>					X	

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

for (a) there are attendant costs including the products, those of promotion and publicity etc. (b) some costs may be involved in installing dispensers etc, and possibly tapping into the promotion and publicity needed.

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

Reducing costs would help but there would still be some who could not afford to buy the products regularly.

## 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 believe the impact could be positive in that the whole subject of menstruation needs to surface from the cultural taboos we have currently. All could benefit from a healthier and open approach, and better understanding.

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

It might be very difficult to make the products truly accessible. I feel we need to begin in schools a huge re-education programme to enlighten and educate young people to the realities about menstruation, and obviously this goes along side universal sexual health, and relationships education too.

## 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:**

with appropriate grants and support to businesses and an increase in providing environmentally friendly products.

## Page 19: General

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

*No Response*