

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

James Renton

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**

The attitude towards women's health is shocking, not supplying such sanitary products is akin to expecting

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

individuals to pay for their own toilet paper, soap, or paper towels, this proposal will hopefully also have the effect of stripping away the stigma towards what is a normal bodily function.

## 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**

In theory, yes, but providing instruments for safe sex isn't akin to sanitary products, and distributing them through the same system almost gives the idea that it's still a woman's choice and duty to purchase these products. Many may be put off by having to collect them in this manner, but that may be overthinking the matter, if this turns out to be the most efficient and convenient distribution method available, I support 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.**

I get the feeling unlimited will still have some limitations, as to not allow the system to be exploited, other restrictions may put people in uneasy situations or timetables.

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 of the above and possibly at colleges and university campuses as well.

## 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**

I see no reason not to, students have a limited income as it is, and having them pay for essential sanitary products is unfair.

## 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
<b>(a) Government and the public sector (e.g. local authorities, the NHS)</b>		X				
<b>(b) Colleges and universities</b>		X				
<b>(c) Businesses (including suppliers/retailers of sanitary products)</b>					X	
<b>(d) Individuals (including consumers of sanitary products)</b>					X	

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Businesses would obviously be hit, and costs would go up for places stocking them, but by moving away from profit chasing essential hygiene products, will in time reduce their cost hopefully, and allows those affected to spend their money elsewhere. The financial implications are not worrying to me and even if higher, the cost I feel is worth it.

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

I feel the cost of each individual item will reduce over time, as it moves away from being business orientated.

## 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**

The sanitary needs for men in public are all available for free, and without the stigma attached. While there will always be those who see giving something to others as taking something away from themselves, this is nothing but a win for equality, which still has a long way to go.

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

There may need to be clear communication as to why this bill is essential, many men may fail to understand it's significance.

## 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'm afraid I don't have an answer to that, will take people with better planning and budgeting skills than I can fathom.

## Page 19: General

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

*No Response*