

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Partially opposed

Please explain the reasons for your response

Firstly, I would need to understand the full cost to implement this scheme across Scotland. Secondly, I

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

would then want to evaluate where that money to fund this scheme is going to come from and thirdly would really need to consider if this is best use of that public money. With so many other desperate causes from homeless, lack of food kitchen provision, mental care services, the list is endless I'm not sure how high on the priority list this should be? Perhaps a starting point could be consideration to abolish the VAT element? But again, would need to understand the full cost implication.

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?

No

Please explain the reasons for your response

Cost to administer a c-card system for this could be cost prohibitive. Would rather that cost go directly to the cause. If the initial target is schools, colleges and university then free vending machines could be used in schools. Allowing for abuse of the system is probably less than the cost to administer c-card If you are talking about older women not in education or working then surely benefits allows for this? If the money is wasted on other things you won't stop that anyway, even with free tampons they would sell them on if they are that way inclined! Finally, don't like the stigma attached to having to show cards? Just provide free vending in schools, colleges etc if this is the route you go down

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

There is no need for a card scheme

Please explain the reasons for your response.

As previously stated

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)?

Schools, colleges, university toilet buildings only

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

If government research has clearly identified this to be an issue for Students then this would be my initial focus to roll out in this area first.

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?

I would not expect to claim free 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	

Please explain the reasons for your response

Somewhere the cost of this scheme has to be picked up - as stated real consideration has to be given for best use of public money - how important is this issue in relation to others? Not sure if it's a priority issue.

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

Yes, if the roll out is initially to schools, colleges and University free vending machines dispensing single tampons should be used. No c-cards, no extra admin out, put machines which the school caretakers refill as required.
Also, simply force manufacturers to tender for the supply in Scotland with bulk discounts for the contract

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?

Slightly negative

Please explain the reasons for your response

Could be seen that this is a financial benefit for one sector of the community where as maybe other more deserving projects that could benefit all

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

It cant

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?

No

Page 19: General

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

No other than properly evaluate if this is best use of public funds