

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Please explain the reasons for your response

Women in Scotland should not feel limited in any way or time by period poverty. Unfortunately it is prevalent.

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

Throughout school many of my friends missed classes because they did not have sanitary products, and didn't want to rely on pants wrapped in tissue paper to be adequate. This came along with periods being a taboo subject - girls at my school, including myself, did not feel like we could ask other students or teachers if there were any available. More than one of my friends took the week off school "sick" because they were unable to afford sanitary products and were too embarrassed to say. I do believe my school office did in fact have sanitary products should they be needed. That did however mean you had to go and ask for them. Many found this too intimidating and therefore did not utilise them. I believe free sanitary products should be made available in school and university bathrooms. Even in university this problem still exists. Skipping lectures should not be the result of being unable to afford expensive sanitary products. I'm glad this issue is being talked about. Women should not feel embarrassed to discuss it.

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

The system should be universal and readily available, e.g. in public/school bathrooms. The subject for many is still taboo, therefore having to register for a card, travel to get them can be quite intimidating. I do however believe it is better than nothing!

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.

It should be universal. Nobody should go without sanitary products. Everyone is different therefore it would be very difficult to assess what volume individuals would be allowed to claim.

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)?

School and university bathrooms. Easy access at pharmacies and GP surgeries would also be good.

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

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)?

Absolutely. This is the most important factor. Too many girls miss school because of not being able to access products or feel intimidating asking for them. This should be a priority.

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.

During school if my period came unexpectedly I would not have access to sanitary products until I returned home. Instead I relied on make-shift toilet paper tabs. I would be unable to concentrate on school work out of embarrassment and insecurity at the possibility of a leak. This meant numerous toilet breaks and no focus on work. Since starting university I am very aware of the struggle to afford products. They're very expensive and come the end of the month before payday, food is a priority, not tampons.

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

I would expect to claim free products regularly

Please explain the reasons for your response

I would claim them when I was unable to afford them myself.

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			

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

(d) Individuals (including consumers of sanitary products)					X	
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Please explain the reasons for your response

My university already provides some free sanitary products in bathrooms, therefore providing it on a larger scale shouldn't incur too much of an expense. (University of Aberdeen). I do however see the costs for the NHS and local authorities in providing access. This should be a right however, women shouldn't be denied this right.

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

I am 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

It should remove the embarrassment relating to the access of sanitary products.

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

I can only see positives!

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:

I hope so!

Page 19: General

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

No Response