

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill?

Please explain the reasons for your response

Sanitary products are not luxury items but a necessity for the health of every girl and woman, usually for over 40 years of their lifetime. Like access to fresh water, these items should be freely available to everyone. I see this Bill as a wise progressive step which will greatly improve the lives and life chances of women.

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 was not aware of a universal card-based system or how it works, so I am unable to comment.

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

The card should be available to anyone; its use should be restricted (e.g. by limiting the number of products that may be claimed each month)

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I think this would be the best option, if the number of products to be claimed is sufficient. If there were unlimited access some people might possibly see a business opportunity and hoard items for resale at inflated prices.

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 all of these locations would be suitable, especially surgeries and pharmacies, so long as they have adequate storage space.

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

Girls and young women are the ones most likely to suffer educationally and socially if they have difficulty in accessing these products.

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 am old enough not to need these products any more but luckily I was able to access and afford them, although the costs seemed unfair. The only time I could not access them was on a school trip when my irregular period meant that I had to use folded paper hand towels.

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 past the menopause myself, but my daughters aged 28 and 19 would benefit, especially the younger one who receives PIP.

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

Businesses should bear the cost because of the huge profits they have been making.

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

Sorry, I have too little understanding of what is involved to give an opinion.

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

Women are already at a natural disadvantage from having periods, so any measure to make menstruation easier to cope with will have a very positive impact on equality.

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

I can not see that there would be any negative impact on equality.

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 economic impacts would only be on businesses which can well afford them. The social impacts would be positive. The environmental impacts would be no more than at present, and could be lessened by companies developing entirely biodegradable products.

Page 19: General

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

No Response