

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

H. Russell

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 support measure that reduce, limits and eradicate the multitude of barriers that females navigate daily. Menstruation has varying and obviously an individual effects on females, however purchase of sanitary wears is a necessity and for all menstruating females; for some this can be an excessive expense. Cost of sanitary wears can be a barrier to females being free and able to participate in daily life. The simplicity of not having enough money to purchase sanitary products should not be minimised. This proposal challenges what is a normalised barrier many menstruating women are faced with. I fully support the principle and purpose of the Bill.

## 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**

I dont think it is useful or helpful to link this need to anything other that those who need can get. I fully support a system that doesn't not attach the need to welfare or 'the poor' given stigma and weight of such societal descriptors. Universal access is a respectful and least prohibitive method as I see it.

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.**

Limited access to a certain amount per month make logical sense on the face of it, however it is punitive to those who need to purchase more than 'average' sanitary products monthly. Low income or assessed access is not a supportive non judgmental system of provision.

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 this can and should be as creative as is viable- why not in supermarkets? local community groups? Anywhere there one could expect to see a sanitary were paid dispenser?

## 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**

For reasons given previously. In addition, young people should be supported fully to access all education

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)?

opportunities without social stigma, fear and anxiety being 'caught short' can produce. The reality of young females unable to get to school on account of not having sanitary wear is a disgrace and contrary to aims and objectives of SG who champion gender equality on the face of it.

## 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.**

When younger (teens/ early 20s) I can reflect on times where £5 for a box of tampon was a stretch too far resulting in over wear of products that make them last longer. Currently within my working environment (an all women work force) it was a regular for colleagues to be asking each other for products. There have been occasions where staff members would need to leave work following accidents. We ensured that products were subsequently made available to staff and visitors to help themselves. The issue goes beyond poverty and can be a barrier to any menstruating person if required products are not readily available.

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

I would not expect 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				

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

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

Unsure

## 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**

See previous responses.

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

Unapologetic discussions could help challenge some negative opinions regards the Bill.

String statistical support of the reasons behind the Bill would also aid this.

## 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:**

In considering time lost from work, school, university etc would be reduced, productivity increased and arguably cost impact balanced.

## Page 19: General

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

no

