

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".)

Student (at school, college or university)

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Craig Rae

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

From my admittedly limited knowledge on these products, it is vividly clear that there are definitely more expensive brands. These brands on their own will certainly be inaccessible to people from a lower socioeconomic background but when coupled with the tax which is applied as a 'luxury good' then go beyond the reach of even more people. I fully immerse myself in the belief that these products should be available to everyone who needs them free of charge, without being limited to hand outs from the likes of food banks.

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

Following on from my previous answer, although I do believe everyone who needs these products should have them free if necessary, I don't think they should necessarily be given to all women who need them. It makes sense to have a system where they are anonymously available to those who perhaps can not afford them but should be paid for by those able to do so, at least at the start, to get the project off the ground and to limit costs to an extent.

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.

Limited but I'm not sure this could be implemented fairly due to the massive differences in needs of different women.

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)?

Educational facilities, government funded workplaces such as parliament, council community centres, health centres, hospitals

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

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)?

Please explain the reasons for your response

Schools in order to support those who are not financially independent and who may require extra help because they come from families which perhaps do not value these products or who cannot afford them. Universities and colleges for much the same reason with the additional focus on those who may be financially independent but struggling because they are students and have a low income

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	

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

Perhaps give businesses who are involved fair tax relief.
My understanding of economics is very limited but I do understand that it will not be very easy to implement in the grotesque capitalist society we currently inhabit.
I'm sure that a fairer and more equal socialist labour government will be better equipped to deal with this than a financially driven society.

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 in the age group where they are fertile and those who are reliant on women of that age are inherently persecuted from unnecessary taxation. This is a step to reduce this taxation and thus promote equality.

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

I can think of none presently.

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

Page 19: General

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

No Response