

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

I am horrified that women living in poverty have real problems accessing sanitary products. These are a very expensive necessity and no woman should have to worry about being able to afford them

## 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 believe that a universal system is the best option. I am not familiar with the condom system but I think that whatever method is used it should be discreet and not likely to make women too embarrassed to use it.

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

Other (please specify)

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

The card should be universal with unlimited access to those on low incomes or benefits.

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)?

Pharmacies.

## 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**

Women should be able to access sanitary products discretely so dispensers in toilets are necessary. Young women in particular often have irregular periods and so need ready access at school college 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)

Yes, occasionally

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

During menopause I had very heavy periods and occasionally ran out of those I had carried with me

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 am now post menopausal and don't need them any more. When younger I would not have expected to claim free products

## 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**

Obviously if schools etc are providing the products this will impact on their budget as someone has to pay! Hope fully free products will help those most financially vulnerable

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?

Slightly positive

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Women should not have to worry about paying for sanitary products

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

Ensuring that the provision is discrete and no one feels stigmatised because they need free products

## 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:**

The government can make financial choices which can avoid disproportionate negative impacts. The money spent on Gaelic signage across the country is a case in point. In my opinion a disgraceful waste of money

## Page 19: General

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

I am very pleased that a Labour MSP has highlighted this issue.