

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".)

Professional with experience in a relevant subject

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

This bill supports my personal views about equality and helps to reduce the financial impact on individuals of living as a woman in our society. It also helps to destigmatise a natural function of the female body.

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 am not overly concerned with the way in which the products are provided as long as they are easily available and do not cause an unnecessary administrative industry to be developed if unrequired.

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.

For me one of the main purposes of this legislation will be it's benefits around destigmatisation of menstruation. I believe that products should be available to all on a similar basis to the way in which winter fuel allowances were introduced for the elderly.

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)?

All of the above but should also include retail premises such as supermarkets.

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

I believe that availability will be an important element of this and that any institution or indeed employer should be obligated to have provision for a normal bodily function in the same way that toilets are provided.

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)

Not applicable: I do not need or use sanitary products

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

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

The provision of free access to sanitary products will have a cost implication, not only in terms of the costs of products but the logistics as well. That being said I feel that the cost will not be overly prohibitive and that it is our duty as a community to address inequalities and so cost should be recognised but not be the driving factor in the decision making process. The final bill should certainly include provision by institutions and employers as a requirement and it should be written into things like employment law in the same way as working hours regulations etc are.

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

Not sure

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 levels the playing field between the sees and recognises menstruation as a normal bodily function.

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

Not sure

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:

I believe that there is the potential for job creation supporting the wider economy in order for this to be rolled out. I would also recommend that if there is to be a tendering process for the products that central to this should be sustainability, environmental impact and UK based production. Potentially it would also be worth considering development of a publicly owned company being the producer.

Page 19: General

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

No, I think I have covered everything.