

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Jenny Reaves

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**

Like a lot of women who have worked in education I have provided sanitary products occasionally for pupils. Being uncomfortable and embarrassed whilst experiencing this natural process can affect a girl's ability to concentrate and learn.

## 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**

We should make access as easy as possible

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.**

There should be no stigma attached to ownership of the card

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 the above plus schools, colleges and work places - anywhere where girls and women may need them.

## 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**

It should be easy for girls and young women to obtain what they need without reference to anybody else.

## 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

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**

Too old!

## 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 impact would depend on how far suppliers would cooperate and there might be savings through bulk provision.

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

There may be ways of reducing costs but this should not be at the expense of quality and women's comfort.

## 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**

Although a natural process, it does need medical supplies to deal with it and should be viewed in the same way as we see free prescriptions.

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

It should not be means tested. Not everyone will apply for it but it should be available to all.

## 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:**

Whilst it would be desirable to provide for all, it might be necessary to prioritise. We need to make sure those in greater need are supported.

## Page 19: General

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

The provision of these sanitary products must be very difficult for families, especially those who are living with the effects of low pay and poverty. We know some families have been forced to choose between heat or food, the cost of these sanitary products is probably lower priority and many women are probably experiencing discomfort.

Experience with an elderly mother has shown me that repeat prescriptions can lead to an over supply of medication which must increase costs the NHS. It would be easy for a 'free to everyone' scheme to fall into a similar situation.

The first challenge is to make sure that those who need support get it without embarrassment but the principle that all girls and women should be supplied is also valid.